

Report No. 1

Report to Malmesbury Town Council 22nd November 2016

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting, 10th November 2016.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To inform Council regarding the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils' Annual General Meeting held at Trowbridge Civic Centre on Thursday 10th November 2016.

2. Background

- 2.1 I am one of the two the designated representatives from the Town Council to the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils and I attended the above event together with about 20 other Councillors and Clerks.
- 2.2 The Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) is a membership organisation for local councils in Wiltshire and Swindon, maintained by subscription. It answers queries from member councils (for example on procedures, finance, employment, law and behaviour), provides in-depth support where requested, disseminates newsletters and delivers training. It is a member of regional and national Local Council Associations. WALC maintains a close relationship with Community First which is involved in Community-Led Planning, Community Transport and Village Halls.

3. AGM Business

- 3.1 The WALC AGM business took 45 minutes, including presentations and speeches. It followed the usual content format for an AGM: receiving Minutes, receiving an Annual Report and Accounts and the election of officers.
- 3.2 The AGM also voted to change the formula for charging subscriptions. This was in view of the realisation that, relative to their size, small councils made more use of its services than large council. MTC's subscription will rise from £603 to £665 per annum for 2017/18.

4. Post-AGM Presentations

- 4.1 **Mr John Watling**, Deputy Returning Officer and Head of Electoral Services, Wiltshire Council gave such key information as was firm regarding the elections in May 2017: *Election Day*: Thursday 4th May; *Deadline for Nominations*: Tuesday 4th April, to be received by hand at the local Council office which for us is Chippenham; *Notice of Election*: before 27th March; *Nomination Papers on Wiltshire Council website*: by early March; *Election Count* (not overnight): Friday 5th May 2017.
- 4.2 **Cllr Mel Usher**, Leader, Frome Town Council, gave a well-practised speech about the change to Frome (population 27,000) Town Council since 2011 when 17 independent (rather than politically-aligned) candidates stood for and won all Town Council seats. The Council's goals, amongst others, are to be inclusive rather than exclusive, to involve younger people, to have a positive values-based relationships between councillors and to make decisions through panels of Councillors and the public. In 2015 the Council raised its precept (Band D equivalent) "from £76 to £120 without complaint from the public" (it is currently £138.65). Information about "Independents for Frome" is available here <http://iffrome.org.uk/> .