

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 1 October 2025
Time: 10:00am
Location: Exeter Racecourse



Minutes

Present:	Elizabeth Brookes-Hocking	Director (Chair)
	Mike Joyce	Director (Vice-Chair)
	Phillip Dredge	Director
	Ruth Pearson-Bunt	Director
	Glyn Richards	Director
	Phillip Dredge	Director
	Paul Hayward	Director
	Colin Trudgeon	Director

East Devon	Axminster, Bishops Clyst, Branscombe, Budleigh Salterton, Chardstock*, Exminster*, Exmouth, Honiton, Kilminster, Lymington, Lymington, Newton Poppleford and Harpford, Northleigh, Ottery St Mary, Shillingford*, Talaton*, Uplyme, West Hill, Woodbury
Mid Devon	Burlescombe, Cheriton Bishop, Clayhidon, Coldridge, Colebrooke, Crediton, Halberton, Hemyock, Thorverton, Tiverton
North Devon	Ashford, Barnstaple, Heanton Punchardon, Ilfracombe, Knowstone, Lynton & Lynmouth, North Molton
South Hams	Ashprington, Brixton, Dartington, Dartmouth, Diptford, Ivybridge, Kingswear, Modbury, Newton & Noss, Salcombe, South Brent, Totnes, Wembury
Teignbridge	Abbotskerswell, Ashburton, Bishopsteignton, Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Dawlish, Denbury & Torbryan, Dunsford, Hennock, Kingskerswell, Kingsteignton, Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot, Tedburn St Mary, Teignmouth
Torbay	Brixham
Torridge	Buckland Brewer, Buckland Filleigh*, East & West Putford, Frithelstock, Littleham & Landcross, Northam, Peters Marland*, Shebbear*, Sheepwash*, Thornbury*, Winkleigh
West Devon	Bere Ferrers, Bratton Clovelly*, Chagford, Exbourne with Jacobstowe, Mary Tavy, North Tawton, Okehampton, Plasterdown Grouped, Sticklepath, Tavistock

(*) indicates where proxy forms were received.

In attendance:	Rebecca Walker	Chief Executive Officer
	Elise Callaghan	Training Officer
	Karen Chapman	Member Services Officer
	Rachel Townsend	Administrative Assistant

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

Delegates and guests were welcomed to the AGM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Beaworthy, Bratton Clovelly, Clawton, Combe Martin, Germansweek, Kingston, Plymtree, Shaldon, Staverton, West Down

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

3.1 The [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 2 October 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25

4.1 A summary of DALC's achievements during 2024/25 was provided by Liz Brookes-Hocking, Chair of the Board.

The [Annual Report 2024/25](#) can viewed on the DALC website.

4.2 Ian Cowling, Chair of the Board's Finance Committee, was unable to be present due to unforeseen events so the [annual statement of accounts and balance sheet](#) for year ending 31 March 2025 was presented by Liz Brookes-Hocking, DALC Chair. Highlights included an improved financial performance with income up by 27k. The overall surplus for the year had been £22k, with a small gain in our investments. The website upgrade project had needed to be postponed, and there was an increase in staffing costs due to the expansion of the Member Services team.

5. Looking ahead

5.1 Members were thanked for completing of the DALC Member Survey and highlighted some of the key results.

The top three services asked for by members were a council health check scheme, pay evaluation service, and mentoring for new clerks. It was noted that local government reorganisation was the key strategic priority for members, followed by highways and housing.

Ruth Pearson-Bunt, Chair of the Board's HR Committee, presented the DALC staff team and announced the appointment of Rebecca Walker as Chief Executive Officer.

5.2 Ian Cowling, Chair of the Board's Finance Committee, was unable to be present due to unforeseen events so the budget was presented by Liz Brookes-Hocking. For 2025/26, key points are that training income is holding up, although grant income is down from last year. Costs other than staffing are on target, although there is an expected shortfall by the end of the year which will be covered by reserves.

For the 2026/27 budget, there is a planned subscription fee increase of 3%. The board is expecting an increase in investment income. Non-staff expenditure is expected to increase by 4%, and a small shortfall will be expected.

6. Motions

6.1 The following individuals were appointed as non-executive directors, with effect from the conclusion of the AGM, for 3-year terms of office:

6.1.1 Colin Trudgeon, Bishops Clyst Parish Council

6.1.2 Paul Hayward, Axminster Town Council

6.1.3 Mike Joyce, Newton Abbot Town Council

- 6.1.4** Ruth Pearson-Bunt, Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council
 - 6.1.5** Colin Slade, Halberton Parish Council
 - 6.1.6** Pauline Odulinski, Winkleigh Parish Council
- 6.2** The following changes to the Articles of Association were agreed in principle:
 - 6.2.1** Allow for up to 12 directors rather than up to 9 directors
 - 6.2.2** Allow for terms of office to last 4 years, instead of 3, with the maximum length of office increasing to 12.
- 6.3** Merlin Accountancy Services were appointed for the year 2025/26

7. Next meeting

- 7.1** It was agreed the next AGM be held on 7 October 2026, subject to venue availability.

Rebecca Walker, Chief Executive Officer

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