

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

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting of NFALC held
Wednesday 13 November 2024 from 6.00 pm

<u>Parish/Town Council</u>	<u>Name</u>
Ashurst & Colbury	Caroline Hubbard (on-line)
Beaulieu	Sami Reece
Copythorne	Graham Chillcott Sylvia Wiggins
Damerham	Ann Bellows (on-line)
East Boldre	Michael Husband
Hordle	Maggie Hill (on-line)
Lymington	Tom Brindley
Lyndhurst	Brice Stratford – Chairman
Minstead	Bill Andrews
New Milton	Graham Flexman - Clerk
Sway	Katie Walding – Clerk Howard Millett Peter Dance
Totton & Eling	David Harrison (on-line) NFDC – Totton South
New Forest District Council	Joe Reilly Ashurst Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh
NFDC Officers in attendance	Ryan Stevens NFDC Service Manager Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Jamie Burton – NFDC Health and Partnerships Manager Daniel Reynafarje - NFDC Democratic ICT Officer
NFALC Cycling Representative	David Orme
<u>Apologies:</u>	
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison
Brockenhurst	John Korbey
Fawley	Stephanie Bennett
Fordingbridge	Rachel Edwards
Netley Marsh	Mike Welbourn
New Milton	John Adams
New Forest NPA	Steve Avery

1. Apologies

Steve Avery was unable to attend and had tendered his apologies at short notice.

The Chairman welcomed 16 attendees from 12 councils within the New Forest district, plus Ryan Stevens & Jamie Burton from NFDC, and David Orme NFALC Cycling Rep.

2. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman mentioned the recent sad passing of Roly Errington of Ellingham (attached)

3. Minutes - Annual General Meeting

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 August 2024. The minutes were approved by those present and agreed as a correct record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Minutes - Ordinary Meeting

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 being the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 30 September 2024. The minutes were approved by those present and agreed as a correct record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Any Matters Arising

The Chairman was pleased David Orme had become the NFALC Cycling Representative.

6. English Devolution Bill

The Chairman said HALC is just awaiting final confirmation, but we should be joined at the County Forum on Thursday 28 November 2024 by Dr Matthew Fright from the Institute for Government to talk about devolution.

Publication of the Government's English Devolution White Paper is anticipated imminently and proffers the prospect of devolution and unitary status. In its recent Budget document, the Government committed to *working with councils to move to simpler structures that make sense for their local areas*.

Dr Matthew Fright will be talking about the White Paper proposals and potential impacts for Hampshire (and other two-tier areas). The Chairman thought it was worth flagging this up for any interested local councils in the New Forest, as entry to the forum is included in membership fees but is normally limited to 2 representatives per council. This may be exceptionally extended, subject to prior agreement.

The County Forum allows member councils to network and share best practice as well as raising and considering matters of relevance to local councils across Hampshire. HALC's 2nd County Forum will be held on **Thursday 28th November 2024**, at the **Winchester Hotel & Spa (Holiday Inn)**, from 10:00am – 12:00pm.

7. New Forest LCWIP Consultation

The Chairman asked David Orme our Cycling Representative to explain NFALC response, with the help of overhead slides showing various local cycling routes.

The NFALC response represents a joint submission, responding to the Draft New Forest LCWIP from the New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC), which includes the 37 local Town and Parish Councils within the New Forest district.

It was noted the areas represented by the Waterside councils are covered by a separate LCWIP and also this NFALC response does not consider the LCWIP Core Walking Zones, which are specific to Fordingbridge, Ringwood, Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and New Milton.

Due to the timeline of the consultation process, it was not possible to present a response document at a full meeting of NFALC. It has instead been developed by the NFALC Cycling and Recreation Rep via engagement with stakeholders, the Chairman, and selected NFALC members. A draft copy was disseminated to all members prior to submission; councils who were able to respond in the given timescales show in Section 5.

Despite the return on investment for cycling being high (typically saving £5m for every £1m spent, according to Department of Transport), improving health (mental as well as physical) and reducing transport costs (such as school transport, a major part of HCC spending), there tends to be limited budget for cycle infrastructure. Hence there is a risk, from making high-volume roads safe for cycling, eg. A338 Ringwood-Salisbury.

As well as cost, speed limits and traffic calming measures usually involve a consultation element and, for cycle lanes, land purchase or other ownership issues can arise. How each route performs in terms of growing cycling numbers, needs to be set against risks.

On lower traffic volume roads, the interventions needed tend to be much less, often applying to just one or two locations; fix these and you fix the complete route – this a key message of our response to make best use of existing low-traffic routes wherever possible. HCC are urged to consider the routes described, in the context of current Public Consultation, as it looks at further route options as necessary within the LCWIP process.

Should planning, land ownership, engineering, cost or other feasibility issues become apparent in relation to necessary route interventions, HCC are requested to consider these alternative solutions at an early stage and to keep NFALC informed.

In areas where there are no alternatives to high-traffic routes between inhabited areas, (such as A337, Brockenhurst-Lyndhurst), it is stressed that every effort should be made to make these safe for cycling. Where segregated cycle paths are not possible, vehicle speeds should be controlled – the difference in a cyclist being overtaken at 25mph, to being passed at 35mph or more, is considerable.

The New Forest District is surrounded by the conurbations of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) and Southampton, the populations of which use the New Forest as a source of recreation. This adds pressure on the area's roads giving greater importance to routes designated as 'Leisure' by the Draft LCWIP. It is recommended that a number of these Leisure Routes, should be re-considered and designated Utility or Secondary routes, in order to help reduce dependence on the car to visit or traverse the Forest.

The NFALC response says a phased introduction of this work would be sensible, initially focusing on cycling routes which are necessary for local residents to access work, shops, schools and neighbouring villages. These are considered likely to have the most beneficial impact on car usage and to be more achievable to implement.

Across the New Forest District, major roads are considered too dangerous to use by many would-be and ex-cyclists (and some councils). In order to achieve the DoT's 'Gear Change' vision, investment and transformational change is desperately needed.

8. New Forest Cultural Assembly

The Chairman introduced this item, explaining a perceived dearth of cultural activities and the like in the New Forest, with some describing it as an artistic backwater.

The Chairman suggested developing an arts/heritage/culture body that is more grassroots representative, which could include local Cllrs as well as industry professionals (such as Heritage Centre, St Barbes, SPUD etc) and potential formation of this with NFALC. Bodies such as Culture in Common, and Folio were referred to, and other creative organisations who offer opportunities to pursue creative arts. The Chairman sees an opportunity to form a New First wide cultural and arts body that could drive such aspirations forward.

Culture in Common is an Arts Council England 'Creative People and Places Programme' funded to encourage more people to take the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in arts and culture experiences in the places where they live. Folio is a collective of creative and cultural organisations in the New Forest district coming together to make the New Forest a place for creativity to thrive.

Energise Me formed a consortium with Folio, The Handy Trust (see AOB below), NFDC and the NFNPA to manage Culture in Common. The intention was for the consortium to blend arts, community engagement, heritage, physical activity and health expertise and to collaborate and build authentic relationships with local communities. Culture in Common was inspired by commoning with a shared vision of arts and culture driven by local people.

The Chairman suggested this initiative needs rebooting/re-energising and asked members for support. This was noted, and the idea was approved in principle by all those present.

9. **New Forest National Park**

With apologies it transpired at short notice Steve Avery was unable to attend this meeting.

10. **New Forest District Council**

Ryan Stevens / Jamie Burton updated members on NFDC district-wide matters of interest:

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Our SCI is a document explaining how residents and businesses can take part in the process of developing planning policy in the New Forest (outside the National Park). NFDC is encouraging residents and businesses to engage on Statement of Community Involvement. It demonstrates NFDC commitment on planning permission, allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funds, preparation of planning policies and site allocations through the Local Plan. On-line to 6 December 2024.

Local Plan Review. The 'Call for Sites' is an opportunity for landowners, communities, developers and site promoters to suggest possible land suitable for development, or that could be used in a more productive way. NFDC will consider land suggestions within the New Forest district outside of the National Park. The deadline for the Call for Sites suggestions is Friday 13 December 2024 at 11.59pm.

CIL BIDS towards new local infrastructure can be made at any point during the bidding window on 21 October 2024 and 13 December 2024. Bids should be made via our consultation website Go Vocal. When submitting a bid, you must:

- Complete a separate form for each project being promoted.
- Provide your name, correspondence address and email address
- As well as identifying the location on the map, please also attach a scaled map
- Provide as much information as possible as each question is given a score.
- Note the maximum CIL grant that can be made available is £100,000 per project.
- Note that CIL funds can only be granted for new projects, and not retrospectively.

District-wide Parking Strategy. A consultation will be undertaken in two phases, with the first phase of a survey running from Tuesday 29 October 2024. The final parking strategy is set to be completed by May 2025. Local businesses and community organisations will also be engaged to ensure their input is heard. The parking strategy will consider NFDC "off-street" car parks, look at modernising our parking services, supporting environment goals, and generating sustainable income to enhance council services and delivery.

New Forest Indoor Built Facilities Strategy & Playing Pitch Strategy FMG Consulting Ltd (FMG) have been appointed by the New Forest District Council to complete a new Playing Pitch Strategy, which will also include the New Forest National Park. This is a supply and demand model to assess if there are enough indoor and outdoor sports facilities of the right quality to meet current and future demand. This work covers public, private and educational facilities, and will help to inform future investment into 'sports facilities' within the District.

11. Any Other Business

The Chairman referred to two items mentioned on the agenda:

- a) **Graham Chillcott from Copythorne** previously raised the subject of how it might be possible for NFALC to interact directly with NFNPA on various matters. As a result, Graham Chillcott was tasked with forming a Working Group to come up with some examples of matters that NFALC might want to liaise directly about with NFNPA. The Working Group met on 6 November and came up with several suggestions of matters that might be the sort of thing that NFALC might be able to liaise on with NFNPA. The Chairman of HALC and NFALC, being a member of the NFNPA, kindly offered to help by being group’s contact at NFNPA. It was proposed, voted upon and unanimously **RESOLVED:**
That Cllr Graham Chillcott would contact Steve Avery to set up a meeting to discuss these suggestions and get his thoughts on what might be possible.
- b) **Katie Walding Clerk of Sway Parish Council** presented to those present the attached paper suggesting a youth service provision for parishes across the New Forest District could be provided by the Handy Trust, and this was supported and endorsed by those present.

The Chairman also mentioned that Cllr Sami Reece of Beaulieu Parish Council had agreed to act as Vice Chairman of NFALC and attend meetings of HALC in his absence.

12. Meeting Dates 2025

Members noted the proposed dates of meetings for next year, as below:

Thursday	23 January	Thursday	31 July (AGM)
Wednesday	19 March	Monday	22 September
Tuesday	15 May	Tuesday	18 November

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the St Brice’s Day Meeting at 7.30pm.

Chairman

Date

Former Chairman of Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council, Rory Errington, dies aged 71.

Liz Hendrie

02 November 2024

Former parish council leader & heritage trust chairman Roly Errington has died.

A well-known local figure who sat on Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council and headed the RAF Ibsley Airfield Heritage Trust, Roly had a career as a lighting cameraman in the film industry for decades.



Roly Errington

He worked on blockbuster movies like Mission Impossible and Shakespeare in Love before his skill with and knowledge of CGI and enhanced effects saw him in demand for the growingly popular fantasy film genre. His repertoire included Snow White and The Huntsman and Willow.

Wife Emma said he was "intensely private", working under various professional names to keep his film career and his voluntary work as a New Forest parish councillor separate. "The New Forest remained his first love, and his passion for its survival and conservation unparalleled," she said. "For those who were aware of it, his extraordinary ability to communicate intuitively with animals offered comfort and answers to friends wishing to understand their pets and their local wildlife.

"Visitors to his home near Ringwood would find a haven for foxes, badgers, birds, and the occasional duck, up from the lake and taking an afternoon nap on the top of the bookshelves in his study."

In his voluntary roles, Roly was consulted on "matters of conservation, planning, and ecology by organisations ranging from the Friends of the New Forest (New Forest Association), The National Park Authority, The National Trust, and a host of archaeological, aviation and WW2 historical research groups throughout Hampshire. His famously vast knowledge on a wide-range of topics was such that people both locally and in the film industry in which he had worked for decades, knew he could provide the answer to any question they might care to ask - and if he didn't, he would find it for them."

Roly was the second son of the late George Errington (OBE), who test-flew Spitfires, Hurricanes, Mosquitoes, and Horsa Gliders for the war effort. His late mother, the redoubtable Lesley Errington, was a well-known local figure herself, serving as a respected town and parish councillor for 33 years, and also as chairman of New Forest District Council from 1976 until 1978.

Educated at Radley College and Manchester University where he read mechanical engineering, Roly ultimately plumped for a career in film. "Whilst still at school, he'd spent time shadowing Sir David Lean on the set of Ryan's Daughter," said Emma. "And had been given the unenviable task of wrangling Robert Mitchum and Trevor Howard out of their beds and onto the set. Although still only in his late teens, with his wittily disarming personality and extraordinary ability to persuade, he apparently managed this with relative ease."

During the early summer of 2024, Roly had been feeling increasingly unwell. When he finally secured an appointment to see a doctor for tests, it was discovered he had a type of cancer that often only makes its presence known when it is already too late.

Following a collapse at home on 6th October, Roly was rushed to Bournemouth Hospital where he died nine days later. He is survived by his long-term companion and wife, Emma. A memorial and thanksgiving service will be held at Ringwood Parish Church on Saturday 15th February 2025.

Would you like to be able to provide youth engagement work in your parish but don't have the resource or expertise available?

Youth engagement and the provision of services for young people is a challenge for many local councils, particularly in parishes where numbers and resources are often quite small.

In Sway we spend a lot of resource providing sports facilities and we try to support the uniformed organisations and other clubs and societies. However, we do not have either the experience or the resource to provide youth work ourselves, nor do we have the capacity to recruit a designated role.

Last year we opened a Youth Club, to fill a void left since the closure of a previous Club run by the church and prior to that by volunteers. It has been a steep learning curve. Our fond memories of being children playing in a drafty hall with access to a bag of crisps and an orange squash for a couple of hours with an adult overseeing are light years away from the needs of today's young people.

Sway has been lucky enough to receive hands on support, advice and leadership from professional youth workers at [The Handy Trust](#), as part of an outreach pilot to expand their service and expertise across the Forest with the aim of ensuring that every young person has access to a dedicated youth worker and targeted youth activity.

My experience as a parish clerk looking to deliver the council's objective of 'run a youth club' has been that specialist experience is vital to providing a safe and useful service that creates trusted relationships with youngsters to provide support and understanding in a non-judgmental and approachable manner.

Detached youth work takes place where young people are – bringing guidance, support and connection to the street and hang-out locations. The Handy Trust help to target areas of anti-social behaviour and disengaged and struggling youths. They have a minibus project which acts as a mobile youth club for areas which don't have a club of their own (and where young people have no access to public transport to get them to where facilities exist). They operate in the evening when young people are hanging out together. They can offer one-to-one mentoring and more. (Please see The Handy Trust Service Information attached).

Sway has experienced regular anti-social behaviour and also some vandalism, and those responsible are typically not young people who have access to, or inclusion in organised activities and clubs. Therefore, our next step will be to expand our work with the Handy Trust and engage them to provide some detached youth work in the village.

[Youth Options](#), another Hampshire based charity providing youth work across the county already provide this type of outreach service to Totton & Eling PC with very positive results.

Potential for collaboration

Please consider whether your location would benefit from access to this type of experienced professional organisation, given that most of us can neither afford or need a full time employed youth worker (like New Milton or Fawley for example).

A collective approach among Forest town and parish councils could make professional youth work cost-effective and adaptable and create a forest-wide reach. Access to professionals with their own protocols, safeguarding and professional experience takes the operational burden away from councils and clerks whilst enabling service delivery to your location.

Options could be:

- A few hours per month, per fortnight or per week of detached youth work in your location
- If you have a venue, you could consider offering a youth club which could be run by The Handy Trust

Next Steps

Please read the attached document from Handy Trust, noting the proposed costs for such a service, and consider adding to your budget for 2025-26 if you would like to be involved in this pilot scheme.

If your council would be interested in getting involved, or you'd like to explore more about how it could work in your parish, please make contact.

Katie Walding

Parish Clerk at Sway PC

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Jamie Burton

Health and Partnerships Manager at New Forest District Council

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Sofia Richardson

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Background –

The Handy Trust are a full youth support service with over 20 years' experience of working with young people, their families and the wider community.

The organisation began as part of Hythe and Dibden Parish council before becoming its own Charity, expanding its service both geographically and activities/support available.

Services we offer across the Waterside area –

- Weekly youth club sessions across two venues
- After school drop-in sessions being introduced
- 1-1 and small group mentoring/ support for a range of challenges including mental health, anti-social behaviour, school avoidance, being out of employment, education or training and more. Referrals taken from individual young person, their family as well as statutory services including schools and social services
- Daily lunchtime drop-ins at local primary and secondary schools
- Daily holiday clubs offering free activities and a fully funded hot meal
- 'Waterside Christmas appeal' – a partnership project involving local organisations and businesses to ensure all families feel the magic of Christmas by providing gifts and food to support over the festive period
- Events across the year – trips, Halloween party, Christmas party
- Outreach and detached work – regularly engaging with young people where they are to target areas of anti-social behaviour, or young people who might be disengaged. This includes our 'minibus' project which acts as a 'mobile youth club' taking out food and drinks, as well as various resources directly to locations young people are. Visits can also be requested by young carers who would otherwise be unable to attend our activities.
- Teaching in schools including topics around relationship and sex education, drugs and alcohol education and emotional regulation. Partnership project

The Handy Trust works in Partnership with many agencies and is supported by Hythe and Dibden Parish Council, Marchwood Parish Council, New Forest District Council and Waterside Community Fund.

with The King's Trust (previously The Prince's Trust) to offer their 'achieve programme' for those not accessing mainstream provision for reasons such as behaviour or anxiety.

Why our service?

- Dedicated, passionate team with a range of qualifications including youth work, mental health first aid, safeguarding, first aid, youth mentoring, young person development, adverse childhood experiences and much more, as well as a range of life experiences assisting us to support young people with a true understanding and non-judgemental, approachable manner.
- Trusted and respected organisation with extensive evidence of successes, as well as flexible development of the service to adapt to the changing needs of the young person, their family and the whole community.
- Our service is filling gaps in provisions that minimal or no other services are

What can we offer and why?

The Handy Trust would like to expand our service and expertise to assist across the New Forest to ensure every young person has access to a dedicated youth worker and targeted youth activity.

Whilst many areas of the forest have excellent youth services, there is still a much higher proportion of areas and young residents who feel isolated to these services. The team regularly receive requests from areas across the forest from residents or organisations to provide support, but we are currently bound by geographical boundaries. The Handy Trust feel they are able to offer additional staff to begin to target some of these areas, setting up 'hubs' as part of our wider service. We would manage this completely, keeping workers up-to-date with regular training and professional development, as well as following our policies and procedures.

The service offered would be created in collaboration with the local community as well as with individual council's themselves. The long-term goal would be for all areas of the forest to have access to the full list of our services as above and as applicable to each areas.

An example of this work is at Sway Youth Club which was already set up and run by local volunteers. The team were invited in to support the development of activities, management of the young people as well as confidence of the staff who do not have any formal qualifications. This project started in September and has received positive feedback from those working at the youth club, as well as Katie – Sway Parish Clerk, including increased confidence of the staff to handle different scenarios as well as discussions on how further training can be accessed for the workers. The Handy Trust have been honoured to be a part of this project.

The Handy Trust works in Partnership with many agencies and is supported by Hythe and Dibden Parish Council, Marchwood Parish Council, New Forest District Council and Waterside Community Fund.

Costings

The hours dedicated and services offered would be a discussion to ensure the council and its residents are all getting the most appropriate service to support their young people, but the trust has worked out the cost of a dedicated workers to be –

£20 an hour to include hourly rate and related costs including travel expenses

The Handy Trust are passionate about ensuring every area of the forest gives young people a service which empowers them to see beyond any barriers to becoming successful adults who are able to make informed choices and feel supported in their development and needs.

We are happy to adapt and develop in ways suited to individual areas, as well as we are always happy to further discuss our service or provide records of anything mentioned including qualitative and quantitative data regarding our activities already offered.

Sofia Richardson

Proud manager of The Handy Trust