



NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the meeting of the County Committee at 10am on Saturday 11th October 2025, held at County Hall Morpeth.

Online: Cllrs: Liz Dunn, Catherine Seymore, Isabelle Hunter, David Hughes, Claire Connoly, Natalie Rolls

Attendance: Cllrs: Kerry Davison, David Francis, J Rowell, David Nicholson, Alan Hall, Allyn Roberts, Helen Shaw, David Woodward, Alan Taylor and Adam Hogg

Also Present

Mr Graeme Popay – Chief Officer [Actions marked as CO]

1: Welcome.

Cllr David Francis, acting Chair welcomed new members

2: Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs: Alex Wallace, Simon Taylor, Gwen Woodman, Monica Anderton.

3: Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th July 2025

All agreed to accept the minute as a true record.

4: Matters arising

None

5: Finance

The Financial report was not available.

6: National Issues

Cllr David Francis gave a verbal report on recent national issues including:

- The withdrawal of the financial support for neighbourhood plans has given councils across the UK great concern. All new plans need to be self-funded.
- NALC is lobbying for the Postal Service to be recognised as a vital government lifeline
- Job evaluation Guidance document produced by SLCC and NALC in 2004 is under review and hopefully we will see a revision in 2026.
- NALC and ALC are urging the Government to act swiftly on the Councillor Standards reform.
- The smaller authorities Proper Practices Panel is suggesting that internal auditors should be qualified

7: Issues raised by County Committee members.

Code of Conduct – prepared by Cllr Kerry Davison. A paper had been previously circulated. Cllr Davison talked through the paper. All members were in support of this paper. The CO made the members aware that he, with Cllr Francis had been in discussions with Neil Masson regarding a training package delivered by NCC. The CO would report back to Neil



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Mason and make him aware of the growing concern felt across the Parish and Town Councils in the County.

8: County and Parish Website

The CO advised members that over 40 Councils had started the move to HugoFox. Three Councils had decided to go their own way

Cllr Hunter reported that she was still putting pressure on NCC to see if they could provide a cheaper .gov.uk email address for Parish Councils.

9: County AGM Saturday 15th November

The Draft Annual report had been previously circulated for comment. There were no comments.

10: Next Meeting of the Committee

- **Saturday 15th November – AGM County Hall – in person meeting only.**
- **December TBC – Online only**

11: Any Other Urgent Business – Could NALC ask NCC what its policy is regarding the flying of flags on lampposts, bridges etc. **ACTION CO**

Meeting Closed at 11.40