

AGENDA 15, Enc xv)

Notes from NALC Committee meeting of 16th November 2019

Quite a bit of this meeting has already come out in NALC E-news or my notes from the recent Parish Liaison Working group meeting on 31st October.

Alex Wallace was re-elected as Chair for a further period (no volunteers to take over and ongoing sub groups); Amanda Barrell, Vice Chair of Choppington Council was elected as another Vice- Chair;

Last minutes approved and the finances are quite healthy – only 3 councils have not yet paid their subscriptions;

It was noted there had been good follow up from the Council of the year awards given to Hexham and Blakelaw – this was good PR for NALC and what it's about – especially in Newcastle where there are only 6 parishes;

Stephen Rickitt (SER) mentioned purdah with the elections and Cllr Tebbutt, who is also an agent had been at a briefing for the election count which has a high level of security in place. In charge is the man who has been in charge of Sunderland's quick counts in past years and he is anticipating speedy results on election night. The counts will take place in Blyth;

SER's training briefings have showed a small drop in attendances but overall still fairly good. The VAT seminar was very good and Steve Parkinson has been retained again by NALC to help councils with VAT issues;

A question of engagement in Local Democracy was raised: some councils routinely talk to school audiences but it is felt more should be done when possible, even with Junior schools as the children seem to find it interesting;

Problems with rural transport was raised – a possible future speaker to the committee was suggested –as with rural crime issues;

Thanks to Cllr Rook who provided a report on the air quality consultation in Newcastle. This should be linked in a future E- news;

David Francis raised the issue of the smaller Councils Committee at National ALC where the big councils get most of the attention with items often sent out that are not suitable for small councils. Elections are open for a committee place on this and our councils are being asked to support the election of Stephen Rickitt onto this committee where he can bring a good deal of useful experience. (There should be a link coming out but it can also be found directly from the National ALC website).

MFA/18.11.19