

finance@oalc.org.uk

To: clerk@chadlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

OALC Membership Invoice 2025

19 February 2025 07:20

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Dear Anne,

Please ensure your Council consider membership and, if approved, please ensure that you quote the invoice reference on any payment.

As Chair of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC), I hope your Council will continue its membership of our Association for the coming financial year 2025-26.

Membership of OALC provides access to support and information in an ever-changing local government context. Each year there is new legislation which councils are required to implement. We aim to assist our member councils by alerting them to forthcoming changes, providing briefings, templates and a comprehensive training program, as well as answering questions and providing guidance. We are also able to obtain member discounts e.g. Parish-online.co.uk a specialist provider of website to Parish Councils. As the prospect of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Oxfordshire will bring the largest change for Parish and Town Councils since 1972 we will be working with the principal authorities to ensure a smooth transition for our members.

OALC is financially independent of all Oxfordshire district councils and the county council. Our income comes from just two sources, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TRAINING. Our subscription is calculated on electorate and is a combination of the NALC affiliation and OALC's membership fees. An invoice for the annual subscription is attached to this email. We would encourage your council to pay the invoice by BACS, quoting the invoice number and parish name as reference. The membership year starts on the 1st April 2025 so, please ensure that payment reaches OALC by Friday 31st May 24 to avoid a late payment fee (£20+VAT).

What are the benefits of membership?

- **Representation at district, county, regional and national level**, 97% of town and parish councils, in Oxfordshire belong to OALC; we represent your interests at all levels of local government. Membership of OALC includes membership of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which lobbies Ministers and central government on your behalf. They have successfully lobbied with our help to ensure no cap on precepts. NALC also respond on your behalf to the continuous flow of government consultations, to emphasise the issues affecting town and parish councils.
- **Advice, guidance, briefings and information**, we answer hundreds of queries by phone and email for member councils, the queries cover all manner of governance, procedure and administration. If we don't know the answer, we can pass the query on to NALC solicitors for their opinion or to other experts in appropriate organisations without cost.
- **Monthly Update for councils**; keeping you and your council up to date on new legislation, news and consultations – these updates summarise all the important developments which you and your council need to be aware of.
- **Monthly Chairs Forum**, a monthly chance to share best practice and talk over problems.
- **Specialised advice from OALC consultants** on HR/Employment issues and Finance, Audit and VAT. Initial expert advice is free of charge. We pay so that member councils can benefit from this specialised advice.
- **Training**: an expanding training programme for clerks and councillors, with reduced rates for member councils. Look at the events section of our website. Topics include Clerks training, Memorial Safety, Play Areas, Employment, Councillor and Chairmanship training. We also run a free County Council day with relevant officers from highways, countryside, gypsy and traveller services, emergency planning etc..
- **Access to the Members Areas of OALC and NALC websites**, which provides many useful reference documents, briefings and advice notes.

Members of our Executive Committee represent the interests of local councils on various outside bodies at both county, regional and national level. We participate in County and District partnerships where they still exist. We work to improve the efficiency, transparency and professionalism of town and parish councils and parish meetings and use every opportunity to lobby relevant bodies on parishes' behalf.

The Association office is staffed by Lucy Dalby, County Officer and Rachel Brown, Assistant County Officer, both of whom will be happy to provide further information about our work if you wish to contact them.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Katharine Keats-Rohan

Chair

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