

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

**Minutes of Old Twelfth Day Ordinary General Meeting of NFALC
held at Appletree Court in Lyndhurst, Thursday 18 January 2024 at 6.00pm**

| <u>Parish/Town Council</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Brockenhurst | John Korbey - Vice-Chairman |
| Copythorne | Graham Chillcott David Rigby - Clerk |
| East Boldre | Michael Husband |
| Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley | Sarah Pinfield - Clerk |
| Fawley | Paul Saunders |
| Godshill | Richard Fell |
| Hordle | Maggie Hill |
| Lyndhurst | Brice Stratford - Chairman |
| Minstead | Helen Bennett |
| Netley Marsh | Mike Welbourn |
| New Milton | Graham Flexman – Clerk |
| Ringwood | Gareth DeBoos Janet Georgiou Chris Wilkins – Clerk |
| Sway | Katie Walding - Clerk |
| Totton & Eling | Alison McGowan – Dep Clerk |
| External Invitee | James Carney |
| Apologies: | |
| Bramshaw | Sue Bennison |
| Fawley | Stephanie Bennett |
| Fordingbridge | Rachel Edwards |
| NFDC | Kate Ryan, CEO Dan Poole, Portfolio Holder |
| NFNPA | Steve Avery, Exec Director |

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed 18 attendees from 14 local councils within the New Forest area.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 and 2 being the Minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 19 October 2023 and the EGM held on Tuesday 12 December 2023. Subject to Michael Husband name appearing against East Boldre on EGM, minutes were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman. It was agreed representatives need not be Cllrs, and James Carney was then duly elected as NFALC Arts & Media Rep.

3. Unauthorized Encampments

Chris Wilkins from Ringwood referred to Appendix 3 proposing collaborative policy making between town and parish councils regarding eviction of travelers from local council sites.

There is a complex mix of duties and powers relating to travelers, ethnic groups and others under Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty, welfare needs to be assessed and whether criminal or civil law applies with a variety of statutory powers (especially Police powers), different court jurisdictions (magistrates and county court) and procedures.

There are also associated costs (rubbish-damage-vandalism) / reputational consequences if things are not dealt with properly. Implementation of preventative measures can prove expensive. Larger encampments may involve liaison with NF Safety Team, and the Police. Most town and parish councils would benefit from having up-to-date policies with NFDC.

It was suggested clerks from councils willing to participate would work together with NFDC to produce a policy for adoption by NFALC members, that local councils could then adopt.

Chris Wilkins offered to work via the new Clerk's Network to devise a suitable template.

4. Local Nature Reserve Strategy

Chairman referred to Appendix 4 showing details of a HCC survey about nature recovery.

Fawley Clerk has kindly summarized information that HCC are inviting feedback on via the survey about Nature Recovery and what would the public like to see, eg reducing impacts from recreation, more biodiversity, less pesticides etc. HCC has also arranged community engagement workshops on various topics around the Nature Recovery theme.

Community workshops are being planned for February/March which will be led by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. One is listed for Lyndhurst on 1 February from 6.30pm (probably in the Lyndhurst Community Centre) Further details TBA.

Chair thought this an excellent opportunity to comment on greening & re-wilding issues. Introduced by the Environment Act 2021, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new system of plans for nature recovery covering the whole of England. They are a key mechanism for planning and delivering the [National Nature Recovery Network](#)

Defra has appointed HCC as the responsible authority for Hampshire working closely with NFDC local planning authority & NF National Park Authority. The production of each Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be evidence-based, locally led and collaborative to create a network of shared plans that public, private & voluntary sectors can help to deliver.

Natural England will lead the Government's involvement and will work alongside each of the Responsible Authorities to help shape the strategy and ensure overall consistency. The preparation of each LNRS will also be supported by the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

5. NFALC Website

Chairman announced a grant can be pursued from HALC for a new simplified website.

6. Clerk's Network

Fawley has kindly taken the lead on this by setting up a Facebook page for local clerks.

7. District Parking Clocks

Ringwood Town Mayor Cllr Gareth DeBoos explained he had recently tried to help struggling local businesses pay for their NFDC parking clocks by using his mayoral allowance. He wanted to award cash subsidies to Ringwood's low-income firms after NFDC hiked the annual long-stay parking clock from £140 to £220.

Cllr DeBoos received over 120 messages of support from local residents and businesses concerned about the increase. NFDC – in approving the rise in charges last October – stated the prices had stayed the same last year and represented “incredibly good value” and prices across some of the parking schemes had been frozen for the past six years, and this could not continue amid rising costs of managing car parks.

Due to lack of support from fellow Councilors, Cllr DeBoos was forced to withdraw his proposal at Ringwood, but there remains an opportunity for NFALC to approve a resolution that increases be reduced by up to 50% and phased over 2 years perhaps.

It was then by majority vote of those attending,

RESOLVED: To lobby NFDC for car parking increases to be pegged back to £40.

8. New Forest National Park – Matter deferred to next meeting.

9. New Forest National Park Authority – Matter deferred to next meeting.

10. Any Other Business

Reference was made to the following two items:

- Hampshire Hedgerows initiative – see latest Newsletter no.2 from CPRE.
- Hampshire County Council 20mph – see A&T local press article attached.

Next Meeting – To be held on Monday 18 March 2024 at 6.00pm at NFDC Lyndhurst

Further meetings as below:

Thursday 2 May
Tuesday 18 June
Thursday 1 August - **AGM**
Monday 30 September
Wednesday 13 November

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting just before 7.42 pm.