



Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 10th November 2018 - 10am

Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

Agenda

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. - Registration, coffee and opportunity to visit exhibitors

1. President's Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. To elect Honorary Officers:
President
Vice-Presidents
Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Auditor
4. To agree minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting
5. To receive and adopt the Annual Report including the Treasurer's Report and the Audited Accounts for Financial Year 2017/2018
6. To consider motions put by Member Councils

The AGM will debate the motions, and consider giving the Executive Committee delegated power to finalise the wording and any supplementary information to NALC.

11.30 am – noon Coffee and opportunity to visit exhibitors

7. Speakers (details to be confirmed)

The AGM will finish at approximately 1pm and will be followed by a buffet lunch and a further opportunity to visit the exhibitors.



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MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY MEMBER COUNCILS

Motion 1 (from Beaminster Town Council)

Beaminster Town Council propose that DAPTC urge NALC to lobby the Government to restore funding to Local Authorities to enable them to support (subsidise) bus services and other forms of public transport in rural areas

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal.

Since July 2017, subsidies from Dorset County Council (DCC) to local transport operators have been cut. Serious concerns have been voiced over reductions in the number of services supported by DCC from 35 down to just seven as it is forced to save another £1.85million. This has meant that, apart from school runs, buses have been withdrawn from large areas of Dorset. This has had the effect of isolating many members of the community, particularly the young and the elderly, who find themselves unable to travel to hospitals or doctors' surgeries, go shopping and socialise with friends and families and to make use of facilities outside their villages.

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

The No.6 service from Bridport to Yeovil only runs on the A3066 and avoids all villages not on this route. The number 40 service from Bridport to Yeovil includes Broadwindsor but is, otherwise, the same route as the no 6 service.

Netherbury and Salwayash are excluded from any bus service except for school transport at the start and end of the school day where available seats may be limited. No bus route is available on Saturdays.

The isolation caused by the lack of transport has meant that Beaminster Town Council has, in response to the outcry from the community, been forced to provide a bus service on Saturdays to enable members of the wider community, including nearby villages, to travel between Bridport and Crewkerne. This allows them to connect with the train services and buses on-going to Yeovil. Bridport Town Council is about to trial a bought-in service for its own surrounding villages which have been cut off from the towns in West Dorset. Although parish & town councils have the power to spend money on community transport, it is very difficult to maintain a bus service relying on volunteers as drivers and administrators.

Motion 2 (from Bryanston Parish Council)

For consideration of planning applications, can we propose that parish (and town) councils should be supported in being actively involved in all consultations between developers and planners, and directly involved in the resulting decision-making.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal.

The current process feels like a pointless rubber-stamping exercise, rather than giving councils a valued input about planning applications that directly affect their residents.



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MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY MEMBER COUNCILS (Continued)

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

Parish Councils are only involved as a consultee in planning applications in their parish, like any third party, rather than directly involved in discussions and decisions.

An opportunity to discuss an application with the planning officer responsible would enable residents' viewpoints to be discussed face to face and save numerous letters to the planning office, in response to notifications that are days old. This would probably only apply to a small number of applications but should be the norm for larger developments which would have an impact on the larger community.

For a larger development, it would save hours of work writing letters expressing concerns that merely seem to be filed on the *Dorsetforyou* website, with no reply or discussion.

Motion 3 (from Chideock Parish Council)

Chideock Parish Council asks NALC to urgently lobby central government to completely overhaul how adult and child social care services are funded.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal.

Currently the services are provided and funded by principal authorities. Many are reducing, axing or devolving services in order to have sufficient funding for adult and child social care services, and some are cutting the level of social care support provided due to lack of funding. Given the ageing population and the increased statutory social care demand for children, this can only get worse. The only solution which would ensure that there is uniform provision of good social care for all who need it is to shift the funding mechanism to central government.

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

This issue potentially affects any elector in any part of England.

Motion 4 (from Lyme Regis Town Council)

Lyme Regis Town Council would like NALC to continue to pursue the means for Town and Parish Councils to receive a percentage (e.g.5%) of Business Rates paid by businesses, within their town and parished areas.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal.

Pressure from a reduction in services to residents in towns and parishes would be eased by receiving some income from business rates they don't currently receive, and also provide some real financial substance to the 'localism' initiative previously advocated by Government.

The income need is made more apparent when County and District councils invite Towns and Parishes to pick up the services and level of support they will no longer provide and the lower levels level councils of very much less means examine how the costs can be met within their relatively very small precepts.



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MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY MEMBER COUNCILS (Continued)

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

The reduction in services and support to residents in towns and parishes by District and County Councils, particularly in rural areas, puts new and raised pressures upon town and parish council resources as they try to fill the void for those they represent; often the most vulnerable.

Motion 5 (from Silton Parish Meeting)

Chairmen of Parish Meetings to be provided with their own copies of their Parish Electoral Registers.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal.

Para. 24 of NALC Legal Topic Note 6 (dated September 2014) states that "only local government electors for the parish may vote at an assembly of a parish meeting". However, The Electoral Registration Office have stated that the Silton Parish Meeting Chairman is not entitled to a copy of the Parish Electoral Register and so does not know who is entitled to vote and is therefore unable to comply with this requirement.

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

Parish Meetings may ask for a vote but the Chairman is unable to verify who is eligible to vote. The suggestion that electors could contact the Registration Office to receive written confirmation of their eligibility are impractical and unworkable as eligibility should be able to be confirmed at that point and not several weeks later.

Motion 6 (from Studland Parish Council)

Studland Parish Council request that NALC lobby for legislation to require applicants for tree felling in Conservation Areas to supply reasons for such work in their applications.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal.

Trees in Conservation areas are being removed often without any supported reason for removal. The loss of trees in the Conservation Area is affecting the visual panorama of the area. Tree felling applications in the Conservation Area, without any supporting reasons, are encouraging others to present tree felling without any explanations.

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

All Parishes and Town Councils in Dorset with Conservation Areas are affected by the issue.