



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils

**The 74th Annual General Meeting  
of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local  
Councils was held as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday 16 November  
2022 at 6:30 pm**

**Those attending physically were at the Mezzanine Rooms, County Hall, and  
those virtually via Teams Link**

## **MINUTES**

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

- Mel Woof opened the meeting and thanked all for attending.
- Apologies were received from Thornborough Parish Council, it was not possible to note from virtual attendees any apologies offered.
- Countess Howe, President, welcomed all as the unsung heroes of Britain, stressing that global Britain depends on the strength of local communities within which town and parish councils play a vital part. Countess Howe also mentioned that she had greatly enjoyed the recent conference organised by BMKALC and that the sense of energy from the event was encouraging on a local and global basis.
- Councillor Sue Smith Councillor thanked Countess Howe who has agreed to serve another term.

### 2. Election of President – Countess Howe.

**Resolved unanimously: To appointment of Countess Howe as President of the Association.**

Countess Howe thanked all and stated that she is very happy to continue in this role.

### 3. Election of Vice Presidents, existing and nominations to be received.

- a. **Resolved:** To elect DM Sandy Saunders BEM RD as Vice President of the Association. (Proposed by Cllr P Ayles and seconded by Cllr J Riches)
- b. **Resolved:** To elect Paul Nichols as Vice President of the Association. (Proposed by Cllr D Bray and seconded by Cllr S Smith)

4. Approval of the minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting (held remotely 22 September 2021).

**Resolved:** The minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> AGM held 22 September 2021 are a true record of decisions taken.

5. To receive nominations for and appointment of the representative to NALC Council.

**Resolved:** To elect Cllr Paul Harvey to be the BMKALC representative to NALC.

6. Executive Board Nominations– to receive nominations from district associations.

**Noted:** This matter is to be deferred to the January Executive Board to allow the Association to canvas member councils in areas no longer covered by a local association, for nominations to the Executive Board. As per point 10 in the Constitution.

7. Chair's Report – The annual Chair's Report by Cllr Sue Smith, Chair of Executive Committee had been previously circulated and was taken as read. However Cllr. Smith wished to note her thanks to all the following for their commitment to and support of BMKALC and for the organisation of events and processes – staff, her deputies, the 2022 conference, the introduction of online banking, lobbying, Countess Howe, member communities and member councils.

8. County Officers Report – The annual report from the CEO, Mel Woof had been previously circulated and was taken as read. Mel Woof wished to highlight the following points:

- BMKALC is a COUNTY association that encompasses two unitary authorities.
- It represents 201 local authorities – only 5 within the county are not members.
- It has run 74 different courses since April with almost 1000 members attending.
- The conference was well received – feedback has been positive.
- BMKALC is building on Carole Burslem's legacy.
- Specialists have been building bespoke courses for BMKALC members.
- A programme for larger councils is in development.
- Internal Auditor courses begin in February 2023.
- CiLCA will be expanded to two cohorts per year.
- It is hoped to introduce a bursary scheme for CiLCA.

9. Appointment of Auditor for 2022-23 – The Executive Committee recommends that the AGM appoint APS Accountancy Limited (Angell Pinder) of Aylesbury as the auditor of accounts.

**Resolved:** To appoint APS Accountancy Limited (Angell Pinder) to audit the accounts 2022-23.

10. To receive and approve the unaudited annual accounts for 2021-2022\*.

**Resolved:** To accept and approve the accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**11.** To consider and agree the subscription rates for 2023-24. Current BMKALC rate is 12.4p per elector per annum. The NALC rate of subscription will rise from 7.49 to 7.71p per elector for 2023-24\*.

**Resolved:** The membership rate per elector for the BMKALC contribution is maintained and that the NALC subscription is increased to 7.71pence per elector per year. This results in a total contribution of 20.5 pence per elector per year increased from 20.3 pence per elector per year.

12. To receive and approve the budget for 2023/24\*.

**Resolved:** That the proposed budget for 2023/2024 be adopted.

13. Next Meetings – dates were noted.

- Management Team 17 Jan 2023, 18 April 2023, 18 July 2023, 17 Oct 2023
- Executive Board 25 Jan 2023, 26 April 2023, 26 July 2023, 1 Nov 2023
- AGM 22 November 2023

\*Items 10-12 inclusive - Councillor Darby took, and answered in detail, questions from the floor and from those attending virtually regarding the accounts.

There being no further business to conduct the meeting was closed and was followed by a presentation by Becky Walsh, personal development themed comedian, intuitive catalyst, speaker, author, and communication specialist. Becky dove into human psychology, neuroscience, and power dynamics and explained what triggers people to behave from the worst of themselves; why some of these behaviours are so prevalent in councils and how we could look after ourselves to be the best of ourselves.