

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 2 October 2024  
**Time:** 10:00am  
**Location:** Exeter Racecourse



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## Minutes

<b>Present:</b>	Elizabeth Brookes-Hocking	Director (Chair)
	Mike Joyce	Director (Vice-Chair)
	Ian Cowling	Director
	Phillip Dredge	Director
	Ruth Pearson-Bunt	Director
	Joanna Rice	Director

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<b>East Devon</b>	All Saints*, Beer*, Bishops Clyst, Branscombe* Broadclyst, Budleigh Salterton, Exmouth, Honiton, Kilmington, Lymptstone, Newton Poppleford & Harford, Northleigh, Ottery St Mary, Poltimore*, Rockbeare*, Seaton, Uplyme, Upottery, West Hill, Woodbury.
<b>Mid Devon</b>	Coldridge, Colebrooke, Crediton, Cullompton, Down St Mary*, Halberton, Kentisbeare, Newton St Cyres, Thorverton
<b>North Devon</b>	Barnstaple, Bishops Nympton, Ilfracombe, Fremington*,
<b>South Hams</b>	Brixton, Cornwood, Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Kingswear, Newton & Noss, Salcombe, South Milton*, Totnes, Wembury, West Alvington*
<b>Teignbridge</b>	Ashburton, Bishopsteignton, Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Dawlish, Dunsford, Exminster, Hennock, Ilsington, Kingskerswell, Kingsteignton, Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot, Shaldon*, Stokeinteighhead, Tedburn St Mary, Teignmouth
<b>Torbay</b>	Brixham
<b>Torridge</b>	Bridgerule*, Buckland Brewer, Great Torrington
<b>West Devon</b>	Chagford, Exbourne & Jacobstowe, Germansweek*, Horrabridge, Mary Tavy, Okehampton, Peter Tavy*, Plasterdown, Tavistock

*(\*) indicates where proxy forms were received.*

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**In attendance:** Cara Stobart County Officer

### 1. Welcome address by the Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Brookes-Hocking.

Delegates and guests were welcomed to the AGM, and thanks expressed to Cloudy IT for their support in live streaming and recording the proceedings.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Bridford, Bridgerule, Clawton, Rockbeare, Staverton, and Stoke Rivers.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

**3.1** The [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 27 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **4. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24**

**4.1** A summary of DALC's achievements during 2023/24 was provided by the Chair of the Board of Directors. The presentation highlighted the continued high demand on DALC services; efforts DALC has been making to better understand its membership; and DALC's work representing local councils and its collaborations with principal councils. There was also a call to action for more individuals to stand for election as directors.

**4.2** The Chair of the Board's Finance Committee presented the [annual statement of accounts and balance sheet](#), for year ending 31 March 2024. Highlights included an improved financial performance with an increase in income due to subscription fee increases, and training following the ordinary elections. A small surplus of approx. £5,300 was achieved. It was also highlighted that several of DALC's expenses are relatively fixed i.e. office costs including staffing, and there are some areas in which DALC aims to break even or make a surplus i.e. training and annual conference.

The [Annual Report 2023/24](#) can be viewed on the DALC website.

#### **5. Looking ahead**

**5.1** The Chair outlined DALC's vision and strategic goals, and the emerging priorities for the year ahead including maintenance of DALC's core services, improving outreach to smaller councils, and continuing to develop collaborative projects with principal authorities to foster stronger relationships and partnerships in local government. There was a call to action for councils to continue talking to DALC to ensure that DALC is delivering and prioritising what councils need most.

**5.2** The Chair of the Finance Committee gave a quick summary of DALC's financial position so far in 2024/25 highlighting a drop in training income, a small drop in subscription income, but an increase in grant income. In planning for 2025/26, the Board is minded to increase subscription fees in line with inflation at approx. 3%. This will leave a small shortfall, to be addressed by other means i.e. paid for work.

#### **6. Motions**

##### **Board of Directors**

**6.1** The following individual was appointed as a non-executive director, with effect from the conclusion of the AGM, for a 3-year term of office:

**6.1.1** Lance Kennedy, Tiverton Town Council.

**6.2** The following board-appointed directors were redesignated as member-appointed directors for the remainder of their respective terms of office:

**6.2.1** Phillip Dredge, until October 2025 or nearest AGM

**6.2.2** Mike Joyce, until November 2025 or nearest AGM

**6.2.3** Ruth Pearson-Bunt, until December 2025 or nearest AGM.

##### **6.3 Appointment of Internal Examiner**

Merlin Accountancy Services were appointed for the year 2024/25.

#### **7. Next meeting**

**7.1** It was agreed the next AGM be held on 1 October 2025, subject to venue availability.

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Cara Stobart, County Officer

A recording of the AGM is available to view at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CVkuhGNPXKMFTetx1kK0h-c0qhHnff6Dc8eK02hpc\\_Tg63N4PxzNohzEz3bQWx34.mNUhXr2cggYkhhpC](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CVkuhGNPXKMFTetx1kK0h-c0qhHnff6Dc8eK02hpc_Tg63N4PxzNohzEz3bQWx34.mNUhXr2cggYkhhpC)