



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT CHOYD ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2017 AT 6:30 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Cowley (Town Mayor), J Jackson, J Allen, D McCleary, R Corbett

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Brian Jacobs (Town Clerk), Stuart Hutchinson (IEC member West Wight), Martyn Collinson (Yarmouth Town Trust, Fran Chard (Yarmouth Society), Kevin Shaw (CHOYD and YOGOFF) and 7 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs A Ingram, P Cronin

### 1. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed all present to the Yarmouth and Thorley Town Meeting, and introduced the Councillors in attendance and the Clerk.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON APR 19th 2016

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 19th 2016 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

None were raised

### 4. REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor Steve Cowley made a verbal report based on the written document (Appendix 1 attached). The Mayor expressed thanks to local residents, organisations and Yarmouth Town Trust for their help in bringing about the Play Area refurbishment.

Jill Cowley expressed thanks to Alana Ingram, who has continued to serve as a local councillor in spite of ill health.

### 5. REPORT FROM THE WIGHT RURAL WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

A member of the police team did not attend, and no report was presented

### 6. REPORT OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL MEMBER

Isle of Wight Councillor Stuart Hutchinson delivered his report, which appears as Appendix 2.

A question was asked by a member of the public about the roadside verges outside Yarmouth Cemetery, where Island Roads have asked St James Church to cut back brambles on the road side of the boundary. Cllr Hutchinson replied that this area is not Island Roads' responsibility, and no funding was available from Isle of Wight Council. He undertook to try to ensure that funds would be available in the future for this type of expenditure.

Cllr Corbett asked whose responsibility Yarmouth sea wall was. Yarmouth Town Trust have been monitoring the wall, which extends into Shalfleet Parish, and there is evidence of erosion which, if not treated in the near future, will be considerably more costly in the future. Repair is not within the budgets of the local councils involved. Cllr Hutchinson replied that he had discussed this matter with IWC, who deny responsibility for the wall, though he undertook to press IWC further on this matter. He was reminded that collapse of the sea wall could affect the highway in this area.

A member of the public took issue with a comment made by Cllr Hutchinson in a recent magazine article, in which he complained about silage trailers holding up traffic. It was pointed out that, although there were many more trailers 20 years ago, other aspects of farming have declined, and many farms in the West Wight rely on growing crops for fuel, which need to be transported to the Digester Plant.

Cllr Corbett raised the issue of limited parking in Yarmouth, which is exacerbated by commercial parking pass holders who should be encouraged to use the public car park, and free up more parking within the town. Cllr Hutchinson responded that any changes of policy by IWC would need to be Island wide, and other town have similar problems, though he undertook to investigate the problem.

**7. REPORT OF THE OLD GAFFERS FESTIVAL**

Kevin Shaw presented a report about the forthcoming Old Gaffers' Festival (Appendix 3)

**8. REPORT OF THE YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST**

Martyn Collinson, Chairman of Yarmouth Town Trust spoke to the written report (Appendix 4). A member of the public asked if YTT own the copyright of the photographs published on its website, to which the answer was 'no'.

**9. REPORT FROM YARMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSION.**

A member of Yarmouth Harbour Commission did not attend, and their written report, which was received too late for the meeting, is shown at Appendix 5.

**10. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY HALL FOR YARMOUTH AND DISTRICT (CHOYD)**

The report for CHOYD was presented by Trustee Kevin Shaw (Appendix 6).

**11. REPORT ON THE YARMOUTH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

A member of the YCC did not attend, and no report was presented, though some discussion did take place about the recent Duck Race.

**12. REPORT ON THE YARMOUTH SOCIETY BY THE CHAIRMAN FRAN CHARD**

The Clerk read out a report on the activities of the Yarmouth Society (Appendix 7). There were no questions.

**13 TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

As no written resolutions had been received the Mayor thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

**Signed..... Date.....**

**STEVE COWLEY, TOWN MAYOR**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Mayors annual report 2017 ATM**

A busy year.

We took over responsibility for the toilets at Bridge Road and the Common as the Isle of Wight Council were going to close them.

We took this decision with some reluctance as local Tax Payers bear the burden of the cost and the users are mainly visitors.

As soon as we took them over the IWC threatened to close them as they had been left in poor condition by IWC.

We have carried out a certain amount of maintenance, including the plumbing, water supplies, replacement doors. We still have a lot to do to bring them up to a good standard that we could be pleased with.

We are still pressing to get relief from the Rates.

The new play equipment has been installed at the Rec. This scheme was inspired by the Town Councillors. The Town Council put £10,000 towards the project and will maintain them in the future.

We have been pleased to work in partnership with the Town Trust on this project and hope to continue to work with them in the future on other projects.

I would like to thank all the residents who have kindly donated money and time to this project.

We are hoping to erect new sign posts to raise awareness of the Rec. too.

Both Town Council and Trust are supporting the Yarmouth and Calbourne football club with their proposals to improve the pavilion.

The latest project is looking at making a walk-way from the Rec to the Old Railway line with the aim of getting more people to use and enjoy the Rec.

At each meeting, we consider all local planning applications.

We always try to be constructive in our comments but are constantly frustrated by the fact that little or no notice is taken of our views.

We commented on the Old Police Station application, that it would be good to have some retail space at ground level but to no avail. We also objected to the scale. The applicant then made several changes but we could not see them and so could not comment on them.

Each year we give the West Wight Sports and community centre £6,500.

We continue to pay down the loan for the purchase of the building for CHOYD - £3,500/year.

Carnival Committee receives £1000, and we thank them for all their work.

We help support the maintenance of both St James and St Swithins burial grounds.

Yarmouth Primary. Has received our help in funding the new school room.

The Mayoral Chain has been refurbished and updated

Lastly many thanks to all our councillors and to the clerk for their commitment to give their time to help and support our community.

We will be looking to co-opt new councillors especially in Thorley.

### **Appendix 2: West Wight Ward**

West Wight Ward is the largest on the Island and covers 14 separate communities from Yarmouth in the west to Mark's Corner and Thorness Bay in the east, within the parishes of Calbourne, Shalfleet and Yarmouth. This report covers the work I do as an Island County Councillor and within the ward.

Once again a difficult financial year. Sadly I have had to say this every year since first being elected in 2011 and I doubt it will improve for a few more years yet.

We continue to rely heavily on charities and volunteers to help support many services. The costs of Adult Social Care continue to grow, and because this Island has a very substantial proportion of frail elderly people, the annual increase in cost swallows up the 3% increase in council tax raised specifically to pay for it. In the coming 3 financial years government has allocated the Island Council an addition £6.5 M on top of that, which will primarily be used to change the way in which services are delivered. This Council puts more of its elderly folk into care homes than any of our neighbouring councils. It's often not what residents or their families want, and it's the most expensive option.

However not all news is bad, and I'm pleased to say that the Highways network is improving rapidly. Every month we see upgraded roads, the latest being a substantial length of the main road from Newport to Yarmouth which of course is the most heavily trafficked road in the Ward. We have also seen real improvements in the broadband service for most households in the ward as part of the Rural Intervention project, jointly funded by the Council and Government.

As well as Island Council meetings I have served on the Appeals Committee, Employment Committee, Scrutiny Committee and Pensions Committee. For the last year until January, I was also Chairman of the Audit Committee and was pleased to receive an "unqualified" (that is to say fault free) report from the independent district auditors on how the Council accounts for and manages its money.

Locally, I continue to serve on the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee and the Yarmouth Flood Defence Working Group.

To keep in touch with issues in the ward, I attend and report to the meetings of the Town Council and the two Parish Councils and attend local social events as often as I can, though much less frequently than I would like.

I write a regular monthly column for the Yarmouth and Freshwater Magazine, which always carries my contact details and an invitation to contact me if there are issues I can help with. Those details are also printed each month in the local Parish magazines.

I'm pleased that during the year I have been able to assist many individual residents and businesses with a range of issues, from planning to housing, to highways, social care and education.

I have quarterly meetings with the Chief Executive and senior staff of Wightlink and Red Funnel and support the initiatives to create regular dialogue between them and customers.

In mid-January, the Leader of the Council and his deputy resigned unexpectedly. In my 40 years of Government service with many Councils I have never known this to happen, especially so close to an election.

At the January Council Meeting the Council elected a new Leader and he put together a cross party interim administration to take the Council through to the elections next month. I was appointed as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources. The downside to that was that I had overall responsibility for putting together the 2017/18 council budget, with just two weeks in which to do it.

That means that if there are parts of it you don't like, or the cuts are in the wrong place, you can safely blame me!

### **Appendix 3: THE OLD GAFFERS FESTIVAL**

YES ....IT'S TRUE THE FABULOUS GAFFERS FESTIVAL IS BACK! After a one year gap the fantastic Yarmouth Gaffers Festival is returning with even more fun and excitement! The Festival is now in it's 20th year and has grown into a main event on the Isle of Wight Calendar. The Festival is run by a dedicated group of unpaid volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to put this amazing and totally unique event on!!! Thousands of visitors and islanders alike will flock to the beautiful

ancient town of Yarmouth to view the magnificent spectacle of the magnificent Gaff rigged boats as they compete with each other across the Solent! Whilst on shore the streets will be packed with continental Stalls selling crafts and wares from around the world as well as our wonderful Farmers Market And you must visit our new Pavilion on the Green Everything is free until 6.30 each evening when a ticket is required for the two star-packed evenings entertainment in the main Marquee on the Quay ...the Friday Spectacular will feature two new Island bands Nakamarra and Lucid, whilst Star Tribute will sing all your favourites from the 60's tho the 80's ... .A stunning evening of Rock and Roll is planned for the Saturday with the incredible 11 piece band the Regular Joes starring Miss Annie! And supported by the popular Company B-UK special appearance by Rule the World (Take That Tribute Band)will complete the evenings entertainment The Character Inns Bar on the Quay will provide a new real ales Festival as well as providing a Pimms and Prosecco Bar This year will have a special attractions for the children with a new funfair area packed with delights including a big slide....trampolines and much more ...and the unbelievable Titan the robot will be performing in the square on Saturday!! You must come to see him! For The Big Boys Toys we have the the biggest vintage and veteran Classic Car Display on the Island along with the the gigantic Steam Engines !! The Gaffers Festival would like to thank the great generosity and sponsorship of Wightlink, Visit the Wight and the Harbour Commissioners as well as The Town Council, The Town Trust, Warners Watermark and Southern Vectis without whom this wonderful event could not go ahead

#### **Appendix 4: Yarmouth Town Trust**

As before the Trusts main priorities during the last 12 months have been:-

The Town Hall

Mill Road cottages

Recreation Ground/Children's Play Area

Archives/Website

The Common including the benches and monitoring the condition of the Seawall.

Graveyard Copse – maintained & reimbursed by DLT

##### **1 – Financial Matters**

A – The annual accounts of the Trust will be considered by the trustees at their next meeting on the 8th May. There are not expected to be any unpleasant surprises. The only item of a significant nature has been the renovation of number 9 Mill Road Cottages. Once the accounts have been approved by the trustees, they will be sent as usual to the Charity Commission and eventually appear on the Charity Commission's website.

B - The Town Hall was used on 185 days during the year ended 31 March 2016, compared with 191 days in the previous year and 193 the year before that.

C – The trust made a donation of £5,000 to the new Yarmouth Play Area.

##### **2 – The Town Hall**

The south window needs to be painted and this will be done once the Mill Road Cottage renovations are complete.

A Red Ensign was purchased for the sum of £38.

We continue to monitor the condition of the War Memorial where some decay is inevitable.

##### **3 – Mill Road Cottages**

As most people know the rentals from the Mill Road cottages are the Trust's only income, excluding any donations that are received from the Public or other Charities and modest bank interest.

On closer inspection, including the lifting of carpets and boards, number 9 was found to need considerably more work than had been expected after the survey carried out on all the cottages in the summer of 2016. The Trustees decided to take the opportunity to carry out a major renovation project while the premises were vacant and this is should be completed sometime in May. The Trust is most grateful to the Herapath Shenton Trust for its generous donation towards this work.

No 10 has recently become vacant and a similar inspection is underway. While renovation work will be required before re-letting it is not expected at this stage to be such a major project.

#### 4 – The Recreation Ground/Renewed Children's Play Area

Renewed Children's Play Area: The Town Trust has continued to support and work with the Town Council to raise further funds for this important project, which is now in operation.

Fencing to the North Side: £7,154.27 was donated to the Town Trust for the Recreation Ground from the money raised at the Queen's Gala Award Evening held by John Caulcutt at the Towers.

This enabled the Town Trust to make a grant to the Town Council to cover the cost of re-fencing this boundary. A number of sessions held on Sundays by local volunteers cleared away the brambles and ivy that had grown over the old concrete and wire fence enabling the new fencing to be installed. There is one more session this coming Sunday 23rd April to clear any remaining debris in the vicinity of the fence and place it in a skip that has been hired for the purpose. All volunteers are welcome to assist us!

The Existing Sports Pavilion: The possible construction of a new Yarmouth "Sports Pavilion" did not get off the ground due to lack of funds. The Yarmouth & Calbourne Football Club has now approached the Town Council and the Town Trust with outline proposals for refurbishing the existing building. These proposals have received initial approval in principal and the Town Trust will work with the Town Council to support this new initiative.

#### 5 – Website Upgrade – Phase 1

Approximately 300 photographs are currently up to the Town Trust Website, more will be following. Modern software now enables searches to be made by the public. Further photographs will be following over the summer. Phase 2 will begin in the autumn and will involve loading documents of interest.

It is intended to hold a demonstration in the Town Hall to interested parties on St James' day, July 23rd. Attendees will be asked to bring any old photographs they themselves have that can be copied on the spot and also uploaded.

#### 6 – The Common

The physical condition of each memorial bench on the common has now been fully reviewed, listed, and actioned. On-going maintenance work will be carried out as necessary to keep the benches in good order. Our thanks go to Sylvia Mence and Mike Dorey for all their hard work in this area.

The state of the sea wall still gives cause for real concern and the Trust continues to correspond with the IWC and the Crown Estates about this issue.

#### 7 – Trustees

The Trustees remained unchanged during the year but in April Sue Poston was appointed a Harbour Commissioner and has resigned her role as a Trustee in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest. Applications are invited and potential replacements will be considered at a special meeting on Monday May 8th.

The present trustees are: John Caulcutt, Rodney Corbett, Steve Cowley, Mike Dorey, Richard Leonard, Sylvia Mence, Bernie Tucker, and myself. With local elections due shortly the Town Council nominees may change.

To conclude, this report will be placed on the Town Hall notice board tomorrow.

Thank you for your attention.

Martyn Collinson

## **Appendix 5: Yarmouth Harbour Commission**

### **Yarmouth Town Council end of year report**

18th April 2017

#### **Finance**

Turnover in comparison to 2015 shows a decrease of 2.5%. However, operating Profit shows an increase of 12%.

Visiting boat numbers for 2016

Visitor boat numbers for 2016 show an increase of 13% or 4,288 boats in comparison to 2015 figures.

Rally bookings for 2016 show an increase of 21% and sailing school visits increased by 37%.

The total number of visits including short stays and long term visitors amounted to 38,421.

### **Harbour works**

In April 2016 Mayhew Callum structural engineers were instructed by the Commissioners to carry out a visual inspection and prepare a report on the condition of the existing breakwater structure.

The purpose of the report was to inspect the structure in more detail than has previously been carried out during the three yearly infrastructure reviews and as far as possible give a realistic assessment of the likely residual life of the structure, together with recommendations for remedial and maintenance works to be carried out in order to extend the life of the structure.

The conclusion was that if remedial and repair works to the steel structure are carried out and subsequently maintained, it is considered that the residual life of the structure can be extended for at least the next 25 years.

Replacement of timber sleepers will be an ongoing maintenance requirement throughout the life of the structure.

The breakwater has now been put onto a rolling maintenance programme which is by far the most cost efficient option.

Further details of the harbour operations throughout 2016 will be presented at the Commissioners Annual General Meeting on the 31st May at 1800 at the RSYC.

### **Tim Adams**

#### **Appendix 6: REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY HALL OF YARMOUTH AND DISTRICT**

On behalf of the Trustees, I have great pleasure in presenting this report of the Community Hall.

We have had a busy and successful year. The community use of our facilities has steadily increased and diversified. New users and activities such as Tai Chi, the Yarmouth Society, Independent Arts Singabout and French Conversation classes are now becoming as established as our regular Yoga, Messy Church, River Club, Bridge Club, and member use of the snooker, pool and dart facilities. Our links with the Primary School and PTFA have continued and we now have a small weekly group of Mums, Bumps and Babies. We are especially pleased to be the venue for various charity events, such as fund raisers for the Macmillan Nurses and Children in Need.

Weekly Tuesday Coffee Mornings attract a steady number of retired people from a wide area inside and outside Yarmouth. Each week there is usually someone from a social supportive group present who can advise on such problems as Fall Prevention, Hearing Loss, Home Heating economics, and digital problems. Recently many have stayed on for a bowl of soup and roll. We are very pleased to be starting a new monthly Community Lunch, beginning later this week.

As well as happy events of Family Parties and Wedding Receptions, a special Tea Party, sponsored by the Town Council, celebrated Her Majesty's 90th birthday on 21 st April last year. The Hall was filled with a happy, relaxed, fairly noisy, group of 73 residents all over the age of 80, including two sprightly centenarians who cut the cake surrounded by children from the Primary School and the Bishop of Portsmouth.

Special fund raising events have included a Trad Night with a jazz quartet and New Orleans food, a History Talk, Beef & Beer Night, and Curry Night. Monthly Community Quiz nights have attracted teams from many local groups, with participants numbering between 40 and 70.

We have continued to upgrade our facilities. Last August our kitchen was refurbished thanks to the generosity of our donors: the Delphie Lakeman Memorial Trust, the Daisie Rich Trust, Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners, the Herapath Shenton Trust, and the Wednesday Girls craft group. Our next project, refurbishment of the toilets including an accessible toilet for the disabled, is planned for this coming August and, once again, we thank our sponsors and those who organised special fund raising events.

Our membership in 2016 was 166 but our events are open to all and we have many supporters in addition to members. The success of the Community Hall is largely due to our very many volunteers and we are always happy to welcome new helpers. The first AGM was held on 18th June 2016 and we successfully made our first Annual Return to the Charity Commissioners. Both the Trustees and the Management Committee meet monthly. Our Annual Accounts for 2016 will be presented at our next AGM on 17th June, having received a true and proper report from the external auditor. We are confident that the accounts will show members that the Trustees continue to manage the Community Hall's finances soundly so that the charity has a sustainable future.

## **Appendix 7: Yarmouth Society Report April 2017**

Currently the society has a paid up membership of 126; approximately a dozen pay fees but no longer attend through age, ill health or a reluctance to go out in the evening, the latter being particularly noticeable since LED street lightening was installed. Average attendance at meetings is about 45 with a huge surge to 100 plus when Kevin Shaw addresses us annually. At present there is £2,000 in the society account which is managed by our Treasurer Janet Pitman.

At our December AGM Derek Moore and Ian Dallison stood down as Chair and Speaker Secretary respectively. Clive Tappenden resigned as Deputy Chair because of ill health.

The committee at present comprises:

Frances Chard (Chair)

Derek Moore (Deputy Chair)

Fay Keen (Secretary)

Janet Pitman (Treasurer)

Mal Butler (Speaker Secretary)

Ruth Mower (Refreshments with Pat Dawson)

Clive and Ian remain as committee members.

One major change since the last report is that the society has moved from the school to the community hall because of lack of space there; the rear half of the school hall was needed as a temporary classroom when the children from Weston Primary School transferred to Yarmouth. Whilst the audio visual facilities at the school were better for our speakers, the seating and acoustics at the hall are more suitable for our members.

This year we have been grateful for the help of Michael Craig and the FYT bus team who collect a number of members from Abbeyfield and the Victoria Road area and return them home at the end of the evening. They each pay £3.00 a time and would otherwise not be able to attend our



meetings. We hope to extend this service to the West Hill area next session as this experiment has proved to be successful.

Whilst our resources are healthy at present there is one area where our income is declining. The Heritage Trail Booklets have been made available at the Wightlink Office for visitors for a number of years and they provide a useful guide to the town. A donations box was provided on the counter and involved no work on the part of the staff. However, with a change at the top of Wightlink management last year we were asked to remove them as they "cluttered up" the counter. Derek Moore tried unsuccessfully to communicate with the person responsible for the decision. Thus £47.00 in come in 2015-16 became £19 last year. This is a shame as the booklet has been valued by visitors over time, and we had just taken possession of a reprint! Clive Tappenden has negotiated with the Harbour Office and Holdings to display them and he is in discussion with Norton Grange currently.

Mal has almost completed a very interesting and varied speakers programme for next year, 2017-18 with Kevin Shaw delivering the first talk in October.

We look forward to the continued support of the Town Council this coming year.

Frances Chard, Chair, Yarmouth Society  
March 2017