



MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING, WEDNESDAY 17 January 2024
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

ATTENDEES

Ald Hazel Legge	Cllr Christine Creighton	Cllr David Clarke
Cllr Alison Bennington	Ald Alan McDowell	Cllr John Smyth
Cllr Donnelly		

Linda Williamson Admin Assistant

Apologies

Cllr Julie Gilmour	Cllr Eamon McLaughlin	Cllr Roy Crawford
Cllr Thomas Beckett	Cllr Alan Lewis	Cllr Gary Wilkinson
Cllr Samuel Nelson	Cllr Billy Webb	Cllr Terry Andrews
Cllr Daniel Bassett	Cllr Martin Reilly	Cllr Tommy Maguire
Cllr Cara McShane	Cllr Stephen McCann	Cllr Lucille O'Hagan
Cllr Declan Norris	Cllr Alan Barr	Ald Beth Adger
Cllr Jim Brennan		

Via Teams

Cllr Keith Kerrigan	Cllr Trevor Wilson	Cllr Victor Warrington
Cllr Errol Thompson	Ald Stephen Moutary	Cllr Joe Boyle
Cllr Ben Mallon	Cllr Mark Fielding	Ald Andrew Wilson
Cllr Stephen Donnelly	Ald Derek Hussey	

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Ald Alan McDowell welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that, as previously notified, a Special General Meeting would be held prior to the Member's Meeting.

2. Special General Meeting

It is proposed by the Executive to change the financial year end to 31st March and that item 12 of the Constitution to be amended to read " The financial year of the Association shall end on 31st March each year with effect from the 31st March 2024."

Proposed Ald Hazel Legge
Seconded Cllr Alison Bennington

3. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and, as there were a number of new members present, he asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Admin Assistant read the list of apologies.

4. Minutes of last Meeting held on 22 November 2023

Cllr Errol Thompson advised that two elected members were described in the minutes as Councillors when they were in fact Aldermen. It was agreed to amend the minutes to reflect the correct titles of both elected members.

The minutes were accepted subject to the above amendment.

Proposer – Cllr Errol Thompson

Secunder – Cllr Alison Bennington

5. Treasurers Report

Cllr Boyle presented the Treasurer's Report in the Treasurer's absence. Cllr Bennington asked if the issues with the bank had moved forward and the Secretary advised that the issues were not preventing the day to day running of the organisation.

6. Secretary's Report

Councillors Review

The Secretary advised that Mr. Maynard Mawhinney has been appointed as the Independent Chair of the review, with effect from 1 December 2023, for a period of six months.

The review will make recommendations on:

The system and level of allowances which would be available to councillors taking into consideration the role and responsibilities of councillors since April 2015 and schemes of remuneration for councillors in other jurisdictions in Britain and Ireland. This will include:

- Allowances (basic, attendance and special responsibility)
- Chair & vice chair allowances
- Dependants' carers' allowance
- Pension scheme
- Severance scheme
- Travel & Subsistence
- Maternity/Paternity and Long-Term Sickness
- Range of members services and support

NAC MEMBERS' MEETING MINUTES

The working group is to be made up as follows:

- i. Independent chair
- ii. NAC representative
- iii. NILGA representative
- iv. NICVA representative
- v. ICTU representative
- vi. NI Chamber of Commerce representative
- vii. Independent member

Cllr Boyle advised that following a discussion at the EC meeting in December it was agreed that he would represent NAC interests.

He stated that members of the Executive Committee would be meeting with Mr Mawhinney at the end of January. The Executive Committee members had rearranged their diaries given the importance of the meeting as this would potentially be the only opportunity collectively to contribute to the ongoing Review of the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors. Following discussion, it was agreed that a pre-meeting would be useful to take as many views as possible. Dates are to be circulated and the meeting would be held via Teams.

Leadership and change in Local Enterprise

Ald McDowell updated members regarding the arrangements for the conferences and a reminder is to be sent to all councillors to encourage attendance.

Move to Bradford Court

The NAC office is to relocate to Bradford Court with effect from 1 February 2024 and the phone number remains unchanged.

7. National President Report

As Ald Adger had submitted an apology, no report was available.

AOB

The issue of the Code of Conduct was raised, and it was felt that this should be part of the review. Various councillors gave examples of their experience in relation to it and it was suggested that consideration should be given to inviting the Ombudsman to a future meeting.

Closing remarks

NAC MEMBERS' MEETING MINUTES

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and looked forward to welcoming as many as possible to the conferences on 19 January in UU Belfast and on 26 January in the Magee Campus.

Decisions/Actions Summary	By
Invite the Ombudsman to a future meeting	Cllr Boyle
Send reminder re conference	Linda
Circulate dates for a pre meeting, prior to a meeting with Maynard Mawhinney	Cllr Boyle