



Lymington &
Pennington
Town Council

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20 July 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 **Wednesday 26 July 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 21 June 2023**
To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting.

5. **Buckland Farm Access Fund report**
To note update.
6. **Motion – Cllr Dunning**
To consider motion
7. **Motion – Cllr King**
To consider motion
8. **Motion – Cllr Phillips**
To consider motion
9. **To receive verbal reports from Town Councillors**
10. **To receive verbal reports from District Councillors**
11. **To receive a verbal report from the County Councillor**
12. **Forthcoming Meetings**
16 August 2023, 6pm Planning
4 September 2023, 6pm Amenities
6 September 2023, 6pm Council
13. **Next Meeting**
To confirm the next meeting of the Council will be held on **Wednesday 6 September 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 21 June 2023 at 6.00pm**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillors	Jack Davies (Mayor) Colm McCarthy (Deputy Mayor) Thomas Brindley 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 Sue Finnimore, Responsible Finance Office C Lodwidge, Committee Manager
	Also Present	7 Members of Public

25. Apologies for Absence

None.

26. Declarations of Interest

None

27. Public Participation

None

28. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 17 May 2023

The Town Clerk reported that a correction had been made to the Sub-Committees list titles.

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting were signed with an amendment to Item 12.

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

29. Report of CIL Monies Received 2022-2023

The RFO talked through the report of CIL monies received and what is being carried forward into this year's budget.

Resolved: That Council approve the report, and it is uploaded to the website.

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

30. Review Effectiveness of Internal Controls 2023

The RFO reported that this has been put together following the recent Audit to show the systems of internal control are effective for this Council.

Cllr Dunning and Cllr Penson congratulated the RFO for achieving a totally clean audit report for the third year in a row.

Cllr England asked if the books are open to the public for inspection and for what time period. The RFO confirmed that they are open from 3 July 2023 – 11 August 2023 for inspection.

Resolved:

- i. That the Internal Audit Report and action plan are noted.
- ii. That the Annual Governance Statement on Page 4 of the AGAR 2022/23 is approved.

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

The Mayor and the Town Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement, Section 1.

31. Conflict of Interest with BDO LLP

As part of their audit work, BDO have asked us to confirm that there are no conflicts of interest between Lymington and Pennington Town Council and BDO LLP.

Resolved:

- i. That no members declared a conflict of interest with BDO LLP.
- ii. That the Council complete the attached form with any conflicts of interest as declared and return to BDO LLP

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

32. Report on Final Accounts 2022/23

The RFO drew the members attention to page 34 of the report showing a brief summary of our financial accounts for the past 2 years, along with what is required to be submitted to our external auditors.

Cllr Brindley asked if we are also submitting a variance report to go along with the above. The RFO reported that because of the size of our Council there is very detailed additional information that has to be sent to the external auditors and a variance report would form part of this.

Cllr Humber commented that she was pleased that the income has gone up for the Sea Water Baths since Covid.

Resolved:

- i. That the actual income and expenditure accounts for 2022/23 and balance sheet as at 31 March 2023 is approved
- ii. A net transfer of £49,471 from provisions and earmarked reserves is approved.
- iii. Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/23 is approved.

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

The Mayor signed the Annual Governance Statement, Section 2.

33. Bin Project

Cllr Humber asked why after encouraging people to recycle, we are now using large mixed waste bins. The Town Clerk explained that unfortunately these are the bins that were advised by NFDC, and we are dependent on their collection.

Resolved:

- i. That phase two of the bins project is completed in 2023.
- ii. That the additional funds required to carry out phase 2 is allocated from the Open Space reserves.

Proposed by Cllr Brindley, seconded by Cllr Lewis. All in favour.

34. Expenditure Required for Tree Works

The Town Council is required to undertake a full survey of the condition of trees on our land. Following the results of the survey the works needing to be undertaken was far greater than the budget allocated for 2023/2024.

The Town Clerk said this is an ongoing issue and the budget for tree works will need to be looked at more accurately in the future.

Cllr Brindley fully supported the work but said with all the old trees in Lymington this is only going to get worse.

Cllr Dunning said it was imperative we keep on top on this for safety.

Cllr Morgan asked if the Council sell off any of the wood from trees cut down. The Town Clerk said this is something that could be investigated, but most of the works is pollarding with no major felling of trees. All green waste is normally put through the chipper and reused in the flower beds.

Resolved:

- i. That the Town Clerk, Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Town Mayor and Chairman of Amenities have delegated authority to approve the chosen contractor.

- ii. That the additional funds required to carry out the Medium Priority Tree Works are allocated from general reserves.

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

35. Securing Council Land

Following the recent illegal encampment at Pennington Recreation Ground it was suggested further height barriers be installed to secure Town Council land.

Cllr England said she was very much in favour and totally supported this recommendation.

Cllr Loveless asked if the sports gate at Lymington Sports Ground could be integrated with a height barrier. The Town Clerk confirmed she was aware of this.

Cllr Humber asked what was in place for emergency vehicles. The Town Clerk confirmed that the emergency services have the code or keys for these locations.

Resolved:

- i. That height barriers are added at Pennington Recreation Ground, Lymington Sports Ground, Avenue Road Car Park, and the Poles Lane access to Woodside Park.
- ii. That funds to cover the height barriers in approved locations is taken from CIL funds.

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

36. Motion Cllr Phillips

Cllr Phillips proposed a motion to the Town Council in relation to ongoing road repairs and proposals for a 20mph speed limit in Lymington.

Cllr Brindley asked if there are any plans to bring 20mph speed limits to Lymington. Cllr Dunning said at this time there are no plans to bring 20mph speed limits into Lymington and Pennington. Cllr England asked Cllr Dunning what was concluded by the task group he sat on and what the resolution was. Cllr Dunning reported that Hampshire County Council are still meeting on it and a proposal will be made within the next 2-3 months.

Cllr Brindley proposed an amendment to the wording of the proposal to include 'any' before the word 'proposals.'

Proposed by Cllr Brindley, seconded by Cllr Penson. 5 in favour, 9 against, 1 abstained.

Motion not carried.

Resolved:

That the Town Clerk invites Executive Lead Member for the Universal Services at Hampshire County Council, Councillor Nick Adams-King to attend an upcoming full meeting of this Council to give an update on ongoing road repairs and proposals for 20mph speed limits in Lymington and Pennington.

Proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Gray. 9 in favour, 3 against, 3 abstained.

37. To receive verbal reports from Town Councillors

The Mayor reported that he has had a busy start and has attended the following events since becoming mayor;

- 20 May – the Twinning Association Dinner with the Town Councillors from Vitre.
- 22-25 May – he visited all local schools and distributed Coronation coins from the Town Council
- 28 May – he attended the HMS Hood Service at St John the Baptist, along with Cllr Dunning
- 8 June – a Business Breakfast meeting at Belmore Lodge for Colten Care
- 9 June – the Colten Care celebration with Oakhaven
- 15 June – the Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at Lymington Community Centre, along with Cllr Gray

The Mayor advised there will be a meeting with the Police and the Heads of Committees on Monday 26 June 2023. If Councillors have any questions they would like to put to the Police, please speak to the Town Clerk.

Cllr McCarthy reported he had attended the Freemasonry in the Community event on the 23 June and had taken receipt of a cheque for the Mayor's Charity.

Cllr Jearrad spoke about the Lawrence Boxing Club having been refused a lease by NFDC on the property since 2016. This has had a massive knock-on effect in relation to its insurances and the ability to apply for funding. He asked if there is anything the District and County Councillors can do to support the club as it would be most grateful.

Cllr Phillips reported she had attended a celebration evening for the Breakout Youth charity on 16 June 2023.

38. To receive a verbal report from the District Councillors

Cllr England attended the planning Appeal for 24 High Street with the decision will be relayed back to this council.

Cllr England reported that she had written to the Crime Commissioner and the Chief of Police after there was a call from the general public wanting to speak with the Police. A sergeant will be facilitating an open session for all residents on Thursday 29 June 2023 at 6.30pm at St Thomas Church Hall.

Cllr England added that ongoing discussions are being held about using the Sea Waters Baths during in the winter months.

39. To receive a verbal report from the County Councillor

Cllr Dunning reported that Hampshire Highways has just received a further 25 million over a three-year period towards the repair of potholes.

40. Forthcoming Meetings

12 July 2023 – Planning, 6pm

17 July 2023 – Amenities, 6pm

19 July 2023 – Policy and Resources, 10.30am

41. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 18:00pm on 26 July 2023.

42. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr McCarthy. All in favour.

CONFIDENTIAL

43. Bank Mandates

Resolved:

That the Council authorises the new bank signatories for the Bank Mandates.

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

44. Tennis Report

Resolved:

- i. That the contract change, as per the Amenities resolution, to Fosse Contracts Ltd at a cost of £104,755, is approved.
- ii. That EcoClub is chosen as the contractor to carry out the replacement lighting attachments at a cost of £16,010.

Meeting concluded at 7.00pm.

Date: **Chairperson's Signature:**

Report from the Buckland Farm Access Fund Subcommittee

Report to Council 26th July 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council created the Buckland Farm Access Fund Subcommittee in May 2017 after receiving funds of £1.7m from providing access over its land in Alexandra Road. The subcommittee advises Council on expenditure of the income and provides progress updates regarding the approved projects.

THE PROJECTS AND UPDATES

2. **Lymington Community Association Celebrating 70 Project – Earmarked £ 900,000.**
The Lymington Centre, which has a footfall in excess of 4,000 a week, required a major refurbishment programme estimated at the time to cost approximately £2m, to secure its long term future.

To date £461,000 has been granted to the project, on a match-funded basis. These have funded projects following a predetermined plan, designed to minimise disruption and to provide a systematic basis for each phase. These improvements include the Pottery studio, Fuller Kitchen, Pre-School relocation, Wellington corridor and Wellington Kitchen refurbishment, Normandy Room refurbishment, installation of a new enlarged first floor lift, removal of central staircase, complete reconfiguration of aging main toilets, creation of Changing Places facility and installation of two new toilets on the first floor.

The remaining funds earmarked (£439,000) will contribute towards Phase 3b of the project, scheduled to take place in spring 2024. This includes demolition and reconstruction of the Malt Café and Kitchen leading to a modern expanded café and bar, with access from the Malt Theatre with an outside piazza offering significant benefits of greater usage and income.

3. **Pennington Pavilion Refurbishment and other Pennington Area Projects – Earmarked £500,000**

To date the Town Council has provided £155,848 funding towards the Pennington schemes with £344,151.97 remaining allocated.

Pennington Pavilion was refurbished in 2019. The pavilion has a license agreement in place with a local nursery group as well as being utilised by cricket and football.

A Pennington Village improvement scheme was recommended for the remainder of the funds. The commercial arm of Hampshire County Council was commissioned to draw up a draft proposal scheme. A workshop took place with local stakeholders in early 2020. Revisions were due back from HCC, if approved, they would go out to public engagement. The project was halted during the covid pandemic.

The Committee, Pennington Councillors and an officer from Hampshire County Council met on 4th October 2022 to discuss proposals for the Pennington Scheme. A wish list of potential improvements to the public realm was created from the original scheme. Quotations were requested from HCC for public engagement on the proposed scheme, landscape planning and a cost for estimating each part of the scheme. In April 2023 the subcommittee agreed to commission HCC, at a cost of £3450, to undertake a Policy and compliance review which included carrying out initial assessment of the outlined proposals against the HCC Local Transport Plan 4 and DfT Local Transport Note 1/20 (LTN1/20). As well as produce a costing of each element of the scheme for

LPTC to review.

Once these details have been received from HCC a further subcommittee meeting will need to take place to discuss the scheme and, if agreed, to undertake a public engagement exercise.

4. **Big Pot – Earmarked £100,000**

A pot of £100,000 to be available support bids from locally based community organisations with the objective of providing grants of between £10-20,000.

Grants have previously been awarded to:

£10,000 to St Marks Church for improvements to the toilet facilities in the Community Hall.

£30,000 jointly requested by Pennington infant and Junior Schools for improvements to the external areas outside the schools.

£10,000 to New Forest Disability toward expansion of their Head Office, including installation of a new lift.

£13,000 to St. Barbe Museum & Art Gallery for their “Preserving Lymington’s Heritage” project and specifically for refurbishment of the storage facility at Braxton.

£10,000 to Oakhaven Hospice towards an expansion of the car park.

£23,000 to Priestlands School towards the refurbishment of the school library to create a modern study centre for students.

In April 2023 the subcommittee agreed the remaining £4000 towards the creation of a transport plan that Hampshire County Council will produce as part of the Lymington Hospital Station Project.

5. **Lymington Quay Redevelopment Project Earmarked £100,000**

The original pledge to offer a total of £100k to work with NFDC and other interested parties to improve facilities on the Quay with the objective of making the area a better location to facilitate community events.

NFDC led the project as the landowner, with the Town Council and Lymington Harbour Commissioners as stakeholders.

Plans were produced for a new design to the toilet building along with changes to the car parking area to create more public realm. A full public consultation took place on the design before the Covid pandemic.

In October 2020 the start date for the Quay project was deferred for a year due to the pandemic and the budget available to the scheme. A revised scheme was being considered by NFDC.

Approval for the remainder of the funds was allocated by this Council in October 2020 towards works to improve the public realm only, with a view to negotiating a lease from NFDC on any kiosk that was created.

NFDC put forward a design for planning permission in early 2021. These plans were withdrawn and the project plan changed due to public concerns and the cost of the project being anticipated to go significantly over budget. The current toilet and shower block was refurbished in 2022 as a stop gap measure.

Currently NFDC have no active project for the Town Quay. Any discussion around improvements to the public realm have been advised by NFDC, that at the present time, they would have to be in the context that NFDC have no funds and would need any income from parking recovered during other uses.

6. Sea Water Bath Refurbishment Project – Earmarked £50,000

To date the Town Council has provided £24,518 from BFAF towards the scheme with £25,482 remaining allocated.

A Heritage Lottery Fund bid was originally put forward in 2019 following workshops with Councillors and SPUD, the consultants who were procured to submit the HLF bid. It was estimated that £3-4 million would be needed to successfully renovate and improve the baths. This would now be considerably more.

Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful as we were unable to satisfy some of the criteria required.

The sub-committee will consider resubmitting a bid later in 2023.

7. New Forest Basics Bank – Earmarked £50,000

£50,000 was granted to the New Forest Basics Bank in 2019 towards the new building for the Basics Bank.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the report and updates.

L Young
CEO/Town Clerk

Motion: Councillor Dunning

Seconded: Cllr Penson

Lawrence Boxing Club

Background

The Lawrence Boxing Club was founded in 1928 by Mr Syd Lawrence to give local boys the opportunity for physical recreation. Since then, thousands of local children and others have passed through its doors. The club is well known locally, with all manner of exercise classes also taking place there.

The premises are a 56-year-old building with a corrugated asbestos cement roof, no insulation and antiquated gas boilers, that urgently needs significant upgrades. Gas and electric bills topped £5k last winter.

Previous funding applications to the National Lottery and Sport England have all been refused due to the lack of a long lease.

The benefits to young people in the area are immense and it is particularly important that this club survives and thrives.

Proposal

That this Town Council requests NFDC to negotiate with the Lawrence Boxing Club a lease of 30 years without break clause or restriction. This will 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.

Motion: Councillor King

Council 26 July 2023

Solent Mead Care Home

This Council notes with deep concern Hampshire County Council's decision at their Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 19th July to launch a consultation on closing Solent Mead Care Home in Church Lane, Lymington, and selling off the land.

Solent Mead provides up to 35 residents with 24-hour residential care and also provides a day centre. The decision to close the site would mean that existing residents would have to be moved to the nearest Council-run Care Home with their local family members being forced to travel many miles more to visit them (if they are able to do so). The County Council are also expecting some staff members, who cannot relocate due to a lack of transport, to take voluntary redundancy.

This Council further notes that Hampshire County Council do not have a replacement site lined up despite planning to build an 80-100 bed care home somewhere in the New Forest. The report voted on by Hampshire County Council's Cabinet states that "the optimum site has yet to be identified". Whilst Hampshire County Council admit they are in discussions with both New Forest District Council and the NHS about potential sites, the Cabinet Report goes on to admit that, should the County Council need to buy land to build a new site, they will sell off Solent Mead and 2 other sites to do it. They expect this will provide them with £10-15 million to put towards developing a new site.

This Council believes that closing Solent Mead will make it harder for elderly people in Lymington and Pennington who can't afford the kind of luxury 24-hour care provided by private care homes in the town to access such care. We do not believe any new site, should it come forward in the next decade, will be close enough to our town to make up for the loss of Solent Mead. With an ageing population in Lymington and Pennington, it doesn't make sense.

Furthermore, we are concerned that if the County Council does sell the land to a developer, it will lead to yet another luxury retirement development being built. Lymington and Pennington already has enough luxury retirement developments being built. We don't need anymore.

Therefore, this 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.

Proposer: Cllr King

Seconder: Cllr Jearrad

Motion: Councillor Phillips

Council 26 July 2023

Climate & Ecology Bill motion

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and around the world. The global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with [28% of plants and animals](#) threatened with extinction. In fact, the UK is [one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world](#) as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are ‘worried about climate change and its effects’. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough’s *Save Our Wild Isles* initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at terrifying speed.

Climate & Ecology Bill

The Climate & Ecology Bill, a private member’s bill currently before the House of Commons, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was goal agreed to at COP15, via the [Kunming-Montreal Framework](#) (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with a fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the [Paris Agreement](#) (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government’s current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK’s food and energy security.

Lymington and Pennington Town Council notes that:

The [Climate and Ecology Bill](#), which has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by **168** cross-party MPs and Peers, **237** local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; environmental NGOs, such as The Wildlife Trusts and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank; and 30,000 members of the public.

The Bill would require the UK Government to develop and deliver a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, requiring a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing emissions in line with 1.5°C, ensure emissions are reduced rapidly, for the best chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Ensuring that no-one is left behind, by providing for retraining for people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving people a say in finding a fair way forward through an independent and temporary *Climate & Nature Assembly*, representative of the UK population, an essential tool for bringing public opinion along with the unprecedented pace of change required.

Lymington and Pennington Town Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents, and local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to local MPs Sir Desmond Swayne TD and Sir Julian Lewis to inform them that this motion has been passed, urging them to sign up to support the CE Bill, or thanking them for already doing so;
4. Write to [Zero Hour](https://www.zerohour.org/), the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing its support (campaign@zerohour.uk).

Proposer: Cllr Phillips
Seconder: Cllr Lewis