

New Forest Association (Registered Charity No: 260328)

Annual General Meeting

~~To be held at 10.30 am, Saturday 16th May 2020 at Bramshaw Village Hall, SO43 7JE~~

POSTPONED

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President, Professor Matthew Kelly
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM – to approve the minutes (A)
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. To adopt the Annual Report (B)
6. Treasurer's report (C) - to receive and adopt the Annual Accounts and appoint the independent Accounts Examiner
7. Election of Trustees: There are no nominations for election
8. Election of Council members: David Humbert, Keith Howe and Ann Sevier are due to retire and have been nominated to stand for re-election. Tara Dempsey and Russell Wynn have been nominated to stand for election
9. Election of Officers: There are the following nominations
Chair: John Ward
Vice Chair: Gale Gould
Honorary Secretary: Vacant
Honorary Treasurer: Brandy Gill
- 10 Election of President: Professor Matthew Kelly has been nominated
- 11 Election of Vice-Presidents: Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre and Peter Frost have been nominated
- 12 Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner – Alan Hamilton

A Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the New Forest Association

Held at Brockenhurst Village Hall, Highwood Road, Brockenhurst on Saturday 11st May 2019

Forty-eight members attended, their names being registered in the attendance book.

- 1. Welcome by the President.** At 10.30am the President, Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for Absence.** Received from 13 members, namely: Robert Lalonde, Katie Ashbrooke, Jill Braithwaite, Keith Braithwaite, John Fawcett, Jean Fawcett, Clive Chatters, Sue Bishop, Christine Parkhouse, Alan Snook, Roger Burfitt, Robert Whiting, Georgina Babey
- 3. Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd April 2017.** The meeting approved the minutes unanimously.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.** No matters arising.
- 5. To Adopt the Annual Report.** The President confirmed matters to be discussed during the panel session; and the Annual Report was unanimously approved.
- 6. Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer presented his report. The meeting unanimously voted to approve the Financial Report and to re-appoint the independent accounts examiner.
- 7. Election of Trustees.** Bernie Austin, having been previously nominated and seconded to the position, was unanimously elected.
- 8. Election of Council Members.** Retiring Council member Leo Randall, having been previously nominated and seconded, was re-elected unanimously. Jacob White, having been previously nominated and seconded, was elected unanimously to the Council.
- 9. Election of Officers.** John Ward, for re-election as Chairman, Gale Gould for re-election as Vice Chair, Brandy Gill for re-election as Honorary Treasurer and Katie Campling for election as Honorary Secretary. All candidates having been previously nominated and seconded were unanimously elected
- 10. Election of President.** Matthew Kelly, having been previously nominated and seconded to the position, was elected unanimously.

11. Election of Vice Presidents. Chairman John Ward took over as Chair of the Annual General Meeting for the election of Vice-Presidents. Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre for election and Peter Frost for re-election, having previously been nominated and seconded, were unanimously elected.

12. Any Other Business. Gale Gould presented a gift to Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre who was retiring as President of the Friends of the New Forest. On behalf of all those present, Gale thanked Oliver for his contribution to the Association and to the New Forest.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.48am.

B Annual Report 2019

Patron: Belinda, Lady Montagu

President: Matthew Kelly

Vice-Presidents: Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre and Peter Frost

Chair: John Ward

Vice-Chair: Gale Gould

Hon Secretary: Vacant

Hon Treasurer: Brandy Gill

TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERS (WHO WERE ALSO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL) during 2019

Bernie Austin

Katie Campling (retired during 2019)

Brandy Gill

Gale Gould

Dionis Macnair (retires at this AGM)

Peter Roberts (retires at this AGM)

Brian Tarnoff

John Ward

William Ziegler

COUNCIL MEMBERS during 2019

Clive Chatters

Jonathan Cox

Tara Dempsey

Roly Errington

Eve Gillmon

Keith Howe

David Humbert

Graham Long

Bob Morris (retires at this AGM)

Leo Randall

Richard Reeves

Neil Sanderson

Ann Sevier

Jenni Tubbs

Jacob White

Trustees and Council Report

Formal meetings of Council were held six times and for the Board of Trustees four times during 2019. In addition there were regular meetings of the Habitats and Landscape Committee and the Planning and Transport Committee; and also ad hoc meetings of the Education Working Group. At the end of 2019 there were eight trustees and fifteen non-trustee members of Council.

We have continued to share issues and experiences with other National Park Societies and as a Council member of the Campaign for National Parks (CNP): and have collaborated with them to co-ordinate responses to government and other national consultations and draft proposals that will affect National Parks. Examples of national consultations and draft proposals with implications for the New Forest that have crossed our desks in 2019 include:

- House of Lords Select Committee Report on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; and Natural England's review of their advice on planning and landscape planning including the use of standard advice made in response to the Select Committee Report.
- Workshop arranged by Natural England to discuss arrangements for a review of open access maps.
- Proposed reforms to Permitted Development Rights to support the deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage
- Development of CNP position statement on moorland and heathland burning.
- Response to Ofgem open letter on RIIO-ED2 framework on price control for electricity distribution (Visual amenity funding for electricity companies)
- Landscapes review: National Parks and AONBs (Glover Report) – see below

We have held informal liaison meetings with the National Park Authority and Forestry Commission; and attend various New Forest forums and working groups including the Consultative Panel and meetings of the Verderers Court.

The Friends of the New Forest were in evidence on a stand at the New Forest Show. Sponsorship funding support was given for the animal accident 'advert' on the back of the New Forest Tour bus; and also, for the 'Our Past Our Future' projects for ranger training and for habitat restoration.

The slide show presentation telling the story of the Association and the New Forest from the mid 19th century until today continued to be popular and was given to 5 groups, reaching over 200 people most of whom had not previously heard of us and gaining donations to support our work to protect the Forest. We began work on a second presentation about the New Forest Coast, which it is hoped to complete during 2020.

After two successful years, a Friends of the New Forest keynote address and panel discussion seemed as though it might become a regular annual event. For 2019 we decided on Rewilding as the subject. Sir Charles Burrell, Chair of Rewilding Britain and owner of the Knepp estate with its Wildland Project, presented visions for rewilding our finest landscapes.

During the year events for members included walks and visits to see the work of the National Trust on open habitat, tree planting, ponds and education facilities at Foxbury, and progress being made by the RSPB at their Franchises Lodge nature reserve.

Last year's report about 2018 made to the 2019 AGM included the comment: "Recreation management continued to be a major issue for us through the year. Frustrated at the slow progress by the statutory authorities we remain convinced that this is the most pressing issue needing to be addressed within the Forest and significant action must be taken to review and change the recreation infrastructure within the Forest." Twelve months on it would be good to report on positive progress, but the reality of 2019 has been very much the same.

Towards the end of the year issues about 'Climate Change' grew as a topic of national news up to and through the general election with political parties taking a populist stance in outbidding each other with tree planting proposals. We have no doubt that climate change, more properly called a 'Climate Crisis' will be a growing concern with implications for the New Forest. The related, but not always directly causally linked, global issue of a 'Species Extinction Crisis' has equal significance for the New Forest with its diverse and scarce habitats. This came to the fore at the end of the year with objections being made to proposed tree felling at Slap Bottom and demands to know the views of our Association. We responded by issuing a statement explaining the value and international importance of New Forest bogs and heaths together with the enhanced capacity of the New Forest to absorb carbon through a programme of wetland restoration.

In tandem with the privilege of living in the New Forest is the ever-present reality of an increasing number of visitors and traffic and, as explained in the Planning Committee report below, with the new Local Plans there will be a serious increase in the future number of new residents. We can only hope that they take a keen interest and appreciation of the area and join Friends of the New Forest to help us safeguard these unique surroundings.

Chair - John Ward

Planning & Transport Committee Report

The committee are advised of all planning applications submitted to the NFPA and make appropriate representations when necessary. In general terms we are supportive of the Authority's policies although a notable exception was the inclusion in the Draft Local Plan of land to the south of Fawley Power Station for residential development with 120 dwellings. Unfortunately, despite our legal representation and strong objections made to the

Inspectors and NFPA members the new Local Plan (2016 – 2036) was adopted by the Authority in August. To add to our disappointment the Inspectors weakened the wording regarding the provision of affordable homes. However, on the plus side all new homes whether open market, affordable or commoners' dwellings will be limited to an internal floor area of 100 sq. metres.

We also had to contend with the examination of the NFDC Local Plan with its proposals for the redevelopment of the Power Station site and elsewhere with 10,420 dwellings in close proximity to the National Park boundary. Again, our objections both written and made verbally at the Examination in Public went unheeded and as before, the Inspectors' Main Modifications (Jan.2020) weakened the wording to '*at least* 10,420 dwellings'. We voiced our concerns regarding the extra traffic and also objected to the loss of green belt but with a Government intent on reaching the magic number of 300,000 dwellings per annum it was unlikely to be a different outcome. Nonetheless we are closely monitoring the current detailed planning applications for the Power Station site and will continue to speak out for the protection of the Forest; and the anticipated applications for other allocated sites at Ashurst, Sway and Lyndhurst will come under our scrutiny.

The recent sale of Lyndhurst Park Hotel to a local company was welcome news with the expectation that the site will now be developed in a more sympathetic manner than the previous owners had envisaged. Two heavily criticised redevelopment applications which we and 800 others objected to were rightly refused and the building, once a landmark entry point to the village is now quite derelict and unsafe. The Local Plan stipulates a maximum of 50 dwellings with 50% being affordable as a benchmark for the site but the loss of a formerly successful 59 bedroom Hotel with some historical interest is to be regretted.

An expected planning application by National Grid to remove pylons across Hale Purlieu did not materialise and the project was 'paused' with no expectation of it being continued.

We were happy to add our support to the imaginative scheme put forward by RSPB for an Outdoor Study Centre at Cameron's Cottage, Franchises Wood which meets a key aim of the FoNF Agenda in providing education, information and understanding of the Forest's special qualities and is in keeping with the ethos of a National Park.

A continuing live issue is the Government consultation for reforming permitted development rights to support the deployment of 5G infrastructure and extend mobile phone coverage in rural areas. This sets out to make it easier for telecommunications providers to install base stations and erect masts, sometimes in excess of the current height limit of 20 metres without the need for prior consultation with planning authorities even within National Parks. While understanding the need to improve connectivity we are supporting the Campaign for National Parks stance that the Prior Notification procedure should remain, particularly where there is potential intrusion and damage to protected landscapes. Two examples currently in the spotlight where the relaxations could apply are the controversially re-sited mast at Hyde Common and the proposed mast at Stockley Inclosure.

Chair Planning and Transport Committee - Bernie Austin

Habitat & Landscape Committee Report

Frustration would be my key word for 2019. Whether waiting for the National Park Authority to stop dithering on recreation, the District Council to take adequate regard for the habitat they envelop, and of course some political paralysis on all fronts while government business became increasingly engulfed in the issue of Brexit.

Overgrazing - A mere 48 hours after the ink had dried on our annual report last year, confident that this perennial issue had been put into touch for another cycle, a celebrity intervention, abetted by a lopsided BBC approach (which excluded the ecologist they had been offered for rebuttal), made us trot round the course again. I won't rehash here, but will add two salient points usually glossed over in the discussion.

Although some extreme poaching is occurring on sites near some of the cattle herds, which have increased under current subsidy, there are also, due to market property values, areas which may be undergrazed as commoners have been priced out.

Many, including those who should know better, have misrepresented Natural England's position as including ideal numbers of livestock on the Forest: no such figure exists. In fact, their SAC management Plan for the Forest takes a couple of pages to argue against the formulation of such an oversimplified hard and fast number. Instead, they offer two somewhat general metrics, condition of the Forest and the livestock (the latter regularly confirmed positively by welfare checks). We will continue to press for subsidies rewarding stewardship, structured with inherent monitoring to show benefit to the habitat.

Forest Design Plan - The process by which the FDP may be adopted included an Environmental Impact Assessment for the portion of the plan mandating deforestation/clear-felling to restore underlying habitats and grazing. We were disappointed that this did not lead to a full Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the entire plan proposal. On the plus side, Forestry England have now committed to developing a comprehensive design plan for the whole of the Crown Lands, the open forest and the Inclosures (only the latter are in the FDP) within 5 years. Along with an update to the Natural England SAC management plan within that timeframe, there could be a properly joined up design, which must be subjected to a HRA.

Recreation - The National Park Authority put forward Local Development Orders as a major element of their Recreation Management Strategy proposals. It's not a bad thing, but is only a mechanism to streamline planning for infrastructure changes, for example, to Forest car parks. This does not make up for a lack of practical proposals to deliver management. The intention to develop a sensitivity map (designating areas which would be given more ostensible protection by strategic car park placement) does not include a survey of agreed habitat indicators. A report on Forest usage by 'Footprint Ecology' has been commissioned. This will be useful, but the preliminary results event focused too much on improving the experience for visitors rather than on how we might effectively protect the Forest from overuse by giving users attractive recreation alternatives.

NFDC Local Plan - One positive success from our efforts this year's efforts was that we successfully argued that the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust should have a voice at the 'Section 8 - Protecting the Environment' session of the Plan Examination. They, along with the RSPB stated categorically that the District Council could not possibly mitigate for the habitat impacts of 10,500 new homes in the plan period, calling for the current rate of building, roughly a quarter of this, to be maintained.

Sadly, we were excluded from participating in this session, though allowed at others less relevant to our submission. More disheartening is that the current indicators are that the examiners have ignored this entirely, leaving the plan open to legal challenge, which may never come due to scant resources.

Summary of 2019 Government Reports - September brought the publication of The Landscapes: National Parks and AONB, or Glover Report. It has many proposals which we broadly support:

- Ambition not to merely conserve our habitats but to recover them.
- Continued emphasis on the Sandford principle, placing conservation over recreation.
- Calls for regular and robust assessment of our habitats to inform decisions.
- The National Park Authority's role within Nature Recovery Networks which should extend beyond Park boundaries for consideration under National Planning Policy.
- A National Landscapes Service including rangers at levels to adequately manage engagement with the public, and
- Accountability of Park Authorities for delivery of its first purpose which would now include "Recover, conserve and enhance natural beauty, biodiversity, natural capital, and cultural heritage."

The Government response is still awaited, but we have joined with the Campaign for National Parks in asking that they be given due consideration and meaningful funding.

The 2019 State of Nature Report includes grim news that almost half of the birds, half of the fungi and a quarter of the UK's mammals are at risk of extinction and both population numbers of wildlife and their distribution across the UK have been declining. The UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) reported that nearly 1 million species worldwide are at threat of extinction, with top of the blame list loss of habitat to the urbanisation of forests, grasslands and other areas. The State of the Park Report for the New Forest sets out that only just over half (53%) of the Park's SSSIs are in Favourable Condition. With these challenges the New Forest National Park Authority should not be shy in fighting for the necessary resources to fulfil its First Purpose.

Chair Habitat & Landscape Committee - Brian Tarnoff

C Treasurer's Report 2019

Income - Our total receipts increased to £19,000 up from £13,700 in 2018. The main difference was due to Gift Aid reclaim. In 2019 we received the claim for 2018, and also for Jan – June 2019 (we have now started to claim this on a six-monthly basis rather than annually). Besides Gift Aid the rest of the income was in line with the levels of 2018.

Payments - Our total payments of £12,000 were £5,000 lower than the £17,500 in 2018. The main variances were the reduction in Professional Fees. In 2018 we had paid £7,200 in legal fees to argue against the allocation of the Fawley Waterside site. Unfortunately this was approved despite our objections. The costs for office supplies, postage and magazine printing were much higher in 2019. This was due to a delayed payment in 2019 instead of in 2018 for one magazine mailing that was sent out in late 2018.

Grants given - This year we gave grants of £6,500. Last year's figure was high due to a one-off grant for the purchase of part of the Hamptworth Estate by the RSPB.

Grants given to the National Park Authority for their schemes of Restoring Lost Landscapes and the Apprentice Rangers Scheme have now come to a close – these were three-year commitments.

Net surplus - Our net surplus for the year was £473.

Statements of Assets and Liabilities - Our cash funds of £99,000 are roughly the same as in 2018.

Our investment in M&G Charity Bonds increased slightly from £96,000 to £98,000.

Gift Aid reclaim has reduced from £3,780 to £124 as we have received all the monies due to us. £124 is still due for the period July – Dec 2019.

Overall the charity's finances are in good health.

Thank you for your support.

(Detailed year end 2019 tables for the charity's receipts and payments and for assets and liabilities are published on the Associations website and will be available at the AGM.)

Hon Treasurer - Brandy Gill

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS YEAR END DECEMBER 31st 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
INCOME		
<i>Charity Activities</i>		
Members' Subscriptions	8236.00	7683.00
Donations	1286.15	1653.45
Event Tickets	1000.00	703.80
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim (for previous year & to End June)	5090.11	0.00
Trading Activities (book sales)	228.00	186.00
	15840.26	10226.25
<i>Other Receipts</i>		
Bank Interest	956.99	947.42
Charibond Dividends	2210.36	2565.59
	3167.35	3513.01
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>19007.61</u>	<u>13739.26</u>
PAYMENTS		
<i>Charity Activities</i>		
Council Expenses (travel, meetings, conferences)	1010.28	1507.50
Insurance	406.48	363.66
Events & Shows	416.49	201.35
Ticket Source Fees	77.35	0.00
Office Supplies and Postage	2082.16	890.70
Newsletters & Reports (Printing)	3590.48	2408.66
Subscriptions	592.00	592.00
Bank / Paypal Charges	44.77	39.06
Admin & Bookkeeping Expenses	3000.00	3000.00
Advertising, Public Relations, Website	798.40	794.77
Professional Fees	0.00	7200.00
Misc Expenses	15.71	0.00
	12034.12	16997.70
<i>Other Payments</i>		
Grants Given		
Tour Bus Advert	500.00	500.00
NPA Apprentice Rangers	6000.00	6000.00
NPA Restoring Lost Landscapes	0.00	5000.00
RSPB Land Purchase	0.00	25000.00
	6500.00	36500.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>18534.12</u>	<u>53497.70</u>
Net Receipts	473.49	-39758.44
Cash Funds Opening Balance	98469.69	138228.13
Cash Funds Ending Balance	<u>98943.18</u>	<u>98469.69</u>

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES YEAR END DECEMBER 31st 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
Cash Funds		
Lloyds Current Account	3298.81	3461.33
PayPal	248.00	568.79
Barclays Dep Acc.	1592.29	1588.58
Shawbrook Bank 1	22164.40	21923.24
Shawbrook Bank 2	51903.50	51338.77
Virgin Bank	19736.18	19588.98
	<u>98943.18</u>	<u>98469.69</u>
Investment Assets		
M&G Charibond: Opening Value	96410.41	100160.10
Increase/Decrease in value	1515.66	-3749.69
	<u>97926.07</u>	<u>96410.41</u>
Assets for the Charity's Use		
New Forest Embroidery	100.00	100.00
	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Stock for Retail Sales		
Stock for Retail Sales: Opening Value	789.48	842.28
Less: value of goods sold	-73.92	-52.80
	<u>715.56</u>	<u>789.48</u>
Other Monetary Assets		
Gift Aid Receivable:		
Opening Balance*	0.00	2162.94
Gift Aid on Subscriptions & Donations	124.00	1616.88
	<u>124.00</u>	<u>3779.82</u>
LESS: Accounts Payable		
Document Despatch: Newsletter Postage	0.00	589.68
Document Despatch: Newsletter Printing	0.00	766.40
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1356.08</u>
TOTAL Other Monetary Assets:	<u>124.00</u>	<u>2423.74</u>

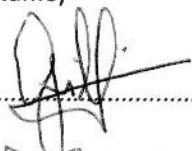
* Gift Aid reclaimed but not yet received.

Notes on the Accounts

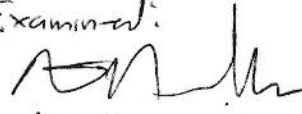
1. The Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared as a summary of receipts and payments made during the year by the New Forest Association.
2. These Accounts have been prepared in a format which complies with guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees

..... (Name) (Date)



 B. GILL 13/2/2020

Examined:

 A.S. HAMILTON, F.C.A.
 12/2/2020. C.T.A.

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the New Forest Association

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2019, which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Direction given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

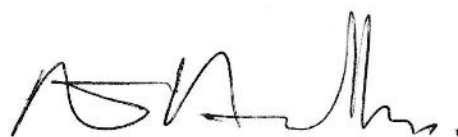
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Acts; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alan Hamilton
Address
Date

 F.C.A., & T.A.
7 AVENUE ROAD, NEW MILTON, BH25 5JT
12/2/2020.