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### **A SUCCESSFUL AGM FOR NORFOLK ALC**

Clerks and councillors from across Norfolk attended Norfolk ALC's 71st AGM on 18 November. Highlights included hearing about Thetford Town Council's Journey to becoming a 'Quality Gold' Council, as well as a high standard of discussion over approaches to tackling the impact of Climate Change and also of Wind Farm cabling in Norfolk. Member councils can read the draft minutes [here](#).

### **CILCA SUCCESS**

Congratulations to Carla Petersen, clerk to Langley with Hardley Parish Council and Claxton Parish Council, and also to Sarah Watts, clerk to West Winch Parish Council, for their recent CiLCA Qualification successes after training with us. Well done to both of you!

### **COMPLIANCE WITH WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS FOR NORFOLK ALC PROVIDED COUNCIL WEBSITES**

New regulations have come into force which mean that, from next year, our websites will need to meet certain accessibility standards. The snappily named Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 came into force on 23 September and aim to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps are accessible to all, including those with disabilities.

Norfolk ALC have been working closely with our partner, Broadland Digital, to ensure that parish council sites meet the new regulations. Over the next few days, a new design is being introduced. Once this has been installed, please contact Helen with any changes that you would like to your site and we will do our best to meet your needs. A new privacy policy will have been added to the site automatically. A new Cookie Policy has also been drafted, which some councils might want to modify. Each administrator will therefore be sent a copy of the Cookie Policy with instructions on how to upload to the site after the new design has been implemented. All this work will be done behind the scenes so that the sites remain uninterrupted and live. The cost of this work will be met by Norfolk ALC.

We are updating member access details to the National ALC website from December.

Please contact [us](#) for your council's updated password for use from that date.

### **2020/21 NORFOLK ALC SUBSCRIPTION FEES**

We know that our subscribers are now setting 2020/21 budgets. For budgeting purposes, we are keeping subscription rates unchanged for next year, with the only adjustment being for any significant changes in elector numbers. More about the services we provide can be seen [here](#).

### **SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE**

Voting has opened for elections to National ALC's Smaller Councils Committee. Smaller councils (those with an electorate under 6,000) can vote for the three candidates they want to represent the interests of smaller councils at a national level. Information on candidates, which includes our Sarah Hayden from Gresham PC in North Norfolk, and the link to vote, is [here](#). The deadline is Friday 13 December.

### **SKY LANTERN AND BALLOON RELEASE CHARTER**

Norfolk County Council have just launched the Sky Lantern and Balloon Release Charter, which highlights the many problems caused by releasing sky lanterns and balloons. Problems include harm to livestock, wildlife and marine animals from leftover parts of lanterns and balloons, and the fire hazard caused by expired lanterns.

Would your council consider signing up to the charter to pledge not to release sky lanterns or balloons from your land or property, and to promote the exciting and environmentally friendly alternatives for celebrating events instead? Details can be found at [Norfolk sky lanterns and balloon release charter – Norfolk County Council](#) including alternative celebration ideas, poster and graphics to download, a template policy and more.

Community newsletter article: Click [here](#) for a short newsletter article and image that might be useful for your community. Please feel free to edit this if needed.

### **STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS**

As you may know the Home Office has issued a new consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. The consultation document can be found [here](#). NALC has produced an accompanying briefing summarising the consultation.

To help with their response NALC would like to hear your views. Please send responses to [Jessica.Lancod-frost@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Lancod-frost@nalc.gov.uk) by Wednesday 19 February 2020.

### **TRAINING SESSIONS**

Upcoming courses include the following. More of our courses can viewed at the link below. If you would like any courses/ locations to be added, let us know!

### **BEING AN EFFECTIVE COUNCILLOR**

Thursday 30 January 2020 – Carrowbreck House, Hellesdon

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One day intensive course  
9.30am – 3.30pm

Covers roles and responsibilities, getting things done for your community, procedures and law, working with your Clerk, planning, budgeting and finance.

### **LAW & GOOD PRACTICE OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

Tuesday 11 February 2020  
10am–2.30pm  
Carrowbreck House, Hellesdon

A new Norfolk ALC training course which looks at good meeting law and practice, examines the changing role of clerks and councillors in a digital age and challenges more traditional approaches to management and delivery of local council services, community consultation and feedback and making representations.

Course tutor, Alan Fairchild MBE, FSLCC is a former town clerk and responsible financial officer with over 40 years of experience of working in Norfolk and as a national representative on Government advisory and regulatory bodies, including SLCC.

### **DATA PROTECTION ESSENTIALS**

Wednesday 12 February 2020 Carrowbreck House, Hellesdon  
10am–12noon

This two hour course will introduce or refresh parish clerks and councillors on the essential and relevant features of data protection law. It will cover the key aspects of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Not only will attendees learn how to relate to the legislation with practical examples but they will also benefit from understanding how their personal data should be managed by others. Time will be set aside by the tutor to answer specific questions relating to particular circumstances or, if preferred, during separate one-to-one sessions immediately after the course has finished.

**[To book a training course click here](#)**

**[Click here to view the Calendar for more Events & Training](#)**

**[To view the current Parish Clerk Vacancies in Norfolk click here](#)**

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