

Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: Norfolk ALC County Officer <CountyOfficer@norfolcalc.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 May 2021 12:02
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Cc: Norfolk ALC Trainer
Subject: RE: 2021/22 - provision of advice and support for Swaffham TC
Attachments: Stronger Together.pdf

Dear Richard,

I am sure you appreciate that we uniquely provide a comprehensive service to Town and Parish Councils, much more than simply an advice and support service, as shown in the relationships we hold with other organisations within the county, in attached.

In summary, Norfolk ALC provides:

- A high quality and reliable advice service, in collaboration with partners outside as well as inside the county and at national level, enabling Norfolk ALC access to top quality legal and professional services without add-on fees
- A training programme with a wide range of relevant training courses, including tailored training to meet the needs of local councillors and clerks. Norfolk ALC is the only local body empowered to accredit national standard qualifications such as CiLCA through affiliation to the National Association/ SLCC.
- A strong collective voice on policy issues that affect councils, with direct access to county and national organizations, as well as government, to lobby on members' interests.
- Focused staffing and contracted professionals providing robust services, support and information, with reports and bulletins to local councils on a broad range of topical issues affecting public services and communities. Members also receive regular newsletters and email bulletins.
- Themed events each year for councillors and clerks, these events enable councillors to keep abreast of current issues, and provide an opportunity to network with other town and parish councils and share best practice.
- Supports the professional development of councils, these include tailored services such as governance reviews, operational appraisals and salary assessments, financial and policy assessments, recruitment services and support in dispute resolution.

We have nearly all the larger councils in Norfolk in current membership, and are able to provide comprehensive support to councils such as Swaffham, and value for money. We will not need to increase fees in the 2022/23 year.

Would you like a Norfolk ALC representative to attend the June meeting?

Speak soon
Russell

Russell Reeve
County Officer, Norfolk Association of Local Councils
County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2UF
Tel: 07946 705787, www.norfolcalc.gov.uk

Company Secretary, Norfolk Association of Local Councils Limited

Normal working days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday



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From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 May 2021 13:40
To: Norfolk ALC County Officer <CountyOfficer@norfolcalc.gov.uk>
Cc: Norfolk ALC Admin <admin@NorfolkALC.gov.uk>; Norfolk ALC Trainer <trainer@NorfolkALC.gov.uk>; Deputy Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <deputyclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 2021/22 - provision of advice and support for Swaffham TC

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your e-mail of 28th April, I can confirm that the NALC membership issue was discussed at the Council's meeting last Wednesday. The matter was deferred until our June Full Council meeting and subsequently I have been served notice by the required number of Councillors to place the item back on the agenda in June in line with our standing orders under the 6-month rule, as a decision had been made previously not to renew the membership with NALC for 2021-22. It is on the agenda for further discussion/re-consideration, it is by no means certain that the decision will be reversed.

It is appreciated that you have made an effort to reduce our membership fee for this year to £629.00, by comparison Norfolk Parishes Training and Support have a maximum price of £500.00 for a similar service. So, can you please explain/justify the additional £129.00 or consider a further reduction to £500.00

Your comments are also welcomed regarding the subscription in future years, or are we facing the same predicament next year at this time and beyond? In the debate last week, whilst there was appreciation for the effort made to reduce the members subscription, the other line of thought expressed was that perhaps NALC had overcharged in previous years. So, this item as you can imagine is delicately poised for further discussion on 9th June.

I look forward to receiving your response in due course.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



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From: NorfolkALC County Officer <CountyOfficer@norfolcalc.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 April 2021 10:51
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>;
CllrSkinner.SwaffhamTC@gmail.com
Cc: Admin <admin@norfolcalc.gov.uk>; Norfolk ALC Trainer <trainer@norfolcalc.gov.uk>
Subject: 2021/22 - provision of advice and support for Swaffham TC

Dear Richard and Jill,

We much appreciated our conversation with you both last week over your concerns about renewing the Council's subscription with Norfolk ALC/ National ALC.

Gabbie and I have talked since, and we would like the council to be offered a final opportunity to remain with us, at a reduced cost £629, for which the council would obtain the support of our team, and of National ALC, in providing:

- Prompt and well researched responses to queries, with quality advice and support to clerks and councillors
- Up to date and varied training and development opportunities for clerks, councillors and staff
- A regular and varied programme of events of topical interest, covering many topics
- Weekly chairperson networking sessions and fortnightly clerk café cluster events
- Regular newsletters and bulletins
- Lobbying on behalf of subscriber councils on key matters of concern to us in Norfolk, both with key stakeholders in the county and also with central government
- Quality advice on law, procedure and good practice
- Access to highly regarded topic specialists and experts, both locally and nationally
- Support for performance improvement, including the Local Council Award Scheme
- Access to and advice on funding opportunities
- Access to the **National Association of Local Councils** (nalc.gov.uk)

As you know, we represent the interests of the large majority of the councils across Norfolk, whilst working in partnership with the National Association of Local Councils, other county associations and SLCC locally/nationally.

As a co-operative organisation now owned by our member councils, we are also now being additionally supported by our Board of Directors.

For more on 'what we do' see [about us](#) and the attached.

Speak soon.

Kind regards
Russell

Russell Reeve

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