



MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING, WEDNESDAY 15 May 2024
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

ATTENDEES

Aldermen

Ald Alan McDowell
Ald Hazel Legge

Ald Derek Hussey

Ald Beth Adger MBE

Councillors

Cllr Alison Bennington
Cllr Terry Andrews
Cllr Billy Webb MBE JP
Cllr Alan Barr (R)

Cllr Christine McFlynn
Cllr Victor Warrington
Cllr Gretta Thompson (R)
Cllr Jim Brennan (R)

Cllr Roy Crawford
Cllr Fergal Donnelly
Cllr Trevor Wilson (R)

APOLOGIES

Councillors

Cllr Joe Boyle
Cllr Christine Creighton
Cllr Errol Thompson

Cllr Thomas Beckett
Cllr Julie Gilmour

Cllr John Smyth
Cllr Sam Nelson

1. Welcome

Ald Alan McDowell welcomed Members to the meeting in Craigavon Civic Centre

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting and additional ones were also noted from the floor.

3. Minutes of last Meeting held on 27 March 2024

The Chair took members through the minutes of the previous meeting and their approval was proposed by Cllr Terry Andrews and seconded by Cllr Alison Bennington.

4. Treasurers Report

Cllr Billy Webb circulated a copy of the most up to date accounts to those present and highlighted the financial situation, noting that invoices had now been sent to councils and he was pleased that some Membership fees had already been received. The Treasurer reported that it may not be necessary to increase the fees as planned, considering reduced operating costs and other potential savings, he would be reviewing this and gave an assurance that this would be sorted before the NAC AGM

He addressed various points in the accounts and dealt with a number of questions from the floor

This report was proposed by Cllr Terry Andrews, seconded by Ald Beth Adger and agreed by all present.

5. Secretary's Report

As Cllr Boyle was on holiday, it had been agreed that Ald Hazel Legge would read his report to the Members.

He began by thanking Members for their kind wishes following the death of his brother, and he mentioned Ald Adger, Cllr Andrews and former Cllr Tommy Nicholl for their attendance at the funeral which he and the family very much appreciated.

The Secretary noted the formal appointment of Ald Hazel Legge as NAC-NI Administrator, saying that she seemed to be coping well with the demands of the position while learning on the job. She had been guided through this by former Administrator, Kate Wilson and all were grateful for her assistance. Hazel's official start date had been agreed as 8 April 2024 and a contract was currently being drawn up.

Cllr Boyle updated members on the Councillor Review Working Group which to date had held over 45 consultation meetings which interested bodies and individuals. These meetings will conclude on 17 May 2024 and the findings will be forwarded to the Minister without delay.

Cllr Terry Andrews thanked Ald Legge for delivering a comprehensive report on behalf of Cllr Boyle and mentioned all who had made representation to the Roles & Responsibilities Working Group stating that he was personally thankful to Maynard Mawhinney for taking the time and interest to move this forward.

An extensive discussion took place with numerous contributions from those present.

UPDATE FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Ald Adger reported that she had attended all NAC Conferences across the UK and encouraged all members to attend when possible as many areas of mutual interest were discussed.

The Chair thanked Ald Adger for the outstanding way she had carried out her role and wished her well for the remainder of her term of office.

In response to question from Ald Hussey, the President advised that tentative plans were being considered regarding bringing an NAC conference to Northern Ireland in Autumn 2024. Ald Hussey thanked her for this information stating that it was vital for local attendance to support the organisation. Disappointment was expressed in the low turnout at this meeting in Craigavon.

AOB

Following the previous remarks, members were encouraged to consider ways to improve attendance such as frequency of meetings, location, guest speakers and relevant topics.

It was also proposed that a report should be prepared for circulation to all councils highlighting the names of delegates and those who have attended since the 2023 election. This was endorsed by all present.

Members requested that, if appropriate, a special Members' meeting may be required to discuss the Working Group report once published.

Closing remarks

The Chairman thanked all for attending and contributing to a successful event.

The meeting closed at 12noon.