

## DRAFT

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire & Rutland Branch of the SLCC held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 11.00 am at Leicester Forest East Parish Council.**

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#### **1. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions.**

The Chairman, Stuart Bacon, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked LFE Parish Council for hosting the meeting.

#### **2. Guest Speaker.**

Jamie Charters from the CCLA delivered a presentation to the meeting which covered the history of the fund, the options for local authorities and the current size of its investment portfolio which stands at £14 billion with 36k clients. In the local authority sector there are around 1,000 clients with an investment portfolio of £3 billion.

The Public Sector Deposit Fund (PSDF) was launched in May 2011 and is a product which was designed by the sector, for the sector. It is a short-term money market fund with a triple A rating. There is a minimum of £25k investment requirement which carries a low level of risk.

#### **3. Internal Audit/LRALC.**

John Kilcoyne from the LRALC gave a brief overview of the LRALC's Internal Audit Service. There are currently 103 local councils out of a total 197 local councils in Leicestershire & Rutland using the service.

The follow-up meeting from this year's audit has yet to be organised and the allocation of auditors for next year has not yet been done. It is anticipated that there may be a rotation of auditors for 2024. New volunteers to join the team of IAs would be most welcome.

John then went to other LRALC matters.

The AGM of the LRALC is to be held at Mountsorrel on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 4.00pm. An agenda will be published shortly.

John would welcome any feedback from councils on the performance of this year's external auditors, Moore.

LCC Operational Meetings will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

LRALC has met with the county's MPs. Code of Conduct issues and the possibility of remote meetings were discussed.

There has been no further information on the settlement of this year's pay claim.

4. **Apologies.**

A list has been filed with the Branch Secretary.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

The minutes of the SLCC branch meeting which had been held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Ashby de la Zouch Town Council offices were signed by the Branch Chairman as an accurate record.

6. **Report from LRALC.**

This had been covered under item 3 above.

7. **Items for SLCC/LRALC Joint meeting agenda.**

No items have been suggested.

It was noted that the next meeting between SLCC and the LRALC would be held at Blaby Parish Council office on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 10.00am.

8. **Report from National Forum Representative.**

Mel Mitchell had circulated a written report from the National Forum virtual meeting which had been held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The next meeting will be held prior to the SLCC National Conference on 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Hinckley Island Hotel.

9. **Chairman's Report**

SB reported the following to the meeting:

- The result of the recent SLCC Regional Director election was that Helen Ball the Clerk at Shrewsbury Town Council had been elected for the Midlands area;
- After months of hard work, SLCC's partner organisation Local Council Consultancy (LCC), has unveiled a complete brand makeover marking an exciting step forward for the provider of locum and consultancy services;
- SLCC is preparing to take on responsibility for teaching the Masters in Public Leadership from De Montfort University in 2024. This Level 7 course will help you develop the knowledge and skills you need to address the challenges of community leadership in a demanding political climate, and provides opportunities for investigating published ideas in depth and reflecting on practice in local council settings. SLCC is carrying out a survey to help us ensure that the course works for you and meets your expectations;
- The Coronation Living Heritage Fund (CLHF) celebrates the coronation of King Charles III and £2.5 million in funding is available to support local tree planting projects across England.

Through tree officers or environmental teams at their principal councils, parish and town councils in England can apply for £10,000 to £50,000 for each project.

The fund is made up of two schemes:

- Coronation Micro Woods: to enable local authorities to plant miniature areas of woodland in urban areas
- Coronation Community Orchards: to provide grants to local people and groups to establish community orchards

Each local authority can apply for a grant from both schemes.

**10. Treasurer's Report.**

Total income was £723.00.

Total expenditure (excluding today's meeting) was £346.17.

Closing balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 is £1,051.77.

**11. Secretary's Report.**

The Branch Secretary was unavailable for the meeting. However, she wished to promote the SLCC National Conference on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Jury's Inn, Hinckley Island Hotel.

Her council also had some comments to make regarding the revised Articles of Association of the LRALC. These would be passed onto John Kilcoyne.

**12. Local Government Pay Claim 2023/24.**

See report from LRALC at minute number 3.

**13. Feedback from Internal/External Audit 2022/23.**

See report from LRALC at minute number 3.

**14. SLCC Training and Events.**

The meeting was asked to note that the AGM of the SLCC is taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 either in presence prior to the National Conference or virtually. Branch members are encouraged to attend.

**15. Events (for discussion and information sharing).**

The Branch was reminded that Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 is 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day landings. There are likely to be a number of high profile events across the county.

Parish and Town Councils are being encouraged to read a proclamation at 8.00am and to light a beacon at 9.15pm. Further discussions/sharing of information to follow.

16. **Jo Small Award.**

The nomination form for the Jo Small Award for 2023 had been circulated to branch members. Nominations are requested from branch members.

17. **Christmas Meeting.**

It was confirmed that the Christmas meeting and meal would take place on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023** at Loughborough Town Hall.

18. **Future meetings.**

The dates of the branch meetings for 2024 will be circulated to members in due course.

*The meeting closed at 1.10 pm – thanks to all those whom attended in person and via Zoom.*

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