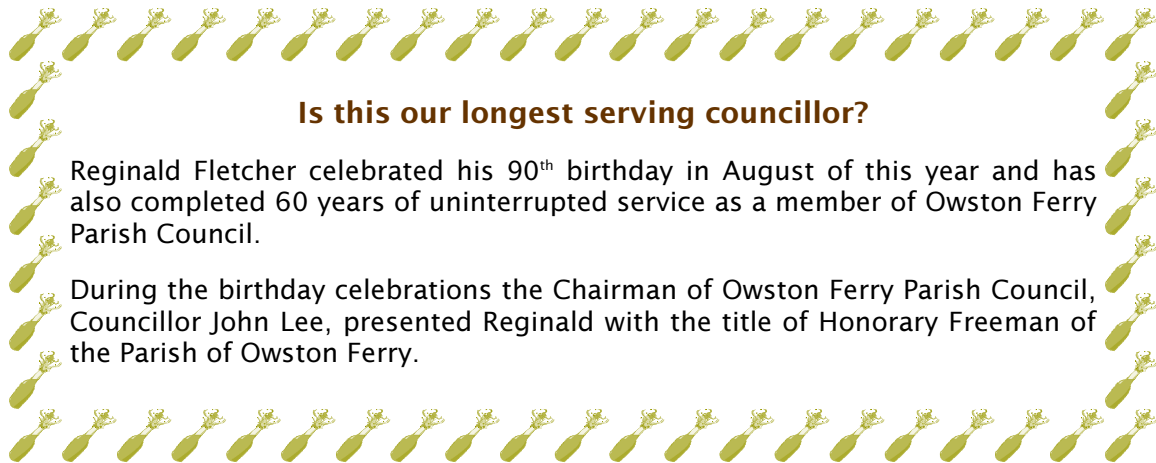


ERNLLCA

East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire
Local Councils Association

Newsletter September 2011



Is this our longest serving councillor?

Reginald Fletcher celebrated his 90th birthday in August of this year and has also completed 60 years of uninterrupted service as a member of Owston Ferry Parish Council.

During the birthday celebrations the Chairman of Owston Ferry Parish Council, Councillor John Lee, presented Reginald with the title of Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Owston Ferry.

Electronic Banking

Many of our councils are awaiting the Government's moves to allow councils to lawfully fully engage in electronic banking. Despite reassurances from Government, little progress has been made. A Consultation Paper and Draft Legislative Reform Order that will permit Local Councils to use internet banking for payments (i.e. the repeal of section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) is being prepared. The Department of Communities and Local Government has stated that "other priorities do disrupt work on the consultation document". Councils should feel free to share this quotation with their local MP's if they wish.



2011 Annual General Meeting round-up

This year's AGM was held at the Memorial Hall, Haxey and delegates were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair of Haxey Parish Council, Councillor David Knowles, who gave an interesting over-view of the parish and its history. Tom Glossop was re-elected as President and Councillor Tony Cooper, Chair of ERNLLCA's Executive Committee, gave a presentation breaking down the organisation's accounts for the previous year which were agreed by the meeting.

The resolutions presented to the AGM were debated, where the proposing council or district committee was present to do so, and all were passed or action agreed as to how they could be taken forward.

The meeting questioned whether or not a Saturday afternoon is the most convenient time to hold the AGM and it was agreed that member councils will be consulted on this. The 2012 AGM will be held in Hornsea on a date to be determined following the consultation with member councils.

Future of the Code of Conduct

NALC drafted an amendment to the Localism Bill which was tabled by Lord Lytton, the President of NALC, for debate at the Committee Stage in the House of Lords. The amendments sought to achieve the following:

- a mandatory code of conduct for all councillors
- a duty on the district/unitary council standards committee to monitor and enforce the conduct expected of parish councillors in the district/unitary authority area
- no new criminal offences for councillors who fail to register and declare financial interests.

The Hansard record of the debate which took place on the 14 September 2011 can be accessed on the Parliament website.

The debate at Committee Stage has forced the Government to reconsider its position in relation to provisions in the Localism Bill which relate to standards of conduct in local government, and to provide revised provisions before the Third Reading of the Bill in the Lords in October which will be the last opportunity the Lords have to make changes to the Bill.

Data Protection and local councils?

There has been some debate about local council engagement with data protection and the fact that individual councillors may have to register with the Information Commissioner as they are likely to hold information about individuals. It has long been the view that a local council would be hard pressed to argue that their data processing is exempt under the exemptions within the Act therefore all local councils should be registered.

If councils have not already done so they should notify the Information Commissioner of:-

- ◆ The council's name as the data controller (with a named contact within the council and that person's contact details)
- ◆ The reasons why it is holding or processing data
- ◆ Whether the data will be disclosed, and to whom
- ◆ The names of any countries outside the EEA to which data may be transferred (this is unlikely to apply)
- ◆ Details of how data will be kept secure.

The annual fee for notification is £35.

Councils are affected by the provisions of the Data Protection Act in a multitude of ways. Personal data may be as simple as holding someone's name and address but in addition includes, amongst other things, details of complaints, lists of contacts, employee/personnel records and information provided for the purpose of placing a contract to which the data subject is a party. Images taken by CCTV systems can now also fall within the data protection regime.

Where individual councillors hold and process personal data about individuals in the course of undertaking council business elected members will be covered by the authority's notification but have the same responsibilities with regard to data protection as an employee of the authority.

Councillors who process electronic personal data in an individual capacity (i.e. where they are not acting on behalf of their council) may qualify as data controllers and they may individually need to notify the Information Commissioner's Office.

Playground survey for local councils

The National Association of National Councils has stated that it is happy to work with the nationwide children's play organisation, Fair Play for Children, in asking all parish and town councils to take part in a brief online survey about children's play areas owned/run by them.



Fair Play is more than happy to share the results fully with the NALC and with its members. The link to the survey is at: <http://tinyurl.com/ParishPlay>

"Fair Play has just completed a similar survey of upper-tier councils in which 92% of these revealed they have around 16,100 such play areas. But they also gave figures of the number of local council play areas known to them (5,265). Fair Play is concerned that the figures given are an under-estimate. This survey seeks to find out by asking you, the people who know." You can read the full story and link to the report at the Fair Play website: www.fairplayforchildren.org

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Below is the schedule for the next round of District Committee meetings.

DISTRICT	DATE	TIME	VENUE
East Riding - North East	Tuesday, 4th October 2011	7.30pm	Kilham Village Hall
East Riding - Central	Wednesday, 12 October 2011	7.00pm	Town Hall, South Cave
East Riding - Holderness	Tuesday, 18th October 2011	7.30pm	Preston Village Hall
East Riding - West	Wednesday, 19th October 2011	7.30pm	Airmyn Village Hall
North East Lincolnshire	Thursday, 10th November 2011	7.00pm	Grimsby Town Hall

ERNLLCA TRAINING EVENTS

Bookings are still being taken for all sessions.

Looking After The Councils Finances

Monday 24 October 2011 - Grimsby Town Hall

Tuesday 25 October 2011 - Swanland Village Hall

Wednesday 26 October 2011 - Driffield Comm. Centre

Thursday 27 October 2011 - Broughton Village Hall

Councils Are Employers

Monday 21 November 2011 - Swanland Village Hall

Thursday 24 November 2011 - Broughton Village Hall

Monday 28 November 2011 - Driffield Comm. Centre

Tuesday 29 November 2011 - Grimsby Town Hall