



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 26 July 2023 at 6.00pm**

<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.

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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 Jerrad 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 Jerrad. 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 the Conservative Group on this Council supports any practical and feasible measures to reduce energy consumption and to reduce harmful emissions but there are substantial parts of the Climate and Ecology Bill which they would not support. These included creating an unelected and undemocratic Climate and Nature Assembly.

Cllr Penson added that his further research on the Bill established that it had been changed and was now known simply as the Ecology Bill. He noted that given the purpose and content of the Bill has changed dramatically the motion has no relevance.

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 Jerrad 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:**