

Minutes of the Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM held on Thursday 8th April 2021 by Zoom.

Present

Councillors: Tony Steer (Bolney)
Douglas Denham St Pinncock (West Hoathly)
Matthew Jeffers (Haywards Heath)
Graham Stafford (Albourne)
John Hitchcock (Turners Hill)
Allan Brown (Hurstpierpoint)
Jenny Forbes (Ashurst Wood)
Claire Hilton (West Hoathly)
Jon Millbank (Balcombe)
Annabel Moir (Bolney)
Mark Hind (Fulking)

Also present – Trevor Leggo – CEO West Sussex Association of Local Councils

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman stated he was sure that MSALC would go from strength to strength with, hopefully, meetings in person. He noted that the meeting would be a starting point for this process with the revising of the MSALC constitution. Those present were also informed that the Rural Police Crime Team, who were keen to be involved and wished to increase communication, would be regularly invited along to meetings as would the West Sussex County Council area manager.

1. Apologies Received.

Councillors Bruce Forbes and Ian Gibson from Turners Hill.
Councillors Blunden and Upton from Lindfield.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.

The minute of the Annual General Meeting dated 4th March 2021

3. Update to the 2018 Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils Constitution.

The Chairman presented the constitution as circulated with the agenda and thanked Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinncock for all of his work in amending the document so it could be presented for re-adoption. The Chairman then asked those present for comment, with the following being made,

- The Objectives clause be simplified to state ‘the aims and objectives of the association are as follows’ so to avoid repetition in the document.
- Clause 3a, 3b and 3e - that Members be changed to ‘Member Councils’ so to clarify that the Council is the Member.
- Clause 7 - it was noted that in relation to ‘contributions’ it did not state how and when they are to be decided. It was noted that the contribution was currently £10 and it would be best decided on future costs at the AGM. It was noted that invoicing had not taken place for a long period so this matter should be picked up soonest.
- Special general meetings should be held on 14 days notice not 21, as 21 days seemed a very long period.
- Clause 11 - add that meetings may be held virtually.

All of the above changes were deemed to be for clarification and excellent additions/amendments. So along with the amended constitution the document was agreed.

At this point the Chairman stated that he wished to take the MSALC meeting out and about in the district so that everyone has the chance to get to meetings with the hope that the hosting Parish would foot the bill for the venue. In addition, MSALC were also looking to appoint a secretary, hopefully a local Clerk, on a part-time basis and maybe even a generic secretary for the whole County. With this in mind it was felt that moving forward £15 a year for membership would be in order. It was asked if £15 from each Town/Parish Member would be enough for the secretarial role. Trevor Leggo interjected at this point and stated that West Sussex Association of Local Councils contributed £300 to each District Branch for admin, which could be reviewed by the WSALC Board, and in some cases the District Council pay towards the costs, so it could be for Mid Sussex District Council to deem the value of MSALC. With the money held in the MSALC bank, WSALC's contribution and the collection of the 2021/2022 membership fees it was felt that there was enough money to cover the current year secretarial needs.

It was therefore unanimously agreed that;

- 1) The revised Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils constitution dated 8th April 2021 was adopted.**
 - 2) That Membership to the Association be set at £15 per annum to be reviewed at the AGM annually.**
- 4. Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust for charitable donations**
Discussions were had with regards to whether Member Council contributed the to the organisation. It was noted that all those present made some form of contributions during the year through their Council so it was not a matter that MSALC should consider.
- 5. Date for next meeting**
To be agreed.