**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 75th AGM**

**HELD AT 4 PM ON FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER 2024 in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.**

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| **AGM24/2001** | **PRESIDENT’S WELCOME**  The President welcomed everyone to the 75th Annual General Meeting of the Association. |
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| **AGM24/2002** | **APOLOGIES**  List of apologies attached to the signed minutes. |
| **AGM24/2003**  **AGM24/2004**  **AGM24/2005**  **AGM24/2006**  **AGM24/2007**  **AGM24/2008**  **AGM24/2009**  **AGM24/2010**  **AGM24/2011**  **AGM24/2012**  **AGM24/2013** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  There were none.  **ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS**  **President**  The Chairman took this item, and it was proposed by Cllr A Wilson that Katrina Baker MBE be re-elected President, seconded by Cllr R Wickson. There were no other nominations.  **RESOLVED: That Katrina Baker, MBE be re-elected President of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils.**  The President thanked everyone for their continued support and for her re-election. She had been able to meet some Members at meetings and events this year and hoped there would be more opportunities in 2024.  **Vice Presidents**  The President reported that Rosemary Abbiss, Claire Cracket MBE DL and Roy Williams had all indicated their willingness to stand again. Chris Mellings was not able to stand again as would be explained later in the meeting. The President thanked them for their continued support which was much appreciated. Regarding the vacancy for a fourth Vice President, the President then nominated Karen Roper, currently Town Clerk, Wellington Town Council, and former County Secretary, SALC. This was seconded by Cllr Allan Wilson.  **RESOLVED: That Rosemary Abbiss, Claire Crackett MBE DL, Karen Roper and Roy Williams be appointed Vice Presidents of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils.**  **MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM**  A copy of the minutes had been circulated.  Proposed by Cllr L Hughes, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne that the minutes be agreed.  **RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 3rd November 2023 be agreed and signed by the President as a correct record.**  **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**  The President referred to the outstanding work some Councils undertokk to achieve something special for their communities and last year’s joint winners of the Jan Snell award were invited to come forward to give a short presentation on the projects they were so proud of, the presenters being:  Councillor James Maddocks, Childs Ercall  Councill Tom Currie, Rodington  Councillors Kathryn Holland and Councillor Sheila Stringer Welshampton & Lyneal  The presenters spoke of their achievements with pride and how they continued to make a difference in their communities. The President thanked them adding that they were an inspiration to others.  **Long Standing Clerks**  The President explained that Clerks’ awards were available for periods of service over 25, 30 and 40 years. This year a nomination had been received which was extra special, for a Clerk who had completed an outstanding 48 years’ service, with a number of local councils across Shropshire. The President paid tribute to Eric Williams, thanking him for his excellent service with Craven Arms Town Council and several other Parish Councils. Eric was not present to receive the award and arrangements would be made to present the special badge of 45 years.  **President’s Award**  The President spoke of the Jan Snell Award which had been presented to many councils over the years and which had now been replaced by a new President’s Achievement Award for councils who had accomplished a significant improvement in their local community. The awards went to:  **Winner: Albrighton Parish Council – Community Garden**  **Runners Up: Albrighton Parish Council – War Memorial**  **Wem Rural Parish Council – Range of significant achievements**  To present the awards, the President invited the Lord Lieutenant, Anna Turner, JP who spoke of the excellent work which councils provided in their local communities. She thanked everyone for all they achieved which was important to so many people and much to be proud of. She spoke of the Honours system and King’s Award to inspire and reward people and organisations from all walks of life for their outstanding and tireless work in their communities. The Lieutenancy could help with nominations via its Honours Panel. She was committed to promoting the awards within the County and encouraged people to nominate as soon as possible those they saw worthy of recognition, as it took considerable time for nominations to be processed.  Councillor Sylvia Pledger came forward to receive the winner’s and runner’s up awards on behalf of Albrighton PC. Wem Rural PC representative was absent, and arrangements would be made to present the second runner’s up award.  Councillor David Beechey was also invited to come forward to receive a certificate acknowledging his outstanding contribution to SALC over many years, as Chairman from 2015 to 2019 and his significant service spanning over 40 years to Local Government in Shropshire  The President thanked the Lord Lieutenant for supporting the SALC AGM which she said had made it an extra special evening and Cllr R Wickson, Chairman, presented the Lord Lieutenant with a bouquet.  **CARE LEAVERS COVENANT**  The Chairman explained that the Care Leavers Covenant was a Government Department for Education initiative that launched in 2018. Its aim was to support care leavers aged 16 to 25 across England coming out of care and to assist them to integrate into the community.  This included the provision of training and work opportunities as well as leisure and utility discounts from a variety of large organisations.  There were many challenges for them coming out of care which included their own safety and wellbeing as well as managing finances.  The signatory network continued to make progress with more than 400 organisations supporting the Covenant and more than 4000 young people signed up.  Care leavers were able to access offers via the website.  By signing up to the Covenant and becoming ambassadors, parish and town councils could promote connections and raise awareness in their communities. Before signing the Covenant, the Chairman encouraged Members to visit their stand.  The Chairman then signed the Covenant on behalf of SALC.  **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2025/26**  The President reported that Shropshire Council had kindly offered to continue their services as auditors. She placed on record her thanks and appreciation to Shropshire Council for conducting the audit once again.  It was proposed by Cllr R Evans and seconded by Cllr M Bennett.  .  **RESOLVED: That Shropshire Council continue as Auditors to the Association.**  **ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS**  The Chairman, Cllr R Wickson presented the report, which had been circulated.  Proposed by Cllr M Bennett, seconded by Cllr A Wilson.  **RESOLVED: That the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2023-2024 be received and adopted.**  **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE**  The President invited the Chairman, Cllr Wickson, to present the Executive’s recommendation for 2024-25.  Proposed by Cllr M Bennett, seconded by Cllr S Pledger.  **RESOLVED: That the Affiliation Fee be approved as follows:**   * **An increase of 5p per elector from 45p to 50p up to 3500 electors** * **Additional electors, an increase of 1p per elector from 2.5p to 3.5p** * **Administration Fee:**   **Up to 1000 electors, an increase from £60 to £70**  **Over 1000 electors, an increase from £70 to £80**  ***NOTE: This does not include NALC fee of 8.34 pence per elector, with a cap of £2,139 for larger councils.***  **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE**  The President reported that no valid motions had been received, other submissions would be referred to the Executive’s Annual Meeting on 29 November 2024.  **CONSTITUTION**  The President invited the Chairman to present the Executive’s recommendations for amendments to the Constitution, as had been circulated, proposed amendments being highlighted.  It was proposed by Councillor L Hughes and seconded by Councillor R Evans  **RESOLVED: That the amendments to the Constitution, as recommended by the Executive be approved.**  **GOING WILD IN BISHOPS CASTLE AND INTRODUCTION TO ‘THE BIG IDEA’**  The President welcomed the following guest speakers, inviting them to introduce themselves and the project by way of introduction to the Conference taking place on 6 December.  **Lynn Parker, Local Nature Recovery Strategy Coordinator**: Lynn reported that Shropshire Council had been asked by the government to lead on the production of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, with the support of Natural England and funded by DEFRA. This was one of 48 others being developed across England which would all knit together to cover the whole country. Work was taking place with various groups to develop a LNRS which would show where most valuable areas for nature currently were, and explore the opportunities to restore, enhance, create and link wildlife throughout the area.  Lynn thanked everyone who had contributed to the recent consultation and a draft Strategy would be released in May 2025 for final adoption.  **Peter Carty, retired Parkland Manager, National Trust:** Peter explained how the project *Going Wild in BC,* was about improving green spaces around the town and parish of Bishop’s Castle for the benefit of people and wildlife and was an integral part of Bishop's Castle’s Town Council Biodiversity Action plan. The project had received £0.25M in National Lottery Heritage Funding. He described the various organisations that had been involved in the project and his slide presentation gave an informative picture of the various group activities. Wildlife and habitat management plans involved the help of trained volunteers in looking after various sites. Key to the project was engaging with local people to identify with nature on their doorstep through joining in local events and regular kids’ clubs.  The goal was to produce a toolkit, to allow local councils across Shropshire and the wider UK to replicate the plan.  **Janet Cobb, Parish Clerk, Edgton and Middle Marches Community Land Trust Board Member:** Janet described the involvement of the MMCLT whose objective was to acquire and buy land for nature recovery, working with, and supporting local landowners. Four sites had been acquired in Shropshire to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the environment through land stewardship. The Trust had held a number of conferences in Shropshire.  Janet had engaged with SALC to support a conference on 6 December at the Sylvester Horne Institute in Church Stretton. The aim of the conference was to introduce The Big Idea project to seek lottery funding in order to take forward plans to produce a toolkit for local councils. Keynote speakers at the conference would be:   * Baroness Natalie Bennett, Vice Chair NALC * Chris Borg, Policy lead, NALC * Dr Jack Reed, Exeter University * Mandy Thorn, Shropshire Community Foundation * Lynn Parker, Nature Recovery Strategy lead, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.   The President thanked the speakers for presenting inspiring information and activities leading up to the Conference on 6 December.  **PRESIDENT’S CLOSING REMARKS** |
|  | The President thanked everyone for attending adding that there was much to be proud of in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and communities needed to be aware of the good work that was undertaken on their behalf.  She thanked the trade stands, organisations, and companies for their support, both throughout the year and for their sponsorship of the AGM. She went on to thank the Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Members of the Executive, for their time and commitment. In thanking the Vice Presidents, she explained why Chris Mellings would not continue as a Vice President and thanked him for his service as a VP. Chris would be taking up the position of SALC’s Chief Officer in November as the County Secretary would be retiring. She thanked Dianne Dorrell for her dedication to the role and the amazing work she had undertaken as County Secretary.  Finally, she thanked both SALC’s Officers foe the professional approach to all they did which was very much appreciated.  In closing, she thanked everyone for attending, inviting them to visit the trade stands and enjoy the refreshments offered, wishing all a safe journey home.  President: ………………………………………… Date: …………………………….  The AGM ended at 6 pm. |