

HEREFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

15th July 2015

1. Bromyard TC have rejoined HALC, but Kington are not rejoining this year. Hereford City Council are considering their membership of NALC.
2. It was agreed that the Chief Executive should be paid for the hours worked, and an extra 7 hours per week have been added to her contract until 31st March 2016. Also her assistant has had his hours increased from 7 to 14 hours per week. (Both increases in hours back-dated to 1st April 2015).
3. The Finance Committee reported that the budget is on track. A proposal to be put to HALC AGM in October that in future Invoices for membership fee should be sent out on January 1st and should be paid by 31st March. At present invoices are sent out in January but payment not made until new financial year in April. This change will have consequences for next year's precept only as 2 payments will be required in same financial year.
4. Some Households, who are on benefits, currently do not pay Council Tax; Herefordshire Council has passed on the shortfall to Parish Councils as National Government has paid to Principal Authority the shortfall. There is discussion in Government circles whether this shortfall will be paid in future to Principal Authority or Principal Authority may not pass these monies down to Parish Councils. (At present 20% Principal Authorities hold back these monies). Whatever the situation this will have repercussions for Council Tax Payers; whatever precept a parish council requests is met, but individual residents may find their Council Tax bill is raised.
5. There was discussion on 'New Homes' bonus, which National Government pays to Principal Authority for all new homes built. It was felt that these monies need to go down to Parish Councils.
6. 'Community Governance Review' will be conducted by Herefordshire Council from September 2015. Chief Executive of HALC will be meeting with Herefordshire Council before then to discuss this county-wide review. Under this review Parish Councils could be created, amalgamated, split up, Parish Boundaries could change, Councillor membership of a Parish Council could change. (Town Clerk has a copy of NALC 'Legal Topic Note' on this review').
7. HALC Conference & AGM to be held on Saturday 17th October 2015.

At East Area Meeting of HALC on Thursday 9th July 2015 Cllr Nicky Carless (Colwall) was re-elected Chairman, and Cllr Keith Francis (Ledbury) was re-elected Deputy Chairman.

The Chair of CAL (Community Action Ledbury) reported that CAL, which had relocated to the Master's House has found the office rooms unsuitable for purpose, and will be relocating to their previous offices in Bye Street. Currently their mobility centre is in Master's House, but this will also have to be relocated, and this will mean a shortfall in Funds. A request will be made to Parish Councils in the CAL area for financial support for the relocation of mobility centre.

Next meeting: Thursday 12th November 2015

Cllr K.W.Francis 16th July 2015