

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

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of NFALC held at
NFDC Appletree Court Thursday 7 August 2025 at 6.00pm**

<u>Parish/Town Council</u>	<u>Name</u>
Ashurst & Colbury	Caroline Hubbard (on-line)
Bransgore	Jacque Lay (on-line)
Brockenhurst	John Korbey Gale Pettifer (on-line)
Copythorne	Graham Chillcott Sylvia Wiggins David Rigby Sherri Johnstone (on-line)
East Boldre	Ben Hawker (on-line)
Landford	Mary Davies
Lymington & Pennington	Tom Brindley
Lyndhurst	Brice Stratford – Chairman
Minstead	Helen Bennett
New Milton	Graham Flexman – Clerk
Sway	Peter Dance
Totton & Eling	Alison McGowan (on-line)
NFALC Cycling Rep	David Orme (on-line)
New Forest District Council	Joe Reilly, Ashurst Bramshaw Copythorne & Netley Marsh
NFDC	Richard Knott - (Link Officer) NFDC Strategic Director Daniel Reynafarje – NFDC Democratic and Support Services - ICT Officer
Roger Gomm Ltd	Roger Gomm QPM
<u>Apologies:</u>	
NFNPA	David Illsley
Hordle	Maggie Hill
Ringwood	Janet Georgiou

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed 18 attendees from various councils in and around the New Forest district.

2. **Annual Review**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being the Annual Review of the New Forest Association of Local Councils for 2024-25, summarizing last year's meetings.

3. **Elections to HALC Board**

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. By unanimous vote, it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr Brice Stratford continue as Chairman of NFALC and attend County Association meetings as a Director and Chairman of HALC.

4. **Minutes / Matters Arising**

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 being the Minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 29 May 2025. The Minutes were agreed as a correct record and duly signed.

The Chairman referred to the PEDALL event taking place on Saturday 27th September 2025 at New Park, near Brockenhurst that Richard Taylor talked about at our last meeting.

5. **New Forest Cultural Council**

The Chairman said the first meeting of the steering group went very well and was very positive. If anybody would like to join the steering group for the Cultural Council just drop the Chairman an e-mail. Things are going well with the three projects. The New Forest flag, the dialect survey, and the art and crafts initiative. The Crafts project is engaging with the New Forest Marque.

The Dialect Survey is engaging with the Heritage Centre, and the flag project is engaging with the Commoners Defence Association and in fact at the CDA stand at the New Forest Show the New Forest flag was flying. The Chairman directed a question to Richard Knott which was raised at the last steering group meeting about the ownership of art that's in Appletree Court, including paintings, and a military sword as well, all of which is relevant to the New Forest.

As to what would happen to that under the unitary authority, and whether perhaps it could be donated to, or lent long term to the Heritage Centre, Richard replied that anything owned by NFDC would automatically be transferred to the new unitary council. In due course, there will be a review of all items that the current Council owns in terms of assets, particularly starting with the bigger ticket items like buildings and community assets, probably working down to individual items.

The Chairman said the next Steering Group meeting is due to be held on 19 August 2025.

6. **New Forest District Council**

Richard Knott NFDC Strategic Director Housing & Communities advised on three main items:

Local Plan Review

This is working its way through the various stages and this week the cabinet approved the latest report on the local plan review, noting key milestones. Since October 2024, we've had a Call for Sites phase. Consultation between February and April drew significant public engagement and themes raised were particularly around affordable housing; infrastructure that goes with new housing and supporting new developments and climate resilience plus. Town Centre regeneration and the protection of local character.

NFDC are currently reviewing responses received to representations from the consultation and will then be approving a revised plan under Regulation 19 in late 2025, with Consultation in the autumn 2026 followed by submission to the Secretary of State for examination by the end of 2026. There is significant volume of work and documentation that goes into submitting a local plan submission, particularly in an area like the New Forest. If you have any issues with that then please speak to Richard, Tim Guymer or Matt Wisdom.

Pony & Trap Activities

NFDC are aware of planned pony and trap events taking place across the New Forest this weekend, Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 August. While no licence is required for the riding of a pony and trap on the highway, they are working closely with local partners – including Hampshire & IOW Constabulary, Hampshire Highways, and Forestry England – to support a safe and coordinated approach. Our team led by Brian Byrne - Service Manager Community Safety, will monitor the situation and assist if/where needed. (Post Meeting Note: The event took place without incident, per the A&T press article attached as **Annex A**)

Wheelie Bin Roll-out

NFDC has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering a successful and community-sensitive waste and recycling service following a constructive meeting with key partners yesterday (6 August 2025). The meeting brought together representatives from the Verderers of the New Forest, Forestry England, the New Forest Association, the Commoners Defence Association (CDA) and NFDC elected members and officers, to discuss the new waste and recycling collection system.

The session focused on addressing concerns raised by local stakeholders, particularly around the interaction of free roaming animals with the new waste receptacles. Partners shared valuable insights into the possible impact of waste containers on livestock and public safety and highlighted the need for clear communication and immediate practical solutions with the forthcoming pannage season that is also an important consideration. NFALC members raised black sack deliveries and glass bottle collections.

NFDC outlined a series of measures, including targeted trials in areas most affected by free-roaming animals to test the operational impact of alternative bin positioning, enhanced monitoring and patrols to assess interactions between animals and waste containers, and ongoing research into more secure food waste containers. (Post Meeting Note: The meeting was well received - per A&T article attached **Annex B**)

Richard explained this new waste and recycling service is one of the biggest changes the council has made in decades. Since launching Phase 1 in June, thousands of households have received new wheelie bins and food waste caddies, with new staff, new vehicles, and new routes introduced. This is a huge shift in the way waste is collected. Like with any big change, there have been some early challenges, but performance is improving week by week. Most collections are now being made on time, food waste recycling has almost doubled since the launch, and NFDC are continuing to recruit staff.

NFDC know this service is not yet perfect for some households, and if you have been affected by missed or late collections, we are sorry. Our crews and support teams are working hard every day to make sure bins are collected and issues are fixed quickly. We are also trialling solutions in areas with free-roaming animals and carrying out survey work in open Forest areas ahead of Phase 2. These trials, alongside lessons learned in Phase 1, mean NFDC are already making changes to improve how the rollout happens. Richard reminded the meeting that the new service is being implemented for 3 main reasons:

- It's the law – every council must introduce food waste recycling by 31 March 2026 under the Government's Environment Act
- It's better for the environment – recycling food waste means less waste is sent for disposal, and wheelie bins reduce litter from split sacks
- It's safer for crews – moving from sacks to bins means fewer injuries

7. New Forest National Park

In the absence of David Illsley, Mary Davies updated members on their Local Plan, NF Show VIP guest Baroness Taylor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government, who met NFDC housing tenants in Totton, then joined NPA Youth Board members at the New Forest Show.

8. Martyn's Law

The Chairman introduced Roger Gomm who gave an illustrated presentation on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. The tragic events of the Manchester Arena Bombing in 2017 left a lasting mark on the nation and recently culminated in the introduction of the above legislation. While much media focus has been on how the law will affect large venues and commercial spaces, it is important that clerks understand that Martyn's Law may also affect parish councils, especially those that are responsible for premises or public events.

Roger Gomm provided an overview of Martyn's Law, explaining its implications for parish councils, highlighting what parish and towns need to do now to ensure their local councils are prepared and compliant. Martyn's Law is designed to improve public safety by ensuring venues and public spaces are better prepared to respond to terrorist attacks. Martyn's Law applies to any premises or events with a capacity of 200 people or more.

Roger explained this could include public events, local festivals and fetes organised or licensed by the parish council, recreational grounds where large community gatherings take place, eg. firework displays, remembrance services, public celebrations like VE Day. (Presentation slides are attached per **Annex C**).

Post Meeting Note: Application of Martyn's Law to Large-Scale Outdoor Events

Roger Gomm, having reflected on the discussion regarding qualifying events, particularly in relation to the New Forest Marathon and large-scale cycling events, where there are significant numbers of participants and spectators, provided the following information:

While the forthcoming Home Office guidance will be crucial in clarifying the scope and needs of the legislation, my current view is that such events will fall within its provisions. This is based on the reasonable expectation that attendance levels will meet the thresholds defined in the Act:

- **Standard Tier:** 200–799 people
- **Enhanced Tier:** 800+ people

On that basis, it is reasonable to expect that:

- **A Responsible Person** will need to be formally appointed.
- **The Regulator (Security Industry Authority, SIA)** must be notified.
- **A Security / Protect Duty Risk Assessment** should be undertaken, covering potential attack types.

The legislation places particular emphasis on ensuring *so far as is reasonably practicable, appropriate public protection procedures are in place that could be expected to reduce the risk of physical harm to individuals if an attack were to occur at or near the event.*

While the impact of any terrorist attack at such an event would inevitably be **high**, with the potential for fatalities and casualties, I believe it can be argued that the scale **-open geography and dispersed nature** of marathons and cycle events means that the overall vulnerability is less than that of a fixed, crowded venue—except at certain points, such as the start/finish areas. Accordingly, *appropriate public protection procedures* for these events should reasonably include:

- **Clear plans and procedures** for incident management and emergency response.
- **Briefings for staff and volunteers** on their roles in security and safety.
- **Public information and guidance** for participants and spectators.

These measures represent proportionate and practical steps to reduce risk and may be enough to demonstrate compliance with the Protect Duty. Importantly, they must be **formally documented and recorded**. The above was submitted by Roger Gomm post meeting for members further information.

9. Next Meeting

Monday 22 September 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA

10. Future Meeting

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone, closing the Meeting at 7.30pm.

Chairman

Date