

Dated: 24th February 2021  
Via email to Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council

Dear All,

Yesterday I attended an EGM of the Chichester District Association of Local Councils, called at the request of 5 of the member parish councils. At the meeting:

- a new Chair was elected: Alastair Spencer of West Itchenor PC
- a new Vice-Chair was elected: Andrew Shaxon (Harting PC)
- a new Clerk was appointed: Carol Smith (Clerk to Hunston and West Itchenor PCs)

There had clearly been a degree of pre-planning: all three people were proposed and seconded in swift order and elected/appointed unopposed.

The appointment of a new chair and vice-chair is significant because the occupiers of those positions join the board of WSALC which, as we know, is in some turmoil and has its AGM next week. Alan plans to attend. The new chair and vice-chair did briefly outline their views on the WSALC/SSALC mess: both are fans of the existing SSALC arrangement and wish to preserve it. As others pointed out, that particular horse has already bolted: SSALC will cease to exist at the end of next month.

There was considerable debate about whether the meeting had been correctly called and whether it could legitimately be used to elect the new chair and vice chair - not least because apparently no-one has been able to find the CDALC's constitutional documents. In the end, an online poll was conducted among the 50+ attendees, who overwhelmingly voted in favour of proceeding with the elections. Given the degree of rancour in some quarters, I would have thought there was at least a possibility that some at WSALC may raise an objection to the appointment of the new CDALC chair and vice-chair to the board of WSALC.

Happily, at the meeting a working party was established to (re-)draft a constitution for CDALC!

Nicholas Taylor  
Plaistow & Ifold Parish Councillor