

The Norfolk Association's 69th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 20 November 2017

There were two speakers:

Richard Butler provided an amusing and informative presentation on the work of the County Lieutenant and his team. Richard Butler, OBE is a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk.

Jonathan Owen covered a range of topics relevant to town and parish councils. He stressed the importance of Parish Councils in Norfolk which enabled our communities to work together for the benefit of our towns and villages. Jonathan Owen is Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils,

Clerk of the Year 2017 awards

These were presented to two clerks, Kate Filby from Harling and Glynis Allen for Old Hunstanton - see photograph. The overall winner was Tina Cunnell from Thetford. This annual competition was judged by a panel consisting of two councillors and two clerks.

Incoming President

Ian Gibson, ex MP, was voted in as the new President of the Association, to succeed Peter Wilkinson, who is a current Executive Member and a Breckland District Councillor.

Three Motions were discussed and agreed

1. Second Homes – Proposer Cromer Town Council, seconder Sheringham TC. Norfolk Town and Parish Councils who have a significant proportion of second homes called on Norfolk ALC and the National body to:-

- Marry up the work that National ALC are doing on shared business rates with second homes council tax.
- Explore how second homes council tax is being dealt with in other areas around the country and whether it is being put back into the community.
- Explore how Town and Parish Councils are managing the number of properties that are being sold as second homes and how they are protecting housing for key workers.
- Explore the possibilities of increasing tax on second homes to over 100% to enable Town and Parish Councils to provide services in their communities.
- To ensure that the Town and Parish Council precepts do not have to increase to compensate for loss of revenue on second homes council tax.
- To arrange a meeting with the Minister for Coastal Communities to discuss a fair distribution of money and resources to communities which have a disproportionate number of second homes.
- To look at legislative changes to ensure that all communities benefit from changes made on taxation of second homes.

2. Impact of Service Transfers – Proposer Costessey Town Council, seconder Cromer Town Council. Norfolk Town and Parish Councils who are adversely affected by the proposed transfer of services to the first tier of local government called on Norfolk ALC to:

- convene a round-table meeting with the principal authorities along with Town and Parish Councils to discuss these important concerns
- inform the principal councils' decision-making process and prevent any misunderstandings about how first tier councils work.
- improve cooperation between local authorities and help develop better consultation procedures for the benefit of everyone.
- agree a memorandum of understanding or protocol between tiers of local government to assist the development of good working arrangements.

3. No parking on yellow zig-zag lines outside schools to be made enforceable – Proposer Bunwell Parish Council, seconder Tacolnестon Parish Council. Bunwell Parish Council had become aware that the yellow zig-zag lines outside schools are not enforceable unless there are adjacent signs stating the hours of operation. The council therefore urged Norfolk ALC to lobby the County Council to ensure that these signs are placed by the yellow zig-zag lines across the county to help improve the safety of our children.

Photograph 1 shows (Left to right) Kate Filby, Clerk to Harling PC, Councillor Shirley Matthews, Norfolk ALC Executive member, Glynis Allen Clerk to Old Hunstanton PC and Peter Wilkinson, 2016/17 President of the Norfolk ALC

Kate and Glynis were winners in the Association's Clerk of the Year competition this year



Photograph 2 shows (Left to right) Peter Wilkinson, 2016/17 President of the Norfolk ALC congratulating Dr.Ian Gibson as incoming President of the Norfolk ALC for the 2017/18 year.

