



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT CHOYD ON TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2019 FOLLOWING AN EGM AT 6:30 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Cowley (Town Mayor), J Jackson, D McCleary, R Corbett, G Head, P Cronin  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Brian Jacobs (Town Clerk), IW Cllr Stuart Hutchinson, Sylvia Mence (CHOYD), Sgt Justin o'Keefe (Police), Martyn Collinson (Yarmouth Town Trust) and several members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** No apologies were received.

### 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 24th 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 24th 2018 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

None were raised

### 4. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor, Cllr Steve Cowley, presented a report based on the written document (Appendix 1 attached).

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

Justin o'Keefe presented a verbal report about policing activities in Yarmouth during the last year. The reduced West Wight Team had addressed a number of minor crimes, such as theft of heating oil, shed security and scam calls, and these were on the increase, though this could be due to more people actively responding to these crimes and reporting them.

Several issues were raised as follows:

- The erratic behaviour of a man living rough in the bird hide at Mill Copse [as a result of this question, the Council countryside ranger spoke to the male and given him notice to move on]
- Speeding along Tennyson Road
- Parking along Bouldnor Road, to which IWC Cllr Stuart Hutchinson suggested that double yellow lines were the favoured answer, but could cost up to £16K.

### 6. LOCAL MEMBER'S REPORT ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BY CC S HUTCHINSON

Isle of Wight Councillor Stuart Hutchinson delivered his report, which appears as Appendix 2. The following issues were raised:

- Cllr R Corbett: Parking problems on Coastguard's Green, which is a recurrent problem with no enforcement taking place. Cllr Hutchinson reported that IWC had made attempts to tackle

this issue some 3 years ago, when letters had been sent to local residents who were parking illegally in this area, but enforcement was difficult as the land did not form part of the maintained highway, However, he agreed to pass details on to the Civil Enforcement Officer.

- Mayor Cowley: Dog fouling is continuing to prove a problem throughout Yarmouth, and complaints had been received from local residents. Cllr Hutchinson responded that the only way to effectively counter this problem was to microchip dogs, which could include recording a sample of their DNA.
- Abandoned boat, Tennyson Road: A boat had been left in a parking bay along Tennyson Road, but there was some doubt as to whether, since it had no engine, this was illegal. The Clerk was asked to bring this matter to the attention of the police.

**7. REPORT FROM THE YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST**

Martyn Collinson presented a report about the activities of Yarmouth Town Trust (Appendix 3)

**8. REPORT FROM THE YARMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSION**

In the absence of a representative from YHC, the Clerk read out a report received prior to the meeting (Appendix 4)

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

Kevin Shaw presented a report about the activities and plans of CHOYD (Appendix 5)

**10. REPORT FROM THE YARMOUTH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Chris Waddington, the Clerk read out a report received prior to the meeting (Appendix 6)

**11. REPORT FROM THE YARMOUTH SOCIETY AND CEMETERY**

In the absence of Fran Chard, the Clerk read out a report received prior to the meeting (Appendix 7)

**12. 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 2019 ATM**

Mayors Report 2019 Looking forward the Council has much to do. Our toilets both at Bridge Road and on the Common are not fit for purpose.

The IWC were going to shut them but the Council decided that they were necessary for both visitors and residents. They were in a state of disrepair and are a constant drain on the Councils resources.

The Council believes that total refurbishment for the Bridge Road site is required and the complete replacement on the Common is needed. Although this will cost about £150K this will reduce the Councils costs with a government loan. There will be a 20p charge which will bring extra income but the cost of cleaning, servicing and running costs will be reduced.

We will create new modern and clean toilets that all will be happy to use.

Following the new Play Area at the Rec it has become apparent that one piece of equipment, the board ride, is not very child friendly. This is being replaced by swings. We are moving the board rider to the south side of the old football pitch

Yarmouth and Calbourne Football Club have left the site and they have removed the netting at both ends. We are now seeking views on what local residents would like to see on the Rec.

The pavilion is not part of the land leased to Yarmouth Town Council, so we look forward to Yarmouth Town Trust's future plans. The Town Council is hosting a Tea Party at CHOYD to mark the 75th Anniversary of D Day inviting those people who were in the town at the time and those who live here now who have memories from that time.

We have also encouraged the local community to KEEP YARMOUTH SCHOOL IN YARMOUTH.

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

Report to Calbourne, Shalfleet and Yarmouth Annual Parish Meetings May 2018 - April 2019

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. This report covers the work I do as an Island County Councillor and within the ward.

### **Ward Items**

**Housing.** After several years of planning applications and revisions two significant housing projects both in Shalfleet Parish have started on site. They are the Bouldnor Meadows development, on the edge of Yarmouth, which provides for a range of housing including much needed 2 bedroom houses, and 1 and 2 bedroom flats, as well as a 16 unit Abbeyfield home and secondly at Shalfleet on the edge of Fleetway. This provides for 24 affordable units. Both developments have restrictions which require local people to be offered the properties before any others. I supported the Bouldnor development as it is on the edge of Yarmouth with the facilities it offers. I opposed the Fleetway development because of the location and the disconnect between it and the village. Some of those concerns were addressed in the conditions applied, and in particular I was reassured that it will be managed by a housing association with local people having first priority.

**Highways** We have seen continued gradual improvement to the highway network within the ward, with many minor roads neglected for years now resurfaced. There still remain a number of issues to be dealt with, including the constant problem of cars coming off the road by Calbourne Water Mill. Extensive work to improve the camber and surface treatment, together with improved warning signs, needs to be done. There are problems of parking on the A3054 just west of Thorley Road and there remains the apparently intractable problem of school staff parking on Station Road, effectively reducing it to a single carriageway. Just recently we have had the serious accident between a bus and two cars resulting in many serious injuries and a death, at the junction of Whitehouse Road and the A3054; Highways engineers are assessing safety improvements and will shortly report to Cabinet on options.

**Planning** There have been many instances of planning infringements reported during the year, in particular the number of mobile homes appearing at various points around the ward and a couple of unauthorised commercial developments. Over the last year additional resources have been

provided for Planning Enforcement and I look forward to seeing officers get to grips with these and other problems which have been outstanding for some time.

Currently the Island Plan is under review and an issue of particular concern is the number of houses that are supposedly required over the next 15 years. The number is determined by using a standard methodology required by government of all planning authorities. I know of no Councillor that is happy with the requirement and we are seeking a reduction in the number. Our MP, Bob Seely, will be pressing the Housing Minister for special consideration for the Island. I have a meeting with him shortly to discuss how we can work together on this.

**Education** There is a consultation taking place on proposed changes to schools in the West Wight. Although these are focused on Freshwater there will be implications for Shalfleet and Yarmouth Schools. It's important than anyone wishing to express a view writes in response to that consultation. I will ensure that all views are considered, even if sent after the deadline. Most importantly, each of the 5 schools within the consultation area have been asked for their views. The quality of education provided must be the top priority. In this we are fortunate that the two schools in this ward are doing really well, which cannot be said of others in the area.

**Electoral Boundaries** The Boundary Commission has required all councils to review their ward boundaries with a view to equalising the value of each vote. The Island Council conducted a detailed review, consulting with Town and Parish Councils. A response was sent on behalf of all Councils. Despite this the Boundary Commission took a different view and have not appeared to take account of any historic association and long-standing parish boundaries. The Island Council wrote to express its disappointment with the arbitrary decisions and whilst we have to accept the new boundaries we felt that they should at least be named appropriately. We are waiting to hear whether that will happen and should know by sometime in June. The new wards will come into effect at the next Council elections in 2021 and the present ward of West Wight will no longer exist.

**General** I have continued to represent individual constituents and to resolve issues with the council that they have raised with me and am pleased to have been able to achieve successful outcomes for them. I have also attended almost all Town and Parish Council meetings during the year, and have attended many local events. This has helped to give the contact and feedback necessary to understand issues in this large and diverse ward. I have also continued to engage with Ferry Companies, in particular in respect of the Yarmouth/Lymington route and have contributed to their regular 'meet the managers' sessions. I have also continued to represent IWC on the Yarmouth Harbour Committee.

**Island Council Work** I have continued to be the Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources. As Deputy Leader I have represented the Council at meetings with Government and other Councils, including meetings with Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire, especially in regard to transport and ferry links affected by Brexit. As Cabinet Member for Resources I have responsibility for managing the Council's Finances starting with setting the budget, which becomes more difficult each year, with £6M of savings already achieved, and as importantly, bringing the annual expenditure in at or below target. Financial management also includes collection of Council Tax and business rates, administering Housing Benefits, Council tax support, Business rate relief and Retail rate relief. I manage the Council's ELOOM investment programme. I also have responsibility for HR, IT, Democratic Services, the council's contact centre and help points, Fleet management, and Property Management, including Harbours and the Ryde area Regeneration.

### **Appendix 3: Yarmouth Town Trust**

The Town Trust's main priorities over the past year have continued to be: -

- 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 at Trust's expense, then reimbursed by DLMT

## **1 – Financial Matters**

A – The annual accounts of the Town Trust will be considered by the Trustees at their next meeting on the 13th May. There are not expected to be any unpleasant surprises. 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. There have been no items of a significant nature.

B - The Town Hall was used on 191 days during the year ended 31 March 2019, compared with 182 days in the previous year and 185 the year before that.

## **2 – The Town Hall**

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

## **3 – Mill Road Cottages**

After major renovations during the previous year the cottages are now in reasonable condition and an on-going maintenance program in place.

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

Renewed Children's Play Area: As reported last year one item in the play area (the board rider) has not had the expected use and will be replaced by the Town Council with swings as local demand has suggested these will be more suitable for young children. The Town Trust is making a grant to the Town Council of £3,000 towards this.

The Existing Sports Pavilion: the Yarmouth & Calbourne Football Club (Y&CFC) have confirmed to the Town Council and Town Trust that they are moving to Calbourne and will no longer be using the Recreation Ground for their activities. YTC has begun a process of consultation to seek local opinion as to the best use of the Recreation Ground going forward and further discussions will be held between the Town Council and Town Trust once this process is concluded.

It is known that there is currently poor drainage on the Recreation Ground, which has land drains.

South End: during the last year the Town Council, supported by the Town Trust have been clearing the meadow and surrounding area of weed growth and elm suckers, levelling the ground and sowing grass seed with a view to a potential recreation area containing sports/recreational facilities for older children. The board rider removed from the play area will be the first item installed.

## **5 – Website Upgrade**

Progress on the website has been slowed during the last year due to a lack of volunteer time available to sort, list, scan and upload photographs and documents. I am pleased to report that Colin Wilcox has recently agreed to become a "Friend of the Trust" and use his considerable talents to assist us in the coming months.

## **6 – The Common**

The physical condition of each memorial bench on the common continues to be monitored. On-going maintenance work is scheduled and carried out as necessary to keep the benches in good order.

The Isle of Wight Council has had repair work carried out to the West End of the common sea wall, owing to corrosion of the base sheet piling. The sea had driven a hole in under the common. Some thirty meters of new concrete have put in place and the hole, which could not be seen from above, has been filled with twenty cubic meters of concrete. Although the Trust monitors the condition of the footpath along the top of the sea wall, it is not responsible for its or the sea wall's maintenance.

## **7 – Graveyard Copse**

In 2007 it was noticed that the land to the east of Yarmouth Graveyard was unregistered, being parked on and was generally in a state of overgrowth, which could lead to potential safety and health issues – if left unchecked.

Dave Kennett, the Chairman of the Trust at that time, together with John Caulcutt of the Delphie Lakeman Memorial Trust agreed to begin restoration of the footpath and surrounding section with

a view to creating a permanent area near the graveyard where people could quietly sit and reflect, should they so wish. This area is now known as Graveyard Copse.

For 11 years the Delphie Lakeman Trust and the Yarmouth Town Trust cared for Graveyard Copse and then applied to the Land Registry for Title and this is now registered and plans to re-plant and further upgrade the area are advanced.

The clearing of this site and its restoration has only been made possible through the generosity of the Delphie Lakeman Memorial Trust. The benefits to residents and visitors to Yarmouth will be felt for many years to come.

## **8 – Trustees**

During the year there were no changes in Trustees.

The present Trustees are: John Caulcutt, Rodney Corbett, Steve Cowley, Mike Dorey, Jenny Jackson, Richard Leonard, John May, Bernie Tucker and myself.

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

## **Appendix 4: Yarmouth Harbour Commission**

Our major project last year was the work to the pier. This work was delivered on budget, and broadly to time; there were some delays caused by difficulties suffered by our main contractor, but the majority of the pier did re-open for users in September 2018, with the round house due for completion and opened in the Spring 2019. We believe that the round house will be a fascinating resource to educate visitors to life on and under the pier. Thanks go to all of the staff and contractors who worked so hard to deliver the project for us, with a particular mention to Sue Hawley, the Council's Estuary Officer, and of course the Heritage Fund.

The works have completed the replacement of the piles, a process which started with the last major set of works. Small changes to the pier structure will enable us to make future replacements in a less costly and more sustainable way without in any way damaging the look or history of the pier itself.

On the Harbour business more generally, our development of berth utilisation and long-term visitor moorings continue to allow us to make better use of the primary asset that the Harbour has - its water. We look forward to welcoming all visitors and stakeholders to the Harbour this year, to enjoy everything that Yarmouth has to offer.

Should you wish to learn more please join us for our AGM held on the 7th June at the Royal Solent Yacht Club.

## **Appendix 5: CHOYD**

I am pleased to present the report of the Community Hall on behalf of the Trustees. 2018 proved to be another busy and successful year, thanks to the many people who gave their time and skills to manage the charity and the premises, to raise income, and to serve the community.

The need for a meeting place open to all is proved by the variety and number of activities using the Hall in 2018. Regular community groups have included Yoga, Tai Chi, a Mums/ Bumps and Babies group, Messy Church, Super Kids, the Yarmouth Society, the Needles Coastwatch Institution, and the Town Council. Occasional users included entertainment rehearsals by staff at Norton Grange, a tea following a local tour by the Historical Association, an exhibition by West Wight Artists, a local housing management group, the Wednesday Girls Christmas Sale, and some charities.

Family parties take advantage of our very reasonable charges and the proximity of the ferry terminal enables mainland family members to attend. As we are a charity the Bar is run by an independent company, with its profits donated to CHOYD, and is open two evenings weekly when Snooker, Pool and Darts are available and also open on request for hirings. The lease of an Office for the Town Clerk has brought new income as well as being a welcome return to the town.

Tuesday Coffee Mornings continue to be a particular success with local men and women as well as visitors to the town. There is often a visiting specialist in the River Room as well as the coffee, home-made cakes and chatter in the middle socialising area. This friendly, welcoming service by a rota team of 14 ladies gained special recognition in December when they were given the Mayor's Award for 2018.

A monthly Community Quiz is another success story, both for raising funds and for bringing different local people and groups into CHOYD. Likewise some special events have filled the Hall with a wide range of users: a January party for the volunteers of over 10 local organisations, an exhibition of local historical memorabilia on Isle of Wight Day, and a Town Council tea party for 3rd and 4th generation families to commemorate the 1918 Armistice.

Since taking over the premises 3½ years ago, we have updated the basics, such as heating and replacement windows, refurbished the Kitchen and the Toilets, and we are now planning to improve the ambience of the central socialising area which at present is shabby and unattractive. Some of this work in an old building is very expensive and we are very grateful to our generous 2018 donors to the Capital Fund: the Harbour Commissioners, the Herapath Shenton Trust, the Town Council, the Wednesday Girls, the Yacht Club's Yarmouth One Design Class Regatta, the Old Gaffers Festival Committee, and supporters of CHOYD's Christmas Raffle.

As required, we make a detailed Annual Return to the Charity Commission. Our 4th Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 13 June at 7pm and, once again, our annual accounts have been approved by an external auditor. Finance remains an important item on every Agenda of the Trustees, an annual Budget is set, and a close eye kept on expenditure. We continue to make an annual surplus in our Revenue Account.

We value highly our many volunteers but, like many organisations, we would like to have more to spread the load. We are particularly concerned to gain more helpers for the Bar. Other important areas requiring extra helpers are administration, publicity, and to help with events. Team work is essential. The sustainability of the Community Hall is as dependent on volunteers as on sound finances. Please get in touch if you or someone you know would like to help.

## **Appendix 6: Yarmouth Carnival Committee**

Thank you very much for once again asking me to report on the annual events organised and run by Yarmouth Carnival Committee, ably assisted by a very small band of willing helpers throughout the year; without which we could not continue.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the local council for their continued financial and moral support,

local businesses and residents for their financial support

together with a small amount of sponsorship from Wightlink which allows the Committee to support local charities like the Mountbatten and Yarmouth School and to put traditional fun and games on for residents and visitors alike.

In August the 108th Carnival Week was held for which the theme was 'Anniversaries', Sadly, the 'Decorated Dinghies' on Sunday were soaked but the competitors were keen to continue in the appalling conditions, typical of Yarmouth Carnival supporters.

Pippi Reed became the 'Spirit of Carnival'.

As traditionalists, the Guy Fawkes Party was held on Monday 5th November,

The weather was kind which meant the event was well attended.

Extra car parking was offered on the Green by Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners together with the overflow car park courtesy of Wightlink.

Island Roads were very helpful and agreed once again that

we could ask for donations towards parking in River Road Car Park.

£600 was collected from all car parking, which together

with donations raised over £4,000 to help pay for the display.

I would like to thank Yarmouth Town Trust, the police

and yourselves once again; without you all it would not be possible to run this event.

Carols in the Square was once again very well attended, however, due to very inclement weather St James' very kindly looked after us all; a lovely atmosphere ensued.

Carols were wonderfully sung by all, almost lifting the roof of the church!  
 To begin the evening, a solo of the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', was sung by Sue Devine,  
 helped along by Captain Rodney Bean and the Isle of Wight Salvation Army Band;  
 The Slipshods and the children from Yarmouth and Shalfleet schools led the singing.  
 And the children read the lessons very professionally  
 Father Christmas, always a very popular visitor also found some time to deliver presents to the children  
 Over £1070 in donations was given to the Mountbatten.  
 The final event of 2018 was the very popular Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch held at the RSYC on Wednesday 12 December when 75 guests ate a traditional Christmas Lunch prepared by the staff of RSYC and sang a selection of seasonal Christmas songs to finish.  
 The Carnival Committee members laid the tables and served the guests.  
 Food and wine were very kindly donated by the suppliers to the Yacht Club.  
 Remaining costs were borne by the Delphi Lakeman Trust and once again the Carnival Committee are grateful to all who contributed.  
 The first events of 2019 have already taken place,  
 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races were held on 05 March.  
 It was very lovely to see all the children really enjoying themselves;  
 £204 was raised for school funds  
 Easter Saturday Duck Race was held on the river Saturday 20 April in very warm weather; this meant that some visitors were not on the bridge but on the beach instead!  
 However despite this a good afternoon was had by all.  
 15 Corporate Ducks raced, 'Golden Girtie', from Yarmouth Sailing Club won  
 1150 'baby ducks' were launched and finished in about 8 minutes  
 The Best Dressed Corporate Duck was 'Rib-Ber Duck' from Wight Marine Engineering, as voted on Destination Yarmouth Face Book page.  
 I would like to thank Nick Taylor for all his help with this.  
 Thanks must also go to Yarmouth Sailing Club for their hospitality and lovely refreshments on the day.  
 Thanks is a small word but means a lot, without all the support given by the wonderful community here in Yarmouth, we could not do what we do for Yarmouth Carnival.  
 We appreciate it very much.

## **Appendix 7: Yarmouth Society and Cemetery**

- Membership remains constant at 111 with regular attendance averaging around 65
- This past year we have heard lectures ranging from George Mallory's attempt to climb Mount Everest and the work of a prison chaplain at HMP Isle of Wight to The Food Bank, the past, present and future of Yarmouth Pier and Jules Russell's illustrated talk about his renovation of the Methodist Church and the old railway station
- An ongoing project is the attempt to secure a preservation order on the frontages of the row of Coastguard Cottages in the town
- The future of Yarmouth School is in doubt again and we will be monitoring the situation
- I am pleased to report that the plaque denoting the location of the historical pump on the corner of South Street has been beautifully incorporated in the boundary wall of the new build house by Mrs Fisher.
- Councillor Corbet is to be commended for his work with the Harbour Commission in restoring the old advertising boards on the boundary wall of the George Hotel  
 Frances Chard, Chair. May 2019

## **Cemetery Report**



- Brighstone Landscaping continue to cut the grass and trim back the hedgerows four times each year: this year their prices will rise by 15% due to increases in transport costs and the minimum wage
- Mr Tim Gates continues to mow the walkway between the two entrance gates seven times a year and to strim around the headstones and the area of cremated remains
- Burials continue within existing graves with only one new grave, that of Mrs Valerie Brickwood. In total seven burials have taken place in the past year