



Lymington &
Pennington
Town Council

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting
of Lymington & Pennington Town Council
held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lymington
on 21 February 2024 at 6.00pm**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillors	Jack Davies (Mayor) Colm McCarthy (Deputy Mayor) Thomas Brindley Barry Dunning Sara Frost Martina Humber Jerry King Iestyn Lewis Ian Loveless Hannah Phillips
	Officers	Louise Young, CEO/Town Clerk Lesley Way, Deputy Town Clerk
	Also Present	7 Members of Public

109. Apologies for Absence

Received and approved from Cllr Gray, Cllr Morgan and Cllr England, Cllr Penson and Cllr Jearrad.

110. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brindley, Cllr Davies and Cllr Dunning all declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.

111. Public Participation

1 member of the public spoke about Item 6

1 member of the public spoke on the Buckland Fund allocation.

112. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 10 January 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 10 January 2024 be signed as a correct record.

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

113. Sea Water Baths

The Town Clerk explained the remedial works required to be able to re-rent the building.

Resolved That funds of up to £10,000 are taken from the Sea Water Baths reserve to cover the cost of remedial works to the Sea Water Baths offices.

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

114. LCA – Request for Funds

Resolved:

- i. That the earmarked funds of £439,000, allocated from the Buckland Farm Access Fund, are transferred to the Lymington Community Association.
- ii. That the CEO/Town Clerk schedules payments set against the staged work program of phase 3b.

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

115. Temporary Amendment to Financial Regulations

Resolved: That Lesley Way is added to financial regulation point 6.12, for a period of 6 months, to authorise payments.

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

116. Financial Risk Assessment

Resolved The Risk Assessment of Financial Systems' for the Council is approved.

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

117. Motion – Cllr King

Cllr Humber suggested an amendment to include any maintenance of drains ditches that falls to HCC to prevent flooding causing potholes.

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

Resolved That the Town Clerk, acting on behalf of the Town Council, to respond to the consultation stating this council's opposition to further cuts to road maintenance, including maintenance of drains and ditches to prevent flooding.

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

118. Motion – Cllr Dunning

Resolved That the Town Clerk writes to the CEO of the New Forest District Council to express the following request from this Council:

The L&PTC is pleased to note that the NFDC is to review the current Local Plan. The District Council has been made aware on numerous occasions of the massive local concern over the excessive development of retirement homes in Lymington and Pennington and the lack of affordable housing. The Local Plan has been found to be failing to deliver the necessary balance of housing for the town with the most recent example being the Police Station site. This was for a development of

32 retirement apartments none of which were proposed to be affordable. Despite overwhelming local opposition and that of all our Town, District and County councillors and notwithstanding the applicant's inability to comply with the affordable housing requirements (a target of 50% in the Local Plan) the scheme was deemed compliant and approved. This despite the fact that there were some 90 retirement properties on or about to come on the market in the town including 42 in another new development. At the same time there were just 6 non-retirement properties below £250,000 (one of which was a studio flat smaller than a double garage) plus the very long NFDC waiting list for rented accommodation.

Changes to the Local Plan are clearly required and this Council urges the NFDC to act quickly and decisively to ensure that the planning system is able to deliver the range of housing required to meet the needs of Lymington and Pennington.

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

119. Motion – Cllr Dunning

Cllr Lewis proposed the following amendments to the resolutions;

Amendment 1

In the second sentence, remove 'The Council understands that as a result of a review a decision has been made that the Solent Mead Care Home in Lymington is not suitable for investment to bring up to today's standards and to increase capacity and as such will close'

And

Insert 'This Council disagrees with Hampshire County Council's decision to close Solent Mead Care Home and Day Centre. The closure will have a big impact on residents and will make some staff redundant with no guarantee of a replacement care home being built in Lymington'

Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr McCarthy. 6 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstained.

Amendment 2

In the third paragraph, remove 'or close to'

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

Amendment 3

In the final paragraph, remove 'as defined in the local plan'

Proposed by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr McCarthy. 6 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstained.

Cllr Dunning stated he could not support the motion with the amendments as the building was no longer fit for purpose.

Resolved That the Town Clerk writes to the CEO of Hampshire County Council with the following requests:

The L&PTC notes the HCC plans to increase the number of care home places in the county from 900 to 1,000 and acknowledges that some of the existing accommodation is becoming unsuitable. This Council disagrees with Hampshire County Council's decision to close Solent Mead Care Home and Day Centre. The closure will have a big impact on residents and will make some staff redundant with no guarantee of a replacement care home being built in Lymington. Given that there are no other public sector care homes in or near Lymington the Council requires the assurance from HCC that Solent Mead will not close until suitable local alternative accommodation is available for the residents.

The Council further understands that the HCC are planning to construct three 80 - 100 bed specialist care homes designed to cater for older adults with complex needs. One of these is to be in the New Forest area and the Council urges the HCC to locate it in Lymington or Pennington.

The Council wants to ensure that future developments will meet the needs of the town. As such, if all or part of the Solent Mead site is subsequently sold for housing, it should be on the express condition that at least 50% of the dwellings constructed will be affordable.

Proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Lewis. 6 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstained.

120. To receive verbal reports from Town Councillors

The Mayor reported that he had met with the operations director of More Bus and requested that the 112 service be rediverted from Sway Road down into Pennington.

The Mayor had also started the 300th Park Run at Woodside.

Cllr Humber she had attended a recent passenger transport online meeting.

121. To receive a verbal report from the District Councillors

Cllr Dunning reported he had sat on the Grants Board.

122. To receive a verbal report from the County Councillor

Cllr Dunning reported that virtually every local authority, with a responsibility to social care, plan on raising their council tax by the maximum this April including Hampshire. These rises are necessary to ensure that finances are sustainable in the long term.

HCC will be receiving 10 million from government. This will not go very far particularly, with the rise of social care to £32 million in our county alone. Last month the HCC leader, along with many others, wrote to the chancellor. This included a letter of support from local MP, Sir Desmond Swayne, to try and gain a rise in funding from central government.

Cllr Dunning read out letter from HCC explaining the reasons for the closure of Solent Mead.

123. Forthcoming Meetings

13 March 2024, Planning 6pm
20 March 2024, Town Meeting 6pm
25 March 2024, Amenities 6pm

124. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 18:00pm on 24 April 2024.

Meeting concluded at 6.50pm.

Date: **Chairperson's Signature:**