

NEW FOREST ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS
& ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NFALC)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of NFALC
held at Appletree Court in Lyndhurst, Thursday 1 August 2024 at 6.00pm

<u>Parish/Town Council</u>	<u>Name</u>
Copythorne	Graham Chillcott Sylvia Wiggins
East Boldre	Michael Husband
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	Ian Packer
Landford	Mary Davies
Lymington	Tom Brindley – on-line
Lyndhurst	Brice Stratford – Chairman
Milford on Sea	Patricia Banks
Minstead	Helen Bennett
Netley Marsh	Mike Welbourn
New Milton	Graham Flexman – Clerk John Adams Sam Welch
Ringwood	Janet Georgia Gareth DeBoos
Sway	Katie Walding – Clerk on-line Peter Dance Howard Millett – on-line
Totton & Eling	Alison McGowan – Dep Clerk
New Forest District Council	Joe Reilly Ashurst Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh
NFDC	Dan Poole – Portfolio Holder Richard Knott - (Link Officer) NFDC Strategic Director – Matt Wisdom - Democratic and Support Services Officer
<u>Apologies:</u>	
NFNPA	Steve Avery - Exec Director
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison
Brockenhurst	John Korbey
Fawley	Stephanie Bennett
Hordle	Maggie Hill
Lyndhurst	Jeannie Smith
Fordingbridge	Rachel Edwards
Sway	Helen Schneider

Presentation

The Chairman was delighted to introduce Donna Jones, who was re-elected as the Hampshire & IOW Police Crime Commissioner at the beginning of May 2024.

During her first tenure as Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna delivered on a range of policing priorities including the launch of Local Bobbies with named and contactable police officers for every community across the two counties.

Other accomplishments included 650 more police officers, funding to reopen 10 more police stations and front counters, fixing the “101” call service with call waiting times now under 4 minutes, introducing a new Victims Hub, and commissioning more than £11m of victim and perpetrator support programmes to help make communities safer.

Donna was extremely honoured to be re-elected as the Police Crime Commissioner, and is determined to recruit more police officers, to make sure that everyone who reports a crime gets feedback and that there is a comprehensive crackdown on shoplifting. I will carry on making sure that communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are safer by making increased police visibility a priority, by taking more knives off the streets and providing focused support for victims.”

Donna’s pledges for her second term as PCC include 75 more police officers over the next 12 months, opening more police stations and front counters, cracking down on shoplifting and retail crime, delivering a Rural Crime Taskforce, investing in making roads safer, reducing serious violence, ensuring people reporting crime get feedback.

Donna said she is committed to increasing the number of police on our streets and increasing police visibility and supporting more CCTV in order to reduce crime. She confirmed she will be looking to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour and reducing knife crime, helping victims get the justice and support they deserve.

Donna said her professional background was in investment banking. She was Leader of Portsmouth City Council from 2014 to 2018. She also served as a magistrate for 16 years. Throughout the last 15 years, Donna has combined her experience in the private and public sectors to help improve public services.

As the Hampshire & IOW PCC, she represents over 250,000 businesses and is also on the board of the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. She is one of the four national police leaders working directly with the Home Office following her appointment in July 2023 as Chair of the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). Donna also sits on the National Policing Board (which is chaired by the Home Secretary), co-chairs the National Policing Strategic Partnership Board, and works with the Probation Service, prisons and the CPS.

Donna opened a public consultation to develop her next Police and Crime Plan after being re-elected in May and is keen to gather feedback from the public on how she can work with the Chief Constable over the next four years to deliver a best-in-class police force. The Commissioner’s duty as an elected official is to listen to public concerns and set the local policing priorities on the public’s behalf.

The survey to inform the next plan will be open for 10 weeks from June 10 – August 19. The results will be published in the autumn. In developing the Police and Crime Plan, she has a statutory duty to obtain the views of local people and victims of crime on matters concerning policing in the area. The job of the PCC is to listen to communities and set the local policing priorities on the public’s behalf.

The Chairman thanked Donna for her informative presentation. Members applauded.

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

Chairman welcomed 20 attendees from 15 councils within the New Forest area.

2. **Annual Review**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being the Annual Review of the New Forest Association of Local Councils for 2023-24, summarizing last year's meetings.

3. **Election of Deputies**

[Per NFALC Constitution: At its Annual Meeting, the Association shall appoint one Councillor from amongst those representing Full Member Councils to be a Director of the County Association (HALC), and also (up to) 3 other Full Members to deputise in the absence of that Director at any meeting where the appointee attends at the County Association as a Director]

The Chairman expressed willingness to continue as a Director of the County Association being Chairman of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and of NFALC.

John Korbey, Vice Chairman of NFALC, had tendered his apologies for this meeting as he is heavily involved with the New Forest Show. Moreover, as Vice Chairman of NFALC and its advancing future, he would appreciate it if a new Vice Chairman could take on the role.

By unanimous vote of those present, it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mary Davies of Landford Parish Council be duly appointed as Vice-Chairman of NFALC, and to attend at the County Association as a Director of HALC and deputise in the absence of Cllr Brice Stratford at any HALC meeting.

4. **AGM Closing Remarks**

The Chairman had been successful in procuring a grant of £400 from HALC towards developing a new website for NFALC and would be working closely with Ben Tyrie, the NFALC IT representative who was appointed at our March 2024 meeting.

The Chairman mentioned Sami Blastock, a commoner from Bucklers Hard, was appointed NFALC Commoning Representative at our December 2023 meeting, and James Carney was elected NFALC Arts & Media Representative at our January 2024 meeting.

5. **Minutes / Matters Arising**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 being the Minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 18 March 2024. The Minutes were agreed as a correct record and duly signed.

6. **New Forest District Council**

The Chairman welcomed Richard Knott NFDC Strategic Director Housing & Communities who advised on the following district issues of interest:

Cost of Living – Ryan Stevens is arranging a Steering Group meeting on 2 October 2024. With the rising cost of living, NFDC has been working with local partners to help residents through these difficult times. The meeting to provide an update on best practice/resources.

Community Grants - On Wednesday 7 August 2024, Cabinet will consider changes to criteria required for applying for grants, streamlining which organisations, councils and community groups may apply for grants previously awarded to a wide variety of recipients.

CCTV Expansion – A report to be considered at Cabinet on 7 August, and commitment to supporting various communities by helping residents feel safe investment into the expansion of the district's CCTV network with additional 21 new devices at Bransgore, Brockenhurst, Fawley, Fordingbridge, Lyndhurst, New Milton, Ringwood and Totton.

Southern Water – Referring to the water outage at the end of last year, customers in Waterside, New Forest and elsewhere experienced no water or a limited supply for a week following unprecedented flooding that adversely affected quality of water. NFDC are looking at improvements to water company infrastructure / more bottled water locations.

Local Plans – These are being reviewed in the light of increased housing targets following recent announcements by the new Labour Government. The NFDC Local Plan is the main part of the Development Plan for the New Forest outside of the New Forest National Park. There is a separate Local Plan for the New Forest National Park area, and that too is currently being reviewed by the New Forest National Park Authority.

Public Spaces Protection Orders - Addressing persistent 'anti-social' behaviour, one PSPO covering lighting of fires / banning of BBQs and another PSPO to stop petting and feeding of commoners' animals in the New Forest. The NPA Ranger Team '3E' approach of 'engage, educate and enforce' was deployed through joint patrols with Safer New Forest with the rollout of the pony feeding and BBQ PSPOs introduced in July 2023.

Engagement with over 1,000 people suggests that PSPOs have been working well with a reduction in the number of reported wildfire and pony petting/feeding incidents. Rangers from Forestry England and the National Park Authority have been recording the results, but only one prosecution was deemed necessary so far due to the '3E' initial approach.

7. New Forest National Park

Steve Avery tenders his apologies for this evening but says there is not too much to report – obviously the NFNPA is digesting all the recent proposed planning changes, which he will be happy to talk to us about at our next meeting. The proposed Solent CO2 pipeline will be discussed at the New Forest Consultative Panel meeting on 5 September 2024.

8. New Forest Cycling

The Chairman issued a plea for keen proactive cyclist to become our NFALC Cycling Rep.

9. Hampshire Association of Local Councils

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, especially to the Swanmore PC Motion mentioned.

10. Next Meeting

Monday 30 September 2024 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA

11. Future Meeting

Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 6.00pm in the NFDC Council Chamber, Lyndhurst.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.50pm.

Chairman

Date