

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils held at the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA on 16 July 2015 at 7.00pm

Parish/Town Council	Name
Ashurst & Colbury	Sally Arnold Ann Sturgess Caroline Hubbard
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison
Bransgore	Richard Frampton
Brockenhurst	John Korbey – Vice Chairman
Burley	Neal Martin
Copythorne	Mike Derrick - Treasurer Kara Hawks
Denny Lodge	Eve Elcoate
Exbury	Alison Tilbury
Hordle	Marion Still Penny Lovelace (NFDC Cllr)
Hythe & Dibden	Chris Harrison Martin Bovey
Marchwood	Jane Bovey Mark Proctor Fred White
Minstead	Richard Taylor
New Milton	Goff Beck – Chairman Graham Flexman (Coordinator)
Sway	Barry Rickman (Leader, NFDC)
Wellow	Alan Clark Harmeet Singh Brar
New Forest District Council	Dave Yates
New Forest National Park	Steve Avery
Hampshire Police	David Powell Simon Tribe
Apologies	
Peter Turner	Breamore
Kim Penna	East Boldre
Cllrs Lane & Spark	Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley
Bev Cornish	Godshill
Jane Arigho	Hyde
George Bisson	Lyndhurst
Vicky Eden	Sandleheath

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed 22 representatives from 15 towns and parishes, Dave Yates Chief Executive of NFDC, together with Steve Avery Director from the National Park.

1. Annual Report - 2015

The Chairman referred to the Annual Report for 2015, per copy attached to these minutes.

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 Parish Council) be appointed Treasurer of the Association until the next annual meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mike Derrick gave his final report as Treasurer as attached, and asked the Association to:

(1) Note the report:

The report was duly noted.

(2) Consider the level of fees payable by non-member Councils in 2015/16:

Members agreed the same level of fees as currently charged for non-members.

7. AGM Closing remarks

The Chairman explained that Mike Derrick is retiring as Clerk to Copythorne PC and is stepping down as Treasurer and thanked him very much for his services over many years.

Chairman noted that this concluded the Annual General Meeting aspects of this meeting.

8. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman attended the count of the Quadrant Elections held on Thursday 2 July 2015 in the Lymington Town Council Chamber. Apart from the Returning Officer (Steve Lugg) there were only two candidates and two observers present. The results were as follows:

SW Quadrant - Cllr Harry Oram from Brockenhurst was elected NPA parish representative
SE Quadrant – Cllr George Bisson from Lyndhurst was elected NPA parish representative

9. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2015 were approved by those present.

The minutes were duly signed.

10. Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Chief Superintendent David Powell and Chief Inspector Simon Tribe from Hampshire Police, who provided a very interesting presentation on "The New Policing Model" per the Power Point slides attached.

Chief Inspector Powell took over as the head of Preventions & Neighborhoods Command from April this year employing police officers, PCSOs, volunteers, specials, offender managers, specialist safeguarding officers and teams responsible for protecting the most vulnerable in our communities, dealing with domestic and sexual abuse, honor-based violence, missing people and child sexual exploitation, working with statutory and non-statutory partners and community groups.

The challenge is to deliver effective policing in a landscape of fewer people with less resources than before, and while fully understanding the difficulty this presents, Chief Inspector Powell genuinely believes this will force Police to be more creative, innovative and adopt a truly team-oriented approach to their work in the face of changing crime that now includes cybercrime, money laundering, radicalization, identity fraud, forced marriage, FGM, modern day slavery and human trafficking.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Powell and Chief Superintendent Tribe for their very thought-provoking presentation and invited them back for a Q&A Session at our next meeting scheduled for Thursday 16 October, 2015 at Lymington Town Hall.

11. Reports of Focus Groups

- a) **Dibden Bay** – In the absence of Alison Hoare, members heard ABP had recently completed the purchase of Marchwood and Cracknore Hard Industrial Estates. In regard to Marchwood military port, as previously mentioned the MoD has chosen Solent Gateway Ltd to manage the Sea Mounting Centre. The 91-hectare port facility is used by the MoD to send materials overseas. It is currently operating below capacity and it is hoped the arrangement would generate profits for the government. The contract is yet to be signed but the MoD said plans are "on track" for the new operator to take over in the autumn. There is talk of ABP launching a Judicial Review.
- b) **Broadband** – Steve Avery said there was nothing further to report over and above what was reported at the previous meeting.
- c) **Cycling Liaison** – Neal Martin said recent cycle events have been compliant with the Cycle Event Organisers' Charter, the Wiggle Spring Sportive being the exception (there were about twice as many participants as the Charter recommends and cyclists were not identifiable from the rear). During this event, most cyclists cycled considerably and most motorists coped well with the inevitable inconvenience. The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) will shortly hold a debrief meeting. Mention was made of the forthcoming re-build of the A338 Spur Road from Ashley Heath roundabout to the Blackwater Junction, inasmuch as traffic through the western part of the forest is likely to increase over the coming months while work is undertaken on a phased basis from 21 September 2015 to the end of May 2016, as attached.
- d) **Light Pollution** – In his absence, Cllr Spark tabled a final written report, as attached.

12. New Forest District Council

Dave Yates, NFDC Chief Executive announced he would be retiring at the end of October. Having recently overseen the largest ever elections in the forest, covering national, district and local councils, he referred to the importance of IER (Individual Electoral Registration) and how it gives people more control and ownership. David also referred to the Boundary Commission review of Hampshire, with 78 County Councillors likely to remain, and while NFDC was slightly over-represented, Eastleigh was similarly underrepresented. He spoke also of national devolution 'after Scotland' for larger cities such as Manchester and conurbations like Southampton/Portsmouth, as well as unitary bids from others like IOW.

13. New Forest National Park

Steve Avery said that the NPA held their AGM earlier today, and they welcomed some new members to the New Forest National Park Authority, as follows.

Gordon Bailey, of West Wellow, is replacing Ian Hibberd as the Test Valley Borough Council representative. He is a consultant in the industrial and marine fields for corrosion and painting and also a lecturer for the Institute of Marine Surveyors on superyachts. At one time he lived overseas and it was whilst there that he was awarded an MBE for services to the British Community.

Richard Frampton, of Bransgore has been a parish council member on the Authority and is replacing Maureen Holding as a New Forest District Council representative. He has served on Bransgore Parish Council and Ringwood Town Council and lives and farms at Bransgore, where he also has a touring caravan park.

Two new parish members have been elected by the New Forest Association of Local Councils to replace Richard Frampton and Clive Maton, viz:

Harry Oram (south west quadrant of parishes), has been a Brockenhurst Parish Councillor since 2003. He worked for the Forestry Commission for 46 years before retiring in 2012 as Chief Forester/ Operations Manager involved with managing the timber Inclosures and the Open Forest.

George Bisson (south east quadrant of parishes), has been a Lyndhurst Parish Councillor for over 20 years, including as its Chairman and Vice Chairman. He also served the Scout Association at local, district and county level and helped found the twinning association, of which he has been a member for 25 years.

Meanwhile following the resignation of Secretary of State member Prof Alex Neil, there will be a vacancy until Defra's recruitment process in March 2016.

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority was pleased to welcome back Richard and also our new members Harry, George and Gordon onto the National Park Authority. They have a wealth of experience and he thanked outgoing members for their hard work and dedication to the National Park: Clive Maton, who joined the Authority in 2005 and served on the Planning Committee; Maureen Holding who became a member in 2007 and served on the Planning, Resources and Performance and Standards committees; and Ian Hibberd who joined the Authority in June 2013 serving on the Planning Committee and Standards Committee.

Steve Avery intimated that despite calls for direct elections to the NPA, that will not happen. At the AGM today they also discussed the National Park Management Plan Update for 2015-2020.

The final six week public consultation on the revisions to the National Park Management Plan Update for 2015-2020 ran until mid-June. As with the initial 'Call for Views' consultation held late in 2014, this final consultation included updates at the New Forest Consultative Panel and the latest round of Parish Quadrant meetings, as well as meetings with a range of stakeholders and bodies such as the New Forest Access Forum.

Comments were received from 34 different individuals and organizations during this final consultation and these have now all been fully considered, and the proposal from Minstead Parish Council *regarding the evaluation and development of a strategic cycle network along the A337* that NFALC strongly supported at its January 2015 meeting has been included in the updated plan.

Steve referred to the attached Planning Training Event for Parish and Town Councils to be held at the Lyndhurst Community Centre on Tuesday 22 September, 2015 from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm with a welcome from Pat Wyeth, Chairman of the NPA Planning Committee.

14. Hampshire Association of Local Councils

The Chairman attended the HALC Board meeting on Saturday 20 June, 2015.

The meeting was addressed by Debbie Vaughan from HCC Democratic Services on the issue of the county's electoral boundaries, which is being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission. Here in the New Forest, there are 11 County Divisions, and overall there are 78 County Councillors that are likely to remain the same in number. It is hoped, that any agreed alterations to the present organization will be implemented for the 2017 County Council elections.

The meeting was informed that the county will ultimately receive 96% Broadband cover. Our Vice-Chairman of NFALC John Korbey raised the point that farmers were business people and whilst their farms are located out in the country they should not be discarded in respect of receiving efficient Broadband. Infrastructure of proposed large development sites must include Broadband and should be included in Local Plans.

The Chairman announced that at the last HALC Board meeting, Cllr Roy Humby replaced Cllr Andrew Gibson as the HCC Link Councillor on Rural Broadband and if any council has a query it may be worth contacting roy.humby@hants.gov.uk

The verbal battle between HALC and NALC continues and will be an agenda item at the AGM and for the benefit of the HALC Board Steve Lugg outlined the three targets given to the Chief Executive of NALC in April 2014:

- A Legal Service with responses written in plain English, answering the question asked, and normally given within 5 working days.
- Employment (recruitment to resignation/retirement) support to member councils, with clear national employer's body policy and lead.
- An effective lobbying service, results driven, where legislation reflected the lobbying.

Steve Lugg concluded by offering an outline timescale and plan for the AGM motion. All member councils will be consulted directly. The AGM takes place on 10 October 2015.

Villages are asked to enter the "Village of the Year" competition, Web-Site and Newsletter.

A number of parishes have NOT settled their dues to HALC, and quite a few refer to the HR service. There are a number of councils that have neither paid nor confirmed in writing that they have taken 'minuted' decisions to cover HR, PAYE and pensions risks themselves. Auto-enrolment dates are now less than a year away and every single council will have to have a scheme in place by their staging date or face significant fines.

15. Any Other Business

The Chairman referred to a future HALC training event *Planning for Tomorrow* as attached

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils will be held on Thursday 15 October 2015 at 7.00 pm at **Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00 pm.

Chairman

Date