

**NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils  
Held at Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA on 20 July 2017 at 7.00pm**

<b>Parish/Town Council</b>	<b>Name</b>
Bramshaw	Sally Day
Breamore	Lynne Aggas
Brockenhurst	John Korbey – Vice Chairman
Burley	Neal Martin
Hordle	Sue Bown
Hythe & Dibden	James Binns
Lymington & Pennington	George Bisson Peter Allen
Milford	Patricia Banks
Minstead	Richard Taylor
Netley Marsh	Les Puttock Mike Welbourn
New Milton	Goff Beck – Chairman Graham Flexman – Coordinator Geoff Blunden
Ringwood	Terry Simpson Anne Murphy
Totton & Eling	Lew Harris Dave Wilson
New Forest District Council	Colin Read Rosemary Rutins
New Forest National Park	Steve Avery
<b>Apologies</b>	
Harry Oram	Brockenhurst
Emma Lane	Ellingham
Steve Postlethwaite	Fawley
Stephanie Bennett	Hythe
Vicky Eden	Sandleheath
Bob Jackson	NFDC
Barry Rickman	NFDC

## *Message from the Chairman*

Members, you will no doubt recall that on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, NFALC was formally dissolved one of the factors for this decision was lack of support.

At about this time, the Town Clerks of Ringwood TC, Terry Simpson and Hythe TC, David Shimpe called a meeting of all the Town & Parish Council to discuss the future of the organisation.

The inaugural meeting of the new organisation was held in the Lyndhurst Community Centre on the 18 November 2010 and was supported by the CEOs of both NFDC and NPA, the Leader of NFDC and representatives from NALC and HALC.

The outcome of that meeting was the re-launch of NFALC as Association of Local Councils New Forest (ALCNF), which was subsequently reverted to our present title, a new constitution was written in which it was agreed to meet quarterly and move the meetings around the District with meetings to commence at 7.00pm and finish by 9.00pm.

I bring this information to your attention as I am concerned at the lack of support the organisation receives from the larger town councils, namely Totton, Ringwood, Lymington, Fawley, Hythe and even New Milton to some extent (excluding myself as Chairman and Clerk as Coordinator).

I have asked questions of members as to how they would wish to see the format our meetings should follow. You are aware we tried to move around the District by inviting members to host our meetings, but this was not a success, I thought the invitation to officers from various organisations to address NFALC on their various responsibilities was a plus, but not all agreed, we meet four times a year, I would suggest that the Spring Meeting should avoid Easter in future.

NFALC offers members a platform to address issues to District, NPA and HCC; we have recently been invited to attend the autumn meeting of Safer New Forest for reasons as explained. In regard to cycling events, Cllr Neal Martin from Burley has met with some success, limited it may be, regarding Wiggle, most importantly members do get the opportunity to be updated by the CEO's of both NFDC and NFNPA and table any concerns they may have.

As mentioned in my annual report, over the past year...

1. We acted as a conduit between HCC and NFDC in regard to Devolution discussions, hosting a presentation from John Coughlan, HCC Chief Executive, who suggested a larger role for towns and parishes. The NFDC approach was to confer with "neighbours" to see where improvements could be made. NFALC responded to the HCC consultation.
2. Discussion at our October meeting centred on DCLG Precept Consultation and proposed "capping". No consideration had been given to what town and parish councils actually do, or the possibility of principal authorities having to conduct multiple local council referendums. NFALC responded, and the Government eventually backed down.
3. NFDC & NFALC now consider matters relating to Safer New Forest Partnership issues, with input from the Police and Fire & Rescue. This multi-agency working helps these authorities to prioritise their functions to reduce crime and disorder, obtaining the Association's views on *Issues for inclusion in the annual partnership plan*.

Without NFALC, neither the District Council nor the National Park Authority or County Council for that matter, would have a vehicle through which they could all communicate and work in partnership with Town and Parishes throughout the New Forest District.

All three Authorities, and now the Police & Fire & Rescue Service, use NFALC to help them in this.

**Introduction – 2016 AGM**

The Chairman welcomed 19 representatives from 13 local towns and parishes, plus Colin Read and Rosemary Rutins from NFDC, together with Steve Avery from the New Forest National Park.

**1. Annual Report - 2017**

The Chairman referred to the Annual Report, distributed with the agenda for the meeting.

**2. Election of Chairman**

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllr Goff Beck (New Milton Town Council) be elected Chairman of the Association until the next annual meeting.

**3. Election of Vice Chairman**

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllr John Korbey (Brockenhurst Parish Council) be elected Vice Chairman of the Association until the next annual meeting.

**4. Appointment of Coordinator**

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Graham Flexman (Clerk, New Milton Town Council) be appointed Coordinator of the Association until the next annual meeting.

**5. Appointment of Treasurer**

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Stephanie Bennett (Clerk, Hythe & Dibden Parish Council) be appointed Treasurer of the Association until the next annual meeting.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

The Association's current bank balance is £3,862.58, being £100 more than last year.

**7. Closing Remarks – 2017 AGM**

The Chairman thanked members for re-electing him to the post of Chairman of NFALC, closed the AGM at 7.20pm and then opened the quarterly meeting.

**8. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed members from some of the larger town and parish councils.

**9. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2017 were approved by those present, with a slight change to minute 7b) inasmuch as Hyde (not Hythe) had bought their own cabinet.

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of 20 April 2017 were duly signed.

**10. Reports of Focus Groups**

**a) Dibden Bay** In the absence of Alison Hoare there was nothing to report but there may be the start of a planning application in the next 12 months, ABP are putting their provisional plans for the future before their board members at some point this year.

**b) Broadband** – Like Hyde, Steve Avery said other councils are carrying out their own consultations and considering purchasing their own cabinets. Some communities have decided that superfast broadband is so important to them that they have sought to fund a solution for themselves rather than wait for a government sponsored rollout to reach them. Across Hampshire, 24 cabinets have gone live in the last month, bringing the total number of live areas upgraded in Wave 2 to 145.

- c) **Quadrant Reports** - The notes from the last SW Quadrant meeting held on 30 May 2017 are attached. It was noted that Richard Taylor from Minstead has been elected to represent the NE Quadrant on the NPA, and the Chairman congratulated him on his appointment which has to be confirmed by the Secretary of State.
- d) **Neighbourhood Planning** In the absence of Graham Parkes and Stephanie Bennett from Hythe & Dibden PC, Cllr James Binns said their NP was progressing well, and similar updates were received from Totton and Lymington. New Milton's NP had reached something of a hiatus, pending clarification of Green Belt policies.

It was agreed to invite Flo Churchill, NFDC's new Head of Planning & Housing to our next NFALC meeting in order to update us on their Local Plan, and for Steve Avery to similarly represent the National Park on their Local Plan update.

- e) **HALC** – The Chairman introduced this item following attendance at the most recent HALC Board meeting. Cllr Mike Evans of Whiteley, Winchester District had recently replaced Cllr Anne Winstanley as Chairman of HALC. Mike, who was proposed by Cllr Beck, is also chair of the Hampshire Playing Fields Association.

On another matter, the Chairman recalled that at the inaugural meeting of ALCNFD (as the district association used to be called) on 18 November 2010, Cllrs George Bisson (Lyndhurst) John Korbey (Brockenhurst) and Mark Steele (Ringwood) were appointed as deputies to Cllr Goff Beck on the HALC Board of Directors. Cllr Steele recently resigned as a Ringwood Town Councillor due to pressure of work.

HALC are seeking a replacement, and Cllr Anne Murphy of Ringwood Town Council kindly offered her services. The Chairman thanked her and will put her name forward.

## 11. New Forest District Council

Colin Read, NFDC Deputy Chief Executive was standing in for Bob Jackson and updated members on various matters including new toilet facilities at New Milton and Lymington, and also completion of the new beach huts at Milford-on-sea. After the original 1960s terraced concrete beach huts were severely damaged in a huge storm on Valentine's Day 2014, NFDC agreed to replace the beach huts and improve Milford's seafront.

Concrete ramps have been installed to give wheelchair users and pushchairs access to both promenades. Construction techniques more common to civil engineering projects were employed to create structures designed to withstand the conditions. The project was managed by a project team made up of NFDC members and officers along with representatives of Milford Parish Council and the New Forest Beach Hut Owners' Association. The scheme has been shortlisted for two national design awards.

Colin updated members on grass-cutting, noting HCC had cut cuttings to 8 cuts per annum but NFDC will undertake 10 cuts per year, with only one rural grass cut per year that has already been undertaken. Weed killing of gutters was 80% complete, and should be finished by the end of July. The aim is to talk with HCC at the end of the summer, once Skanska takes over the Highways Contract from Amey on 1st August 2017, delivering highways maintenance services in Hampshire over the next seven years to 2024.

In regard to fly-tipping, NFDC Environmental has issued 16 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) with other fines totaling £2,500 resulting in a noticeable reduction in such activity recently.

In regard to Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centres, Colin updated members on proposed changes. The previously approved reductions to opening hours and Thursday closures will not now be introduced from 1 October 2017, NFDC having made strong representations to HCC. Members had warned that any cuts could result in people driving into the Forest at night and dumping all their rubbish under cover of darkness. Colin urged towns and parishes to remain vigilant and inform NFDC of any fly-tipping in their area.

## 12. New Forest National Park

Steve Avery referred to the ongoing 'Future Forest' consultation, stating management of recreation in the Forest is the key to its future, particularly as communities continue to grow and change. The NPA has called for views asking people to look at the Recreation Management Strategy published in 2010 and help review it. Over 1,000 responses had so far been received, but only two from parish councils. Steve hoped as many people as possible would give their views, particularly local councils, groups and individuals who don't normally engage in such consultations. This public consultation runs until 13 August.

Recent work has also focused on the Local Plan Review. The responses received during the public consultation held late last year have been considered and the Policy team is working on revisions to the document ahead of the final period of public consultation timetabled for later this year. NFNPA have continued to liaise closely with Natural England throughout the Local Plan Review process. This includes consideration of the potential impacts of development on the Natura 2000 sites that cover over 50% of the National Park. In May 2017, the NPA received updated advice from Natural England on this and as a result is running an informal 6-week public consultation on potential alternative housing sites within the National Park. This consultation was due for completion at the end of July.

The Policy team continues to work closely with colleagues at NFDC regarding the emerging redevelopment proposals for the Fawley Power Station site and further ecological investigations. Forecast traffic growth from Local Plan development proposals in-combination with development outside the district has reached the threshold where further ecological investigations are necessary as part of Appropriate Assessment. This is to establish whether or not the potential effects of increased traffic emissions on internationally protected nature conservation sites in the New Forest would be significant, and if the effects were significant whether and how they could be mitigated

Meanwhile, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, a number of local town and parish councils in the New Forest started work on Neighbourhood Plans. The communities in Lymington, New Milton and Hythe have been progressing this work over the last couple of months and Policy team continue to support the local councils with technical advice.

Planning is now complete for this year's exhibition and activities at the New Forest Show (25-27 July) which will be celebrating National Parks Week plus the 800-year anniversary of the Charter of the Forest as well as welcoming the Woodland Trust's Charter for Trees, Woods and People. In the autumn, the exhibition will continue at the New Forest Centre.



Defra Minister Lord Gardiner in the middle celebrating National Parks Week at this year's New Forest Show with New Forest National Park Authority Chief Executive Alison Barnes and Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre.

**13. Safer New Forest Partnership**

Rosemary Rutins introduced this item on behalf of Safer New Forest Partnership, a multi-agency partnership that is required by law to produce a strategy in its area each year for

- reducing crime and disorder;
- combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substance abuse; and
- the reduction of re-offending

Since 2016, the Safer New Forest Partnership has engaged with NFALC in formulating its annual strategy (known as the Partnership Plan) and in the strategic assessment of actions taken to meet the priorities set out in the plan. The Partnership invites representatives from local councils to attend its September meeting each year to present any concerns they have regarding community safety in their areas. This helps to assess performance against the current plan and setting priorities for the following year.

Representatives of the Association are invited to attend the meeting of the Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group **on Monday 4 September 2017 at 2.00 p.m. at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst**, to present any concerns they might have with regard to community safety issues in their areas.

The suggestions made to the Strategy Group will be taken into account in December 2017, when priorities for the 2018/19 action plan will be considered. As previously, the Chairman of NFALC will attend the meeting on 4 September and put forward any views received from Town and Parish Councils, suggesting local councils contact the Coordinator who will pass on their concerns to him and Rosemary Rutins.

**14. Any Other Business**

The Chairman referred to a recent press article concerning the cycling event that took place on 1 July 2017, noting more than a thousand cyclists took to the New Forest for the Brevin New Forest Summer Sportive, staged by UK Cycling Events who also organise Wiggle events in the New Forest which have been controversial – however, the Daily Echo understands the event on Saturday 1 July did not have any issues.

Riders set off from Gang Warily Recreation Centre in Blackfield and cycled through various villages in the New Forest including Bashley, Beaulieu, Calshot, Exbury and Lepe. Cyclists taking part had the option of routes between 45 miles to 99 miles in length.

The Chairman noted the following on-line comment:

“This event was smaller than previous events and thus did not attract the usual calibre of cyclist. Or maybe, they are behaving a little better, and respecting the New Forest Code of Conduct. Maybe the competitors have grown up a little. Long may it last”

The Chairman also referred to the attached article about local government reorganisation.

**15. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils will be held on Thursday 19 October 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.55 pm.

Chairman

Date