

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NFALC)

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of New Forest Association of Local Councils held on-line via Zoom on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 7.30pm

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish/Town Council</u>
Brice Stratford	Minstead
Georgie Hough	Minstead
Kate Hedge	Burley
Phil Tandy	Damerham
Michael Hubbard	East Boldre
Tom Brindley	Lymington
Leila Cameron	Fordingbridge
Melissa Hildreth	Martin
Gareth DeBoos	Ringwood
Janet Georgiou	Ringwood
Alex Wade	Hythe
Ben Tyrie	Lyndhurst
Sami Blastock	Beaulieu
Stephanie Bennett	Fawley
Caroline Hubbard	Ashurst

1. Apologies:

Caroline Rackham	Totton
Anne Cullen	Milford
Peter Dance	Sway
Alison Bolton	Boldre
Caroline Hubbard	Ashurst

And others that have Council meetings tonight:

Godshill
Copythorne
Ellingham
Rockbourne
New Milton

2. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed 15 attendees from 13 local councils in the New Forest District.

3. Minutes

The Chairman referred to the meeting held on 19 October 2023, noting the minutes of that meeting will be approved at the next ordinary NFALC meeting on 18 January 2024.

4. Constitution Survey Responses

The Chairman provided a brief update on the responses received to the NFALC survey.

5. Mission, Vision and Values

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, and hoped members had the chance to look over the agenda and appendices, and to consider accepting the draft Mission, Vision & Values Statement plus Operational Assessment.

By unanimous vote in favour, all members attending approved the documents.

6. Draft Constitution

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, and in writing the new draft constitution, he had attempted to incorporate as much from the survey results as was feasible:

- establishing a clearer and more distinctive purpose for NFALC which differentiates it from other bodies (such as quadrant meetings and the consultative panel).
- slimming down the decision-making process so that NFALC can become more flexible and proactive.
- safeguarding against dwindling interest.
- futureproofing against local government restructuring plans over the coming years.
- establishing a New Forest Assembly of Local Councillors, in which individuals are entitled to attend and vote in their own right, not just as single representatives of their council.

By unanimous vote in favour, it was agreed the new constitution be implemented.

7. Changes to NFALC in Practice

The Chairman hoped to form Working Parties and appoint representatives at future meetings, including Forestry, Transport (Roads, Traffic) and Cycling Rep, plus Events and Social Housing together with 'Commoning' that is so important to the forest. On that note, with Kate Hedge proposing and Janet Georgiou seconding, it was unanimously resolved:

That Sami Blastock be appointed Commoning Representative with immediate effect.

8. Any Other Business

Dr DeBoos referred to proposed increases in NFDC car parking charges, stating he had received support from 120 customers objecting to the increases due to be approved soon.

9. Closing remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and supporting the clear direction going forward, emphasizing that NFALC is a Forest-wide body now with a legitimate democratic mandate, that has real potential to be a valuable and influential institution for the area, and an important supporter of local councils. He hopes NFALC will become a far more active organization, one which offers real value to all the parishes and towns it covers.

10. Next Meeting – To be held on **Thursday 18 January 2024 at 6.00pm** at NFDC Lyndhurst

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting just after 8.30 pm.