

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**Minutes of Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils
held on-line via Zoom on Thursday 27 January 2022, at 18.00hrs**

<u>Parish/Town Council</u>	<u>Name</u>
Ashurst & Colbury	Sue Robinson
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison
Bransgore	Mark Steele
Brockenhurst	John Korbey – Vice Chairman
Burley	Peter Egerton
Copythorne	Graham Chilcott
Damerham	Phil Tandy
East Boldre	Mike Husband
Fawley	David Mc Elemy
Hale	Ian Gemmell
Hordle	Sarah Pitt (Clerk)
Hythe & Dibden	Philip Dowd
Lyndhurst	George Bisson – Chairman
Minstead	Bill Andrews & Richard Taylor
New Milton	Graham Flexman – Coordinator Emma Towler
Ringwood	John Hayward
Rockbourne	Keith Kirkcaldy
Woodgreen	Helena Datta
New Forest District Council	Nikki Swift, Community Safety Manager
New Forest National Park	Steve Avery, Executive Director (Strategy and Planning)
Apologies:	
Fawley	Stephanie Bennett
Godshill	Richard Fell
Sopley	Edwin Macnamara
Sway	Katie Walding

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed 20 representatives from local councils including Ashurst; Bramshaw; Bransgore; Brockenhurst; Burley; Copythorne; Damerham; East Boldre; Fawley; Hale; Hordle; Hythe & Dibden; Lyndhurst; Minstead; New Milton; Ringwood; Rockbourne; Woodgreen; Steve Avery from the New Forest National Park Authority and Nikki Swift, the Community Safety Manager from NFDC.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2021 were approved by those present. The Chairman was authorized to sign the minutes as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Chairman confirmed Richard Taylor of Minstead had taken up the role of NFALC Cycling Rep and has been in contact with the Safety Advisory Group.

4. New Forest District Council

Chairman noted there was no NFDC representative to provide an update on district-wide matters of interest. The Co-Ordinator would invite all Portfolio Holders and CEO next time.

5. New Forest National Park - Steve Avery updated members on the following matters:

Government Landscapes Review – In response to Julian Glover's Landscapes Review, a 12-week consultation was launched on 15 January. Against the backdrop of climate and nature emergencies and ambitions for a 'green recovery', this sets out proposals to solidify measures to boost Nature and protect landscapes, noting National Parks and AONBs cover 20% of England. The Government's consultation ends on 9 April 2022.

Nature Recovery – NFNPA is at the forefront of nature recovery in the New Forest that is gathering pace with 28 sites identified having potential for habitat restoration or as green spaces for wildlife and people. These sites are the focus for developing contacts with landowners, maximising opportunities for partnership working, identifying where there's scope to target funding to incentivise landowners to manage their land for nature

New Forest Land Advice Service – NFLAS is supporting farms to undertake test and trials as part of the transition towards a new subsidy system which will incentivise landowners to manage their land for nature and people. This work and that of the Forest Farming Group, is preparing the Forest to be ready for the way HLS schemes will be designed after 2024 when the move from the EU schemes to domestic UK schemes will be complete.

Government's Levelling Up agenda – NFNPA '*Care for the Forest, Care for each other*' campaign helped to deliver joint actions to reduce the impact of people on the protected habitats in 2021. The joint actions and targeted interventions at key hotspots, resulted in a drop in fire-related incidents of one third compared to 2020, fewer verge parking incidents and a 9% reduction in litter at coastal sites despite increased visitor numbers.

Partnership Plan - NFNPA recognise New Forest byelaws need updating, or perhaps introduce new powers via appropriate Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). As well as running a similar 'Caring' campaign in 2022, longer-term solutions for responding to the changing pressures on outdoor spaces is highlighted in the new Partnership Plan, which includes a renewed commitment to address illegal use and activities on the Forest.

Design Guide – The New Forest National Park Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document was today adopted following a 6-week consultation. This represents an important updating of the 2012 version to reflect a fresh national drive for good building design and resulting suite of national policy and guidance. The Guide also incorporates views received from a wider range of partners and parishes including quadrant meetings.

Members noted the New Forest National Park was recently voted the number one National Park in Europe and the tenth best National Park in the world. According to the 2022 TripAdvisor - Travellers' Choice Awards for Destinations - the New Forest is ahead of global big hitters such as the Banff National Park in Canada, the Grand Canyon in the United States and Iceland's Vatnajökull National Park.

6. Speed Limit Motion

The Chairman explained that at the HALC AGM the following proposal was put forward by Dummer Parish Council, seconded by Twyford Parish Council:

HALC requests that HCC adopts 20mph as the default speed for residential streets in towns, villages, and rural settlements in Hampshire. HALC also calls on HCC to implement the new limit in such a way as to make it enforceable and to ask Hampshire Police to support all efforts.

A counter motion was made by Clanfield Parish Council:

Clanfield Parish Council would like to propose an amendment that instead of a blanket 20mph speed limit which would be as difficult to enforce as the current 30mph, give councils the power to implement selective 20mph areas, such as at schools and congestion areas. This tends to have more effect in focusing driver attention to areas of danger.

In order to get an informed response from member councils and clarify whether they support these motions or not, HALC asked their directors to take these proposals to their District Associations to seek the views of member councils and report their findings at the next HALC County Executive meeting in March.

Voting amongst those members attending this NFALC meeting was as follows:

- a) The original Dummer proposal ie. a default position of 20mph.
2 for; 13 against; 2 abstentions.
- b) The Clanfield counter proposal ie. devolve power to Parishes.
14 for; 1 against; 2 abstentions.

7. Speed Awareness

It was agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting for a presentation.

8. Safer New Forest Partnership

Chairman introduced Nikki Swift, the Community Safety Manager from NFDC who advised /reminded members that the Safer New Forest Partnerships priorities for this year 2021-22 were Children at Risk; Drug & Alcohol Related Harm; Domestic Abuse; Prevention of risk and exploitation of vulnerable people. As far as next years' 2022-23 Strategic Assessment is concerned, New Milton would like to see ASB and Youth Work activities included following the pandemic, that has had a detrimental effect on young people's mental health.

9. Any Other Business

Philip Dowd from Hythe mentioned the 112 Bus and informed the meeting Hampshire County Council will be holding a second Hampshire-wide Passenger Transport Forum via Microsoft Teams on Monday 31st January 2022 from 11.00am to 12.30pm. The forum will provide an update on the Hampshire bus strategy work.

Richard Taylor from Minstead as our Cycling Representative updated members on forthcoming cycling events in and around the New Forest, including the following:

- 1. Saturday 09 April - NF Classic out of Gang Warily limited to 1,000 riders per day**
- 2. Sat/Sun 21 & 22 May – Beyond NF Sportive, from Gang Warily 500 riders per day**
- 3. Saturday 28 May – New Forest Rattler Endurance, from Moyles Court 500 riders.**

Richard Taylor also drew members attention to the revised Highway Code that comes into force on 29 January 2022, noting rules for all types of road users have been updated in the new Highway Code to improve the safety of people walking, cycling and riding horses. Hard copies will be available in bookshops from April. Meanwhile changes can be viewed https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1037306/table-of-change-to-the-highway-code.pdf

Generally, inhabitants of the New Forest are becoming increasingly environmentally conscious, and gradually switching energy consumption towards 'green' electricity. Two key parts of this are a) switching domestic heating to an Air or Ground Source Heat Pump and b) cars from diesel to electric. However, there is concern about the cost and feasibility of installing 3 Phase connections to properties in rural areas, where many properties are fed from a single phase 10 KVA transformer that itself is fed from a single-phase supply.

There was general discussion among some members as to how these issues may be resolved, with a suggestion for an agenda item covering such issues at our next meeting.

John Korbey reminded members that using red diesel on public roads is not allowed, rules being updated as a result of the UK leaving the European Union, per Govt link below...

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fuels-for-use-in-vehicles-excise-notice-75>

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils will be held on-line via Zoom, being the preferred method of meeting, following a show of hands from members.

Provisional meeting dates for this year are 28 April, 28 July (AGM at ATC) and 20 October

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting just after 7.15 pm.

Chairman

Date