

Correspondence List for meeting dated 13 November 2019

Ref	Date received	From	Subject	Note/comment
<i>Note: CDALC = County Durham Association of Local Councils NALC = National Association of Local Councils SLCC = Society of Local Council Clerks</i>				
1	02/10/2019	Came & Company	Notice that from 4/11/19, following the acquisition of Stackhouse Poland Ltd by the Gallagher group of companies, the insurance activity will be arranged and administered under the Gallagher legal entity. New documents provided: Briefing Letter, Updated Terms of Business, Terms of Business Material Differences Document and Request Asked Questions document.	All materials filed.
2	03/10/2019	CDALC	Note, presentation and hand-outs from recent Website Accessibility Regulations training provided by DCC (Clerk attended).	
3	03/10/2019	Durham Community Action	Invitation to take part in 10-year study of the voluntary and community sector. Link provided to survey.	Is it appropriate for the PC to complete this?
4	03/10/2019	County of Durham School Benevolent Fund	Letter requesting donation to Fund which contributes £35 towards shoes and £35 towards winter coat for needy families in County Durham (eligibility = on benefits entitling children to free school meals). Fund has experienced unprecedented level of applications, assumed to be due to hardship caused by roll out of Universal Credit.	Does the PC wish to respond?
5	07/10/2019	CDALC	NALC Chief Executive's bulletin: government is NOT proposing to extend council tax referendum principles to parish councils in 2020/21; NALC policy committee is working on 5G mobile consultation, diversity in elections research, building controls; Spring conference on theme of health and wellbeing is 17 March in London; encouragement of local councils to make contact with their local Healthwatch; campaign to create new councils; publication of the latest Tree Charter newsletter.	
6	07/10/2019	CDALC	Reminder of CDALC AGM (12 October), agenda and annual report.	
7	07/10/2019	CDALC	Invitation to attend electric powered horticultural machinery, arranged by Great Aycliffe Town Council, 11 October.	
8	07/10/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 5 October. Nothing new to report.	
9	07/10/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 6 October. Email sent to all councillors 7/10/19.	
10	07/10/2019	CDALC	Request to share information on allotment management (bee keeping and rodent control) — for Easington Village PC.	
11	08/10/2019	CDALC	Details of 'Community Access to Cash Delivery Fund', currently worth £1m, through which members of the public can apply for funds for a cash point in their village or town. Applications judged on distance to nearest free ATM, availability of a nearby post office and the security of a suggested site. Link to fund details can be provided.	
12	08/10/2019	Resident	Apology that the planting at the village sign did not do well this year - combination of plants too tall, grass not being cut and the weather!	Reported at meeting 9/10.
13	09/10/2019	Friends of the Earth	'20 climate actions for town and parish councils' guide and link to report showing scale of action required across Durham area. Email forwarded to all clls 10/10/19.	
14	09/10/2019	Northern Powergrid	Invitation to attend stakeholder summit to shape Northern Powergrid's plans to help with low-carbon revolution. 29 November, Leeds.	
15	09/10/2019	Durham Community Action	Integrated Care - public engagement roadshows. Full details of the North East and Cumbria-wide consultation running from 7 October to 15 November. Link to an online survey is available. Nearest roadshow events announced to date: Friday 25 October (2-4pm) at Asda Bishop Auckland and Monday 28 October (10am-4pm) at Darlington Market Place.	
16	09/10/2019	BT	Confirmation that the kiosk on B2677/Fitzhugh Court will be placed on BT's removal programme.	
17	10/10/2019	Keep Britain Tidy	Sales promotion for 'Fight back against dog fouling' campaign materials (from 'just' £250+VAT!).	

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18	11/10/2019	SLCC	News bulletin: that referendum principles (capping) will not apply to parish councils for the coming year, but urging councils that significant increases in precept (eg. For taking on additional services) are clearly articulated to the local community; new President, Linda Larter from Sevenoaks; Action Against Climate Change (refers to item 1 above); and government pledge to increase National Living Wage to £10.50ph.	
19	14/10/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 12 October. Nothing new to report.	
20	14/10/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 13 October. No new applications to report.	
21	14/10/2019	SLCC	Invitation to apply for £1,000 scholarship towards the £5,800 Community Governance Level 4 tuition fees.	Would still be prohibitively expensive for small councils.
22	15/10/2019	CDALC	Invitation to training being hosted by Spennymoor Town Council for Legionella Responsible Person, 14-15 November, £250pp.	
23	15/10/2019	CDALC	Update on VE Day 75 Celebrations, 8-10 May 2020 (NB first May Bank Holiday has been changed from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to coincide) - 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' and the ringing of church bells as part of 'Ringing Out for Peace'.	Does any councillor wish to take the local lead on this?
24	15/10/2019	CDALC	County Training Partnership notice of training session 6-8.30pm, County Hall, Tuesday 26 November on 'Planning Applications and how to respond to them effectively': a summary of the planning application process, the role of parish councils, how planning applications are assessed (including an understanding of 'material planning considerations'), practical advice on responding to applications (including do's and don'ts and reference to typical scenarios) and how a Planning Committee works, including tips for speaking at Planning Committee. Book by 19 November. Cost £27pp.	Suggest that Clerk and at least one councillor attend?
25	15/10/2019	Durham Community Action	Invitation to Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Durham Community Action Funding Fair, Wednesday 13 November, 10am-1pm, Blackhall Community Centre. Free drop-in event for advice on funding up to £10k for project focussed on employment, health and wellbeing and/or skills and information about resources and services available for free to incorporated/registered charitable organisations operating in former coalfields areas.	
26	16/10/2019	Yorkshire Devolution Movement	Chasing response to earlier approach - see item 19 on previous list.	
27	16/10/2019	Durham Community Action	Invitation to Rural Community Led Housing Event, 4-6pm, Thursday 7 November at Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope	
28	17/10/2019	CDALC	Request to share information on costs of installing and maintaining a defibrillator— for Croxdale Middleton-in-Teesdale and Newbiggin Parish Council; and fees PCs charge for hiring out grass footpath pitches — for Heighington PC.	
29	17/10/2019	Durham Community Action	October news bulletin: Trustees Week, employer pledge on mental health, Village Halls Week, Leonard Cheshire Open Day and training opportunities.	
30	17/10/2019	Yorkshire Devolution Movement	Response to the PC's reply to item 19 on previous list that it wishes to take no further action at this time, stating "There is no cost involved at this point and as Durham CC have said they would be happy to work with Parishes to develop the initiative further, I take this to mean that they are willing to cover any costs involved at least to some extent. I am sure that the residents of Cotherstone would not want to lose all trace of the Yorkshire heritage and identity of their parish and would realise that a few simple road signs marking Yorkshire's traditional county boundary is a simple and cost effective way to protect that heritage and identity long-term. Should Durham CC fall short of funding the road signs fully, we are aware of other sources who have been happy to help with the costs of marking Yorkshire's traditional county boundaries in other parts of Yorkshire similarly affected by administrative boundary changes.... In view of the foregoing, please would Cotherstone discuss the matter further, reconsider and let us know the outcome?"	

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31	18/10/2019	CDALC	NHS Roadshows: consultation events on NHS future plans for integrated care system across the North East and Cumbria (fairly strategic), link to SurveyMonkey survey.	
31	21/10/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 20 October. No new applications to report.	
32	21/10/2019	CDALC	Request to share information on supplier details for robust outdoor Christmas tree lights — for Heighington PC.	
33	24/10/2019	Durham Community Action	Details of 'Wonderful Villages' photo competition - open to all UK Village Halls. Forwarded 25/10/19 to Cllr Watson as Village Hall Chair.	
34	26/10/2019	Came & Company	'Council Matters' 8pp newsletter, including items on trees, asset registers, events (forwarded to all cllrs 26/10 for information).	
35	26/10/2019	CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England Autumn 2019 newsletter.	The 20-page PDF can be forwarded on request.
36	26/10/2019	SLCC	News bulletin covering: Friends of the Earth's '20 Actions' plan for tackling climate change, Local Government Association's councillor workbook on acting on climate change, voter ID proposals, Cemetery of the Year, HS2 documents, #OurDay2019 promotion and hike in Public Works Loan Board interest rates from 1.8% to 2.8% with immediate effect.	
37	28/10/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 27 October. No new applications to report.	
38	28/10/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 26 October. Email sent to all cllrs 28/10/19.	
39	28/10/2019	CDALC	Reminder about DCC Climate Change Consultation (deadline 31 October). Email forwarded to all cllrs 28/10/19.	
40	28/10/2019	CDALC	National Tree Week grant information. Email forwarded to all clls 28/10/19.	
41	28/10/2019	CDALC	Press release from government's Communities Secretary launching 'most ambitious heritage preservation campaign for 40 years': every local authority will be contacted and asked to nominate heritage assets which are important to them, 10 English counties will share £700k, assets might be internationally, nationally or locally important. A new national design code will be published next year.	
42	28/10/2019	CDALC	Invitation to consider nominating someone, in recognition of past service, to attend the 2020 Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace (names will be entered into a draw for the 4 tickets (2x2people) from the CDALC area.	Any nomination(s)?
43	29/10/2019	CDALC	Invitation to Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Durham Community Action Funding Fair - information on funding of up to £10k for projects on employment, health and wellbeing and/or skills to organisations operating in former coalfield areas — 13 November, 10am-1pm, Blackhall Community Centre.	
44	29/10/2019	CDALC	Link to download brochure of training opportunities for those connected with running Community Buildings, including fully-funded introductory one-day courses, practical community development workshops, bespoke training and accredited training.	Ask for the link if you're interested. Forwarded to Community Shop Steering Group for information.
45	29/10/2019	CDALC	Details of Community Led Housing Event, 7 November 4-6pm, Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope.	
46	29/10/2019	SLCC	Details of the 2020 two-day Practitioners' Conference in Warwickshire, 26-27 February, £299 inc. accommodation. Covers 'the art of the difficult conversation', crime prevention and community safety, reducing energy bills and carbon emissions, top appraisal techniques, data protection, dealing with councillors with criminal records, setting up a Community Interest Company, simple and efficient steps to tackle climate change, General Power of Competence .. and more.	Clerk would be interested in attending. Would the PC fund 10% of cost, time + travel?

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47	29/10/2019	CDALC	Advice about preparation of budget for 2020/21: implication of (unknown) pay award for Clerk (in July unions requested a real living wage of £10ph for the lowest paid, a 10% increase for all others, a one-day increase in minimum paid annual leave entitlement, a 2-hour reduction in standard working week and a comprehensive joint national review of the workplace causes of stress and mental health) — no Employers response as yet.	Indicative Tax Band information already received, awaiting confirmation.
48	31/10/2019	Teesdale Action Partnership	Teesdale Action Partnership Annual Report for 2018/19.	6-page PDF can be forwarded on request.
49	01/11/2019	SLCC	Advice note on the subject of MPs / candidates laying wreaths on Remembrance Sunday, in the context of the General Election being held on 12 December (advice is to exclude them, as wreath laying is a mark of respect and should never be a campaigning or posturing opportunity.	