



MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING, WEDNESDAY 17 July 2024
Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Belfast

ATTENDEES

Aldermen

Ald Alan McDowell
Ald Hazel Legge

Ald Derek Hussey
Ald Stephen Moutray

Ald Beth Adger MBE

Councillors

Cllr Alison Bennington
Cllr Billy Webb MBE

Cllr Julie Gilmour
Cllr Joe Boyle

Cllr Michael Goodman

APOLOGIES

Councillors

Cllr Roy Crawford
Cllr Alan Barr

Cllr Errol Thompson
Cllr Christine McFlynn

Cllr Victor Warrington
Cllr Jim Brennan

1. Welcome

Ald Alan McDowell welcomed Members to the meeting in Bradford Court and was pleased to see a slight upturn in the numbers attending.

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 15 May 2024

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

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 several Membership fees had been received, including 3 in the past week alone. The Treasurer reported that the outgoings were unusually large in this report due to a number of outstanding items coming to light, which were now resolved. He advised that the change of officers at the previous AGM and necessitated changes to the bank accounts, especially authorisations and signatures which had highlighted that the account held with the Bank of Ireland had in fact become dormant but that this is now being sorted.

The Chairman highlighted that the NAC operated on a small budget but that every effort is made to maximum the resources available to run the organisation efficiently for the benefit of councillors.

There being no questions from the floor, the Treasurer's report was agreed unanimously

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary thanked Ald Legge for delivering the report on his behalf at the meeting in Craigavon Civic Centre

Cllr Boyle advised that an invitation had been extended to Minister Gordon Lyons MLA to address a meeting of the NAC but to date, no response has been received. The Secretary updated members on the work of the Roles & Responsibilities Review Working Group. He was pleased to advise that the document had now been accepted by the Working Group and would soon be ready for submission to the Department for Communities for the next stage. The Secretary also reminded members that the 'Roles Description document' had recently been submitted to Councillors for comment, The deadline had been midnight on 11 July and as no significant comments were submitted he sought and received ratification to submit to the working group.

11.50am – Cllr McConnell left the meeting at this stage.

The Chair sought clarity regarding NAC and others having pre-sight of the document and also how the remainder of the process would progress. Cllr Boyle understood that the report would not be available prior to the Minister announcing the decision but he undertook to check this again and report back to members. He reminded members that this was not only about remuneration but also on parity on equipment and allowances.

Extensive discussion took place regarding this review including issues such as 'winding up/severance' allowances, length of review and inequality on pensions as well as a number of other questions and queries.

As attendance had been raised at a previous Members' Meeting, Hazel Legge had been tasked with compiling a list of NAC Members by council area and recording their attendance since their appointment in July 2023. This extensive piece of work was progressing and would be ready at a future meeting.

Cllr Boyle sent congratulations to newly elected MPs, co-opted MLAs and also soon to be co-opted councillors. Commiserations are also extended to those not returning to Westminster on this occasion.

There being no further questions, the Secretary's report was adopted.

UPDATE FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Ald Adger reported that the last meeting of the NAC-UK had been cancelled due to the General Election but that she hoped to attend the meeting in September. Ald Adger noted that her term as National President would be coming to an end at the NAC-UK AGM in November and thanked members for their support and encouragement throughout her 2 years in office.

Cllr Andrews noted that Ald Adger had carried out her role extremely well during her term of office and thanked her for her service and commitment

Closing remarks

The Chairman thanked all for attending and contributing to a successful event. In closing, he reminded members that the NAC-NI AGM would be held on Friday 20 September 2024 in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm