



31 August 2023

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, you are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Lymington & Pennington Town Council which will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lymington on **6 September 2023 at 6.00pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme on anything which is in the specific remit of the Council, at the beginning of the meeting. In certain circumstances, for matters which are included on the Agenda, they may be specifically invited by the Chairman to speak when the Agenda item is called. In these circumstances they may only speak before members have started to debate the item. No member of the public shall speak for more than three minutes in total at any one meeting.

Members of the public may attend via video conferencing. Upon request, a link to the virtual meeting can be sent to the member of public.

Please note that this meeting will be recorded.

Louise Young
CEO/Town Clerk

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC MAY ATTEND

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest on any items on the Agenda.
- 3. Public Participation**
To note any matters raised during the public participation.
- 4. Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 26 July 2023**
To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting.
- 5. Sea Water Bath Treatment Costs**
To consider report

6. Health and Safety Audit

To consider report

7. Motion – Cllr Gray

To consider Motion

8. To receive verbal reports from Town Councillors

9. To receive verbal reports from District Councillors

10. To receive a verbal report from the County Councillor

11. Forthcoming Meetings

13 September 2023, 6pm Planning

3 October 2023, 10.30am Policy and Resources

16 October 2023, 6pm Amenities

12. Next Meeting

To confirm the next meeting of the Council will be held on **Wednesday 25 October 2023** in the Council Chamber at 6pm.

Members: Cllr Jack Davies (Town Mayor), Cllr Colm McCarthy (Deputy Town Mayor), Cllr Thomas Brindley, Cllr Barry Dunning, Cllr Jacqui England, Cllr Sara Frost, Cllr Richard Gray, Cllr Martina Humber, Cllr Ted Jearrad, Cllr Jerry King, Cllr Iestyn Lewis, Cllr Ian Loveless, Cllr Simon Morgan, Cllr Alan Penson, Cllr Hannah Phillips



**Minutes of the Council Meeting
of Lymington & Pennington Town Council
held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lymington
on 26 July 2023 at 6.00pm**

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|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <u>PRESENT:</u> | Councillors | Jack Davies (Mayor) Barry Dunning Jacqui England Sara Frost Richard Gray Martina Humber Ted Jearrad Jerry King Iestyn Lewis Ian Loveless Simon Morgan Alan Penson Hannah Phillips |
| | Officers | Louise Young, CEO/Town Clerk Lesley Way, Deputy Town Clerk |
| | Also Present | 14 Members of Public |

45. Apologies for Absence

Received and approved from Cllr Brindley and Cllr McCarthy.

46. Declarations of Interest

None

47. Public Participation

One member of the public spoke about how many people opposed the proposed closure of the ticket office at Lymington Train Station and the negative effect it would have on the Town.

One member of the public spoke about the proposed closure of Solent Mead Care home and the detrimental effect this would have on residents and their families.

One member of the public spoke about the difficulties they are facing without a long-term lease at the Lawrence Boxing club.

48. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 21 June 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 21 June 2023 be signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr England. All in favour.

49. Buckland Farm Access Fund report

Resolved: That Council noted the report

50. Motion – Cllr Dunning

Cllr Dunning proposed a motion that New Forest District Council negotiate with Lawrence Boxing Club to secure a lease of 30 year with no break clause or restrictions to enable the club to apply for funding.

Cllr Humber agreed that a good lease is important to be able to get grants from sports associations. It's important that we support facilities for young people.

Cllr England asked Cllr Dunning what the issues have been with NFDC and are they making sure the building is being adequately maintained. Cllr Dunning replied that they haven't yet been able to establish why a longer lease has not been granted.

The member of public confirmed the land the building stands on is owned by NFDC, whereas the building is owned by the Club, so the maintenance is the responsibility of the club.

Resolved: That the Town Council requests New Forest District Council to negotiate with the Lawrence Boxing Club for a lease of 30 years without break clause or restriction. To enable the club to apply for funding from outside sources to carry out the much-needed restoration of the building and improvements to the changing rooms and showers.

By giving this lease, NFDC will help to ensure the future of the club, which continues to provide locals with a great facility for fitness, health, and well-being across many generations.

Proposed by Cllr Dunning, seconded by Cllr Penson. All in favour.

51. Motion – Cllr King

Cllr King proposed a motion about Hampshire County Council's decision to launch a consultation process on the closure of Solent Mead Care Home and the effect selling off the land would have on the residents, residents' families, and the local community.

Cllr Dunning proposed an amendment to the resolution:

'This Council calls on the Town Clerk to respond to the upcoming consultation and express the Council's opposition to the closure of Solent Mead until improved equivalent facilities are available conveniently located within the town. If all or part of the site is subsequently sold for development, it should be on condition that at least 50% of the dwellings constructed will be affordable as defined in the Local Plan'.

Cllr Gray commented that diluting the original motion would be admitting defeat. He added that we don't want it to close and therefore need the strength of the original motion.

Cllr England asked if anyone was aware what is owned by HCC and NFDC? She reported that the grassland around is owned by New Forest District Council and footprint of building is Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Penson added that it would wise to put a condition of the sale of site at this stage.

A vote was taken on the amendment.

Proposed by Cllr Dunning, seconded by Cllr Frost. 4 in favour, 7 against. 1 abstention.
Motion failed.

Cllr Jearrad said it was premature to think about what will happen to the land and we want to keep what we have already got. We need to think about the elderly people at the home and the impact on them of this move.

Cllr Dunning said he's written to the portfolio holder who has responded to several questions. They confirmed that no decision would be made before February 2024 and any closure would be 12 months after that. They advised that residents and their families would be supported throughout the process. They confirmed that they are working with landlords to secure a suitable site for a new care home in the New Forest and that Solent Mead would be unlikely to be considered as the site of the New Forest care home, as it would not be cost effective to invest in the facility.

Resolved: That the Council calls on the Town Clerk to respond to the upcoming consultation and express this Council's opposition to the closure of Solent Mead. This Council also opposes any plans to sell off the land to a developer.

Proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Jearrad. All in favour

52. Motion – Cllr Phillips

Cllr Phillips asked Councillors to support the Climate and Ecology Bill and to write to local MPs urging them to sign up to support the CE Bill.

Cllr Penson commented that the conservative group would support some of the bill, however there were parts they would not support as amendments have been made to the bill. He suggested withdrawing the current motion and updating it to the current bill.

Cllr England and Cllr Morgan agreed they were uncomfortable supporting this motion until it's been updated, and further research has been undertaken.

Motion withdrawn.

53. To receive verbal reports from Town Councillors

The Mayor gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan to report that the Steering Committee has agreed to an informal consultation on the draft plan and policies, in late September.

Cllr Jearrad reported he had visited Solent Mead and was very impressed.

Cllr Humber reported she had attended the Scouts AGM which was well attended. She attended an online Passenger Transport Meeting and reported that the Cango Bus would now be called Connect.

Cllr Gray reported he had attended an online briefing on the SS5 & SS6 sites. He had also attended the public exhibition of the Spit to Lymington Sea Defences project, adding that it was very sobering to see how rising sea levels could impact Lymington and Pennington in the future.

Cllr Lewis reported he had attended the Twinning Association AGM and any new members would be welcome.

54. To receive a verbal report from the District Councillors

Cllr England reported that she had attended the recent railway station protest against the closure of the ticket office, which was well attended, and had spoken to both Sir Desmond Swayne MP's agent and Sir Julian Lewis about setting up her premises as the campaign headquarters to provide an alternative to an online document for those who don't do that sort of thing.

Cllr England gave an update on 2 planning appeals she had attended. NFDC won the appeal for land to the rear of 24 The High Street and the appellant had permission refused. The application for 13 Quay Hill for a change of use from office back to residential has now been agreed by NFDC.

55. To receive a verbal report from the County Councillor

Cllr Dunning reported he had attended the Southern Flood Prevention meeting. He also urged everyone to complete the consultation for Solent Mead when it commences.

56. Forthcoming Meetings

- 16 August 2023 – Planning, 6pm
- 4 September 2023 – Amenities, 6pm
- 13 September 2023 – Planning, 6pm

57. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 18:00pm on 6 September 2023.

Meeting concluded at 7.08pm.

Date: **Chairperson's Signature:**

Expenditure required for Sea Water Baths treatment costs

Report to Full Council 6th September 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As part of our licence with Lynx Sports Management we are responsible for meeting the costs of treating the water in the pool and the costs of the water quality tests.
- 1.2 Lynx Sports Management undertake the works to keep the pool water correctly sanitised and we indemnify them against the cost of these works.
- 1.3 The budget allocated to treatment costs for 2023/2024 is £25,000.

2.0 DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The licence agreement initially allowed a sum of £25,000 for the treatment works, but this amount was to increase in line with RPI.
- 2.2 The indexed amount for this year after being increased in line with RPI would be calculated at £26,920.
- 2.3 The budget for 2023/2024 did not allow for the fact that the sum of £25,000 should be increased in line with RPI.
- 2.4 An additional sum of £1,920 is required for this expenditure to increase under the terms of our licence agreement.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the additional funds of £1920 required to meet the indexed costs are allocated from the Sea Water Baths reserve.

Sue Finnimore
RFO

Health and Safety Audit
Additional expenditure at Woodside Pavilion

Report to Full Council 6th September 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Each year we have a Health and Safety audit of various buildings in the ownership of the Town Council. This is undertaken by specialists from Peninsula.

2.0 DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The audit of Woodside Pavilion has identified that fire compartmentation needs to be fitted above the cafe and changing rooms. This is to prevent fire and smoke spreading through the roof space across the building.
- 2.2 With the café now operating on a regular basis it is essential that this action is carried out promptly.
- 2.3 Quotes have been requested but as yet only one received at the cost of £6095, this is from a contractor we use on a regular basis. Further quotes will be required and evaluated according to financial regulations.
- 2.4 The maintenance budget has already suffered from heavy use, which is likely to continue throughout the year, therefore it would be prudent to allocate funds from elsewhere. There is a modest health and safety budget, but this will be required for rectifying other actions highlighted in the reports.
- 2.5 The Council holds a reserve for buildings, which currently sits at £37,000. This would be a suggested reserve to fund the fire compartmentation.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the funds of a maximum of £6095 are allocated from the buildings reserves for the works highlighted in the Health and Safety audit for Woodside Pavilion.

L Young
CEO/Town Clerk

Motion: Councillor Gray

Seconded: Cllr Morgan

Lymington Town station ticket office staffing

This council notes with concern the proposals brought forward to the government from the Rail Delivery Group for the permanent closure of railway ticket offices, including the ticket office at Lymington Town station, and in the short term the reduction in staffed hours from 44 hours to 20 hours per week at Lymington Town station.

Lymington Town station provides a vital gateway to the town for both residents and visitors, and the staffed ticket office is an essential resource, especially for those who need extra help and support for their ticketing and journey. We are particularly concerned for the needs of the disabled and elderly, who may find difficulty in using the automated ticketing options, and for the safety of passengers on the station when it is unstaffed.

Proposal

This Council opposes the closure of the ticket office and the short-term reduction in staffing hours, and urges the Member of Parliament for New Forest West to petition the government to reverse these plans.”