

New Forest Association (Registered Charity No: 260328).

Annual General Meeting

To be held at 10.30 am, Saturday 15th April 2023 at Minstead Village Hall, Minstead, SO43 7FX

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM – to approve the minutes (A)
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To adopt the Annual Report (B)
5. Treasurer's report - to receive and adopt the Annual Accounts (C)
and authorise the Board of Trustees to appoint the independent accounts examiner
6. Election of Trustees – Clare Gouldstone, Christopher Counsell and Sarah Richardson have been co-opted as trustees since the 2022 AGM and have been nominated.
7. Election of Officers: The following persons have been nominated - Chair: John Ward, Vice Chair: Vacant;
Hon Secretary: Sarah Nield; Treasurer: Christopher Winter
- 10 Election of President: Vacant
- 11 Election of Vice Presidents: Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre and Peter Frost have been nominated
- 12 Revised Membership fees (D)

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

Held on 28th April 2022

1. **Present:** 40 members in person and 21 by proxy
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Gerry Edwards, Anthony Climpson, Christine Parkhouse, John Saulet, Emma Blake, Mike Read, George Hollobone, Roger Taylor, Susan Bishop, Ralph Montagu, Julian Lewis MP, Annette Hayward, Joe Hayward, William Ziegler, Sara Ziegler, Tara Demsey, Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, Peter Roberts, Matthew Kelly and Sarah Cadbury
3. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM** held virtually on 30th June 2021 were approved.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** - none.
5. **The Trustees 2021 Annual Report** was received and adopted.
6. **The Treasurer's 2021 Annual Report and Annual Accounts** were received. The Annual Accounts were adopted and Alan Hamilton was re-appointed as the Independent Accounts Examiner.
7. **Election of Trustees** - Clive Chatters was elected a Trustee and Bernie Austin and Brian Tarnoff were both re-elected as trustees.
8. **Election of Council** - it was noted that there were no additional Council members nominated for election.
- 9 **Election of Officers** – The following were elected to the stated posts:
Chair - John Ward, Vice Chair – Gale Pettifer, Hon Secretary – Sarah Nield, Hon Treasurer – Brandy Gill
10. **Election of President** – Matthew Kelly was re-elected as President
11. **Election of Vice Presidents** – Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre and Peter Frost were re-elected as Vice Presidents.
12. **Amendment of Constitution** – a revised constitution recommended by the Trustees for adoption was tabled before the meeting. It was noted that the revised constitution was drafted following the Charity Commissioner's recommended model form adapted to meet the structure and workings of the Association in particular: the Objects (Clause 3) had been refined to reflect with greater accuracy the Objects of the Association. These amendments have been approved by the Charity Commission.

Provision was made for virtual notices and meetings – Clauses 21 and 23.

The evolution of the Association to a Members' Association governed by a Board of Trustees was facilitated by members being appointed to Council by the Trustees rather than the Members although Members' recommendations continue to be important and welcomed - Clause 20.

After discussion, particularly on Clause 20, the meeting resolved to amend the Constitution to the form annexed to the Notice of the Meeting and set out in Appendix of these Minutes. The recorded votes were:

For by proxy 34, in person at AGM 10, TOTAL 44	Total attending AGM
Against by proxy 0, in person at AGM 4, TOTAL 4	in person or by proxy
Abstain by proxy 0, in person at AGM 1, TOTAL: 1	and voting 49

The amendments to the constitution were approved (89.9% voting for)

B Annual Report 2022

President: Matthew Kelly; **Vice-Presidents:** Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre, Peter Frost

Chair: John Ward; **Vice-Chair:** Gale Pettifer

Hon Secretary: Sarah Nield; **Hon Treasurer:** Brandy Gill

Trustees: Bernie Austin; Clare Gouldstone; Clive Chatters; Brian Tarnoff; William Ziegler

Council Members: Jonathan Cox; Tara Dempsey; Roly Errington; Tony Hockley; Keith Howe; Jo Ivey
David Humbert; Richard Reeves; Neil Sanderson; Ann Sevier; Jenni Tubbs; (Russell Wynn resigned during 2022)

At the end of 2022 there were 659 Association memberships with 780 members, which is very similar to 2021

Trustees and Council Report

2022 provided some let up in the restrictions imposed because of Covid 19, but we continued to hold video conference meetings of Council, the Board of Trustees and some of our committee meetings. We continued to offer online proxy voting for the AGM, but also managed to get together for the AGM itself, which included an introduction to and talk by Craig Harrison the Forestry England Deputy Surveyor

Formal meetings of Council were held six times and for the Board of Trustees six times during 2022. In addition there were regular meetings of the Habitats and Landscape Committee and the Planning and Transport Committee. At the end of 2022 there were nine trustees and ten 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). We 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 2022 include:

- Ofgem consultation on visual amenity allowance
- Attendance at Park Protector Awards in the House of Commons
- Government Response to the Landscapes Review (Glover Report)
- Government consultation on biodiversity net gain

We participated in the National Parks Societies Conference held this year in Wales and hosted by the Snowdonia Society. Our proposed resolution calling on governments in England and Wales to give Protected Landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) their full backing in legislation was unanimously agreed by all National Park Societies and Campaign for National Parks who then signed an appropriate joint declaration to be sent to Government and publicised.

The two FoNF slide show presentations (The story of the Association and the New Forest from the mid 19th century until today, and about The New Forest coast) continued to be popular and were given to 10 groups, reaching over 400 people, most of whom had not previously heard of us and gaining donations to support our work to protect the Forest. These talks given online have enabled us to maintain some contact with the general public, and during 2023 we have again given talks in various venues to live audiences.

Many FoNF Members participated in the Byelaw Watch survey organised by our Association, the results of which have been very helpful in highlighting both the range of issues and the scale of impacts currently taking place Forest. They have also focused our attention on the most pressing problems about which we should be campaigning.

The Association trustees spent a considerable amount of time dealing with issues to do with the Forestry England New Forest campsites, arising from a national Forestry England decision to tender for the management of these sites. Unfortunately this was not a process specifically tailored to the needs of the New Forest and various issues concerning the previous leases, their legal validity, and the requirement (or not) for the consent of the Court of Verderers were all unresolved. We worked with the Verderers and jointly funded obtaining legal advice as well as being fortunate to have an Hon Secretary with appropriate legal skills and knowledge of New Forest legislation. Following protracted correspondence with FE headquarters, they have finally confirmed that the previous excessively long 75 years leasehold title is now closed. We are relieved that the campsites are now to be run by the New Forest Show Society, a not-for-profit organisation that is locally based. We look forward to participating in the advisory group that has been established and we will press for the promotion of sustainable campsites without harmful impact on the ecology of the Forest.

Chair - John Ward

Planning & Transport Committee Report

In addition to weekly checking of the National Park Authority's planning lists our committee meet every other month to discuss development applications and planning matters affecting the Forest. This can include Government legislation, proposals by Utility companies, changes to road infrastructure and Local Plans in adjacent Authority areas.

This year over 900 applications were submitted to the NFNPA and although many were of a non-controversial domestic nature a few were of a larger scale requiring closer inspection.

The proposal to intensify the use of Greenhill Farm at Landford from a relatively low-key camping site to a more formal holiday park with 174 lodges, unsurprisingly attracted considerable opposition from

local residents. We submitted constructive and critical comments but had to accept that due to the rather outdated Caravan Acts a significant part of the application came within 'permitted development.'

Following several amendments including a reduced site area and a limit of 150 units the NFNPA granted approval in November.

A more modest camping area was proposed at Hale by way of an application to the Caravan and Camping Club for use of land as a Certified Exemption Site. These sites do not require formal planning consent although the Local Authority must be notified and approval granted from Natural England. On the advice of our Habitats and Landscape Committee we lodged an objection as to its impact on the qualifying features of a New Forest Natura 2000 site and were promptly informed by the C and CC that they would not be proceeding with this application.

As from September 2022 an Article 4 direction took effect in the New Forest National Park so similar sites will not be exempt and the normal planning process will apply.

While understanding the demand and benefits of recreational facilities these must be very tightly controlled to avoid further damage to the tranquillity and special features of the Forest so we are keeping a watchful eye on a preliminary proposal for a holiday park at Pound Bottom. A large-scale tourist facility at this remote and sensitive location would run contrary to local planning policies and increase traffic on unfenced roads so we will have serious objections should a formal detailed planning application be submitted.

Of the allocated development sites in the Local Plan, 62 dwellings at Whartons Lane Ashurst has full planning approval; 46 dwellings at Church Lane Sway are pending a decision and work on redeveloping Lyndhurst Park Hotel with 79 dwellings and 3 commercial units is now well underway.

These sites all rightly include a percentage of properties for affordable rent and with the high cost of achieving home ownership in the NFNP more of these are needed.

Two applications for 'affordable' homes were being considered by the NFNPA at the year-end; 5 dwellings at Southampton Road Cadnam and 10 at New Inn Road Bartley both being valid 'rural exception sites' under Policy SP28 of the Local Plan. We objected to the former as we do not agree with the applicant's short term rental proposals but supported the latter as this is well designed, backed by a Rural Housing Association and complies with policy.

An outline application for a 70 bed Care Home on the allocated site at Ashurst Hospital has been submitted. It exceeds the '30 units' set out in Policy SP23 of the Local Plan so a reduction in number will probably be necessary for it to be approved. However, in view of the acute problems facing community care and subject

to more detailed information we are generally supportive of this proposal.

For the most part, the National Park is well protected from large scale development but volume housing and increased industrial activity are now edging closer to the boundary. The effects on the Forest of a Solent Freeport, formally designated by the government in early December to encourage investment with the prospect of more jobs and economic growth, remain to be seen. The Port area, which includes sites at Marchwood and Fawley, will be relatively free from taxation and planning controls and if successful will lead to greater commercial activity, traffic, light pollution and probably more housing.

We will also have to be alert to any proposals that may come forward through the 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' route (NSIP) for Dibden Bay, designated as a Strategic Land Reserve in the New Forest District Local Plan. As with the Freeport the local planning authorities would be consultees but not the decision makers.

The physical eastern boundary of the National Park is, of course, the A326 where the southern end between Marchwood and Fawley has been upgraded over recent months with improvements to junctions and roundabouts. The northern section between West Totton and Dibden is a little more contentious involving widening with an additional lane that will have an environmental impact on the National Park. A further public consultation by Hampshire County Council is expected by midsummer.

Finally, my thanks to all committee members for their time, support and valuable local knowledge. We welcome new members so if you have a professional or general interest in planning matters affecting the Forest please contact the Secretary.

Chair Planning and Transport Committee Bernie Austin

Committee members: Graham Baker, Alison Bolton, Phillip Butt, Roly Errington, Ann Sevier, Mike Thomas.

Habitat & Landscape Committee Report

With the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, the H&L committee has been pleased to resume meeting 'in person' as well as taking the opportunity to meet on the Forest. Over the last year we have been delighted to welcome Sam Haynes, Ade Parker and Julie Stubbs to our ranks, who bring fresh perspectives and a wealth of knowledge including ecology and land management.

As in previous years, we have participated in opportunities posed by 'consultative processes' promoted by government agencies. There seems to be a great many of these meetings at present and, at times, it is difficult to see what return we get from the time invested. One of our themes for the future will be pressing statutory bodies to consider how they make best use of their consultees.

One of our themes this year is looking into how statutory bodies are meeting their obligations for

protected species, be that highly protected rarities or commonplace problems such as safeguarding birds on the nest. We believe there is much room for improvement on current practice and we ask members to continue to let us know of their concerns.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Byelaw Watch survey. This is proving very useful in quantifying the challenges of how best to manage demands on the Forest.

This coming year we are planning to get more deeply involved in the water quality debate. There is a growing understanding of the unacceptability of sewage discharges into Forest streams, and we look forward to marked improvements by the water companies. There are also more pernicious sources of toxic pollution associated with veterinary compounds and so we are exploring opportunities to work with partnership to define the nature of the problem and to identify practical remedies.

We look forward to meeting members at the forthcoming walks and talks. In the meantime, I can be contacted on habitat.fonf@gmail.com

Chair Habitat and Landscape Committee Clive Chatters

Committee members: Jon Cox, Tara Dempsey, Peter Frost. Sam Haynes, Ade Parker, Richard Reeves, Neil Sanderson, Julie Stubbs, Brian Tarnoff, Jenni Tubbs, Russell Wynn

C Treasurer's Report 2022

Income - Total income of £13,488 is in line with last year's £13,552. The small variations include a slight increase in membership subscriptions and donations, offset by a slight decrease in dividends from our holding of M&G charity bonds.

Payments - Total payments of £10,343 are higher than last year's £7,838. This is due to;

-- Higher spending on publishing Forest Matters magazine for our members.

-- Subscription of £619 paid to the Campaign for National Parks.

--increase in bookkeeping expenses after two years of no increase.

The Association does not have any employees and no fees are paid to Trustees or Council members. The only fee we pay is for bookkeeping and Administrative services.

Surplus - We generated a surplus of £3,144 from which we gave a grant of £1,500 to Mycological Remediation Pilot project, leaving a net surplus of £1,644

Assets/Liabilities - The year's net surplus of £1,644 increased our cash holdings to £111 K, which is held in three banks. Our investment in M&G charity bonds showed a decline of £10,152 as a result of declines in the stock and bond markets.

Thank you for your support.

Hon. Treasurer - Brandy Gill

Bookkeeping & membership administration: Juliet Lynn

The 2022 Financial Accounts are attached at ANNEX 1

D Revised Membership fees

Our membership fees have not been increased for nearly 15 years .

It is now felt that with increased inflationary pressures and to maintain at least the bi-annual frequency of our magazine and increase the level of our grant giving in support of campaigns or projects to enhance or protect the Forest it is necessary to increase our fees from 1st January 2024.

Membership fees to increase from the week ending 1st January 2024 as follows:

Individual membership - paid via direct debit up from £15 to £20
- paid by cheque up from £17 to £22

Joint membership. - paid via direct debit up from £25 to £30
- paid by cheque up from £29 to £34

Corporate and life membership-- no change

Proposed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by Brandy Gill (Hon Treasurer)

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS YEAR END DECEMBER 31st 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
INCOME		
<i>Charity Activities</i>		
Members' Subscriptions	8063.00	7888.00
Donations	1467.68	1397.75
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim (for previous year/s)	1654.42	1764.60
Trading Activities (book sales)	70.00	60.00
	11255.10	11110.35
<i>Other Receipts</i>		
Bank Interest	496.38	467.91
Charibond Dividends	1736.68	1973.52
	2233.06	2441.43
TOTAL RECEIPTS	13488.16	13551.78
PAYMENTS		
<i>Charity Activities</i>		
Council Expenses (travel, meetings, conferences)	903.11	348.88
Insurance	347.13	342.37
Office Supplies and Postage	1704.95	1835.71
Newsletters & Reports (Printing)	2112.06	1430.47
Subscriptions (Campaign for National Parks)	619.00	0.00
Bank / Paypal Charges / GoCardless Fees	68.25	58.06
Admin & Bookkeeping Expenses	3600.00	3000.00
Advertising, Public Relations, Website	798.32	822.25
Events & Shows	191.00	0.00
	10343.82	7837.74
<i>Other Payments</i>		
Grants Given:		
Mycological Remediation Pilot Project	1500.00	0.00
East Boldre Speed Indicator Device	0.00	350.00
	1500.00	350.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	11843.82	8187.74
Net Receipts	1644.34	5364.04
Cash Funds Opening Balance	109498.39	104134.35
	111142.73	109498.39

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION (Registered Charity 260328)
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES YEAR END DECEMBER 31st 2022

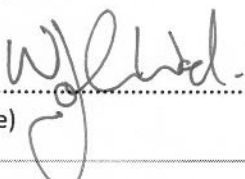
	2022 £	2021 £
Cash Funds		
Lloyds Current Account	14578.92	13730.51
PayPal	922.86	623.31
Shawbrook Bank 1	22661.54	22528.62
Shawbrook Bank 2	53067.65	52756.39
Virgin Bank	19911.76	19859.56
	111142.73	109498.39
Investment Assets		
M&G Charibond: Opening Value	95652.58	99054.33
Increase/Decrease in value	-10151.79	-3401.75
	85500.79	95652.58
Assets for the Charity's Use		
New Forest Embroidery	100.00	100.00
Stock for Retail Sales		
Stock for Retail Sales: Opening Value	662.76	680.36
Less: value of goods sold	-21.12	-17.60
	641.64	662.76
Other Monetary Assets		
Gift Aid Receivable*	1707.88	1652.88
LESS: Accounts Payable (Newsletter Printing):	0.00	-323.92
	1707.88	1328.96

*** Gift Aid on subscriptions & donations 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

	25/03/2023
(Name)	(Date)
	25/03/2023
(Name)	(Date)

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

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 2022, 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

7 AVENUE ROAD, NEW MILTON, BH25 5JP
28/2/2023.