

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY JULY 9TH 2019

Item 12. Proposal for Clerk to join the Society of Local Council Clerks ("SLCC")

Introduction

The Society of Local Council Clerks ("SLCC") is the professional body for local council clerks and senior council employees working in town, parish and community councils in England and Wales. It represents clerks to over 5000 councils and is recognised as a body which represents and promotes 'best practice' in the sector.

It is committed to making the life of a clerk easier through the provision of training, advice and support.

Rationale

There are benefits to me as a Clerk being a Full Member of SLCC and these are set out on the attached membership information sheet. Additionally, being a Full Member of SLCC means that I (personally) will pay a reduced subscription rate for membership of the Association of Local Council Clerks ("ALCC"), the independent trade union dedicated to supporting people working in the local council sector across England and Wales.

My Job Description as approved by the Council states that I should "*..work towards the achievement of the status of Qualified Clerk as a minimum requirement for effectiveness in the position of Clerk to the Council*" and that I should "*..continue to acquire the necessary professional knowledge required for the efficient management of the affairs of the Council: Suggested is membership of your professional body, The Society of Local Council Clerks*". Membership of SLCC is a prerequisite for obtaining a Certificate in Local Council Administration ("CILCA qualification") which in turn is a prerequisite for becoming a Qualified Clerk.

Additionally, there are benefits to the Council of me being a member. Not least of these is that the ability for Copythorne Parish Council to be able to use the powers available to it under Sections 1-8 of the Localism Act 2011, more commonly known as the "General Powers of Competency" requires (amongst other things) the council to have a "qualified Clerk" who holds a "Certificate in Local Council Administration". Having "General Powers of Competency ("GPoC") gives the power for an eligible council to do anything subject to statutory prohibitions, restrictions and limitations.

Cost of becoming a member of SLCC

Joining and annual subscription fees are based on a sliding scale based on my gross annual salary. My joining fee is £10 and my annual subscription fee is £122, so a total of £132 for the next 12 months.

The sum of £110 has already been included within the Council budget for this year (a reflection of fees paid for Susan Brayley, the last but one Parish Clerk), so a further £22 would need to be allocated.

PROPOSAL

- 1. The Council agrees to cover - as it has for previous clerks - the costs associated with me becoming a Full Member of SLCC. (NOTE: the costs associated with me joining ALCC will be covered personally as Council is not allowed - and I would not expect them - to cover these).**
- 2. The sum of £22 is moved from the training budget to cover the difference between the fees and the existing allocated budget.**

DAVID RIGBY
Clerk/R F O

YOUR 2019

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SLCC

Society of Local Council Clerks

Professional Supportive Innovative

10 Reasons to Join



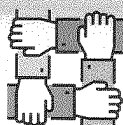
1. Contact our team of experienced advisors by telephone or email for answers to your professional queries.

THE CLERK
MAGAZINE



2. Review our bi-monthly magazine called 'The Clerk' packed with advice, information and case studies from fellow members.

3. Discover the latest legislation and regulation at our conferences and events at a discounted rate.



4. Network with fellow clerks and discuss current issues at regular county based branch meetings.



5. Representation with Government, sector partners and stakeholders in respect of practical issues in your day to day work.



6. Save on a range of council products and services, including office stationery, books and energy supplies.



7. Read our bi-weekly news bulletin containing the latest sector news and information.



8. Access best practice advice on a range of topics in the members' area of our website.



9. Maintain good practice by studying for a sector qualification or attending a continuous professional development course at a discounted rate.



10. Access the free confidential 24hr counselling service for any personal issues.

Making your case for membership

We understand that your council may not realise the benefit of your professional membership and, furthermore, appreciate why the council should subsidise the cost of the subscription. The following information can be used in helping your council to understand the value of SLCC membership:

Under what power may councils pay the subscriptions of their clerk to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)?

The Local Government Act 1972 s 143 (1) (b) states that, 'a local Authority may pay reasonable subscriptions, whether annually or otherwise, to the funds of any association of officers or members of local authorities which was so formed.'

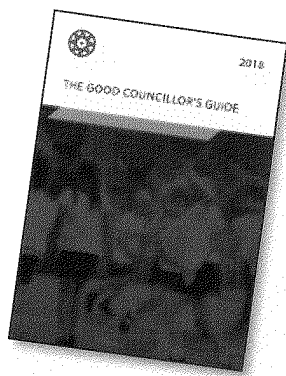
Do many councils pay the SLCC subscriptions of their clerk under these powers?

The majority of SLCC members have their subscriptions paid by their council under this power.

Well that's all very well but you would say that wouldn't you. Who else agrees with you?

National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Local Government Association (LGA) and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) now known as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

'Your clerk (and the council) benefit if the clerk is a member of the SLCC. The SLCC provides legal, financial and other advice, a useful training pack and considerable support and guidance from the clerks' network. Your council may wish to pay the clerk's subscription to the SLCC. There is also information available on the SLCC website www.slcc.co.uk. As stated in the Good Councillors Guide 2018.



Alright I accept that it's perfectly proper and legal for councils to pay their clerk's subscription but why have so many councils wanted to do so?

The SLCC is the professional body for local council clerks and senior council employees in England and Wales. See the list of benefits page one.

Full members of the Society will also benefit from being members of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). This is the international professional body for clerks with members based in a number of countries worldwide, particularly in The USA and Canada.

Clerks work in small organisations or often completely alone. The SLCC provides an important lifeline and support network for clerks in carrying out their day to day tasks. The SLCC advocate best practice and the efficient and effective work of councils. Both clerks and their councils benefit greatly from the clerks' membership of the SLCC.



Okay but isn't the SLCC in competition with NALC and the County Associations which represents councils?

No. The Society and NALC (on behalf of itself and County Associations) signed a Strategic Partnership statement in 2017 which established, among other things, that:

'NALC and SLCC are clear in their support for councils to be members of their county associations and NALC and for clerks to be members of the SLCC and active in their county branches. In that way councils get the best possible support for the professional development of clerks; and training and advice for councils and councillors.'



NALC and SLCC will work together to raise the sector's reputation with the public, with Government, and with other national and local stakeholders and to ensure that government and other policies support local councils to help local communities.'

For more information or to join visit www.slcc.co.uk/join

Are you a new clerk? Or have you been clerking for less than 12 months?

Our New Clerk Events are packed with best-practice advice, tips and information on your new clerking role. Understand how to compile lawful agendas including tips on writing minutes and much more!

Only £10 + VAT to attend.

Visit www.slcc.co.uk/newclerkevent for more information.