



**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services**  
**14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 11.00am**  
**Room P, Portcullis House, London**

**AGM**

**1. Present**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Name</b>
Glastonbury and Somerton	Sarah Dyke MP
South Devon	Caroline Voaden MP
Bexhill and Battle	Dr Kieran Mullan MP
Ely and East Cambridge	Charlotte Cane MP
Hereford and South Herefordshire	Jesse Norman MP
Cannock Chase	Josh Newbury MP
Bishop Auckland	Sam Rushworth MP
Carlisle	Julie Minns MP
Cross bench Peer	Lord Cameron of Dillington
Cross bench Peer	Lord Carrington

**In attendance**

Kerry Booth, (RSN -Secretariat) plus

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Name</b>
Ribble Valley	Kezia Coleman on behalf of Maya Ellis MP
Horsham	Tom Oliver on behalf of John Milne MP

**2. Apologies for absence**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>MP Name</b>
Horsham	John Milne MP
Newbury	Lee Dillon MP
New Forest West	Sir Desmond Swayne MP
North West Essex	Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Braintree	Sir James Cleverly
West Worcestershire	Dame Harriet Baldwin MP

**3. Introduction**

Kerry Booth, Chief Executive of the Rural Services Network (Secretariat), welcomed those in attendance.

**4. Appointment of Officers**

A vote was held by those present and the following were unanimously elected to the following positions:

**Chair:** Sarah Dyke MP (Liberal Democrat)  
**Vice Chair:** Sam Rushworth MP (Labour)  
**Secretary:** Dr Kieran Mullan MP (Conservative)  
**Treasurer:** Caroline Voaden MP (Liberal Democrat)

## **5. Confirmation of Income and Expenditure ([Appendix 1](#))**

The Income and Expenditure statement was agreed by all present.

## **6. Local Government Finance Settlement**

Kerry Booth introduced the topic of the Provisional Settlement for Local Government Finance, and the consultation which has been taking place in recent weeks, due to close today.

Kerry introduced analysis by the Rural Services Network that showed that Government Funded Spending Power in the most urban Councils would be 41% more in 2026-2027 compared to the most rural councils per head, and that council tax in rural areas would be on average 20% higher for the most rural residents.

There was a discussion on the impact of the provisional settlement on rural councils, and rural council tax payers with attendees sharing their local situation and concerns over the wider impact on rural councils.

**Action: It was agreed that the Chair of the APPG would write a letter to the Minister for Local Government setting out some of the concerns and asking for more transparency with the formula and the publishing of statistics behind some of the allocations.**

## **7. Priorities for the coming year**

There was a wide ranging discussion around the different challenges that rural communities face, and where the APPG could be most effective to help find solutions for those challenges.

The following were agreed by all present, as the areas for discussion over the next 12 months (subject to other matters arising needing urgent consideration):

- **Rural Fair Funding of Public Services**
- **Growth of the Rural Economy (with a focus on small and family run businesses)**
- **Rural Resilience (with a focus on key issues impacting the resilience of rural communities such as the electricity and energy network, telecoms and public transport)**

## **8. Date of Next Meeting:**

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11.40am