



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT CHOYD ON TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2022 AT 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors J Allen (Deputy Town Mayor), R Corbett, G Head, P Cronin, A Ingram

IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Jacobs (Town Clerk), Martyn Collinson (Yarmouth Town Trust), Kevin Shore (CHOYD and Yarmouth Society) and Sylvia Mence (CHOYD)

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from IW Cllr P Spink, Mayor Cowley, Cllr T Cowley, IWC Environmental Officer and Cllr G Head who had indicated she would be late.

1. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed all present to the Yarmouth and Thorley Town Meeting

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON MAY 4th 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the virtual Annual Town Meeting held on May 4th 2021 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings, subject to removal of a reference To Cllr Cronin agreeing to provide Councillors with a link to Eastleigh Council in respect of compensation claims.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None were raised

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

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jamie Allen, presented a report based on the written document (Appendix 1 attached).

The Mayor thanked all Councillors for their efforts. He also thanked the Clerk for his efforts during lockdown, and for arranging the refurbishment of the public toilets.

5. REPORT FROM THE WIGHT RURAL WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

A member of the police team did not attend, and the Clerk read out the recent Newsletter (Appendix 2).

6. REPORT OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL MEMBER

In the absence of Isle of Wight Councillor Peter Spink delivered his report, which appears as Appendix 3.

7. REPORT OF THE YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

Martyn Collinson, Chairman of Yarmouth Town Trust presented a report (Appendix 4)

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

The report for CHOYD was presented by Kevin Shaw (Appendix 5).

9. REPORT ON THE YARMOUTH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Cllr Allen presented a report on behalf of Chairman of the YCC (Appendix 6)

10. REPORT ON THE YARMOUTH SOCIETY AND YARMOUTH CEMETERY

Kevin Shaw presented a report on the activities of the Yarmouth Society (Appendix 7).

11. REPORT FROM THE IWC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The IWC Environment Officer was unable to attend and no report was available

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.....

MAYOR

Appendix 1

Mayors annual report 2022 ATM

Last year saw the return to face to face council meetings making use of the space in this room here in CHOYD. A well received change by both councillors and members of the public.

This year also saw the full opening of the new toilets at Bridge Road and The Common. These upgrades have prompted a flurry of positive emails and letters to Brian, making a change from the last few years of complaints after having taken the rather neglected toilets off the hands of the Isle of Wight Council. The new toilets are roughly 25% cheaper to run and with the 20pence charge have allowed the Town Council to save a considerable sum of money, this in part has allowed us to keep the precept the same as last year, for the second year running.

Rodney has put in many hours of work to successfully obtain a modification order on Friars lane, which means the Sea Lane is now officially recognised as a public right of way. We have also started the process of drafting a conservation area character appraisal which, when complete will be adopted by the Isle of Wight council and will hopefully allow us to better protect the history and character of the conservation area.

Work has been continuing at the recreation ground, we have introduced measures to stop unauthorised vehicles entering the Rec from both entrances and the Town Trust and our Recreation ground committee are working towards a suitable replacement for the old pavilion. I'm sure Martyn will have more to say on that later on. For the recreation ground field itself, we are in the process of rectifying drainage issues to allow better use of the field in future.

Mayor Steve Cowley issued the Mayors award to Saul Tiffin for his continued work looking after Mill Copse (and work at CHOYD)

Looking forward, the Town Council will be supporting various events for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, having already planted 70 trees as part of the Queens Canopy project. Over the bank holiday weekend we will have a picnic on the green, with music and other entertainment as well as the lighting of the beacon as part of the wider celebrations.

Appendix 2

REPORT FROM THE WIGHT RURAL WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

PRIORITIES

SPEEDING

What have we done?

Speed checks have been conducted by the road safety partnership in different locations within the west wight and across the Island. These will continue throughout the year.

Community speed watch is another way to assist with speeding concerns.

Community Speed watch is an educational scheme, not enforcement. It is considered as the first tier response to speeding issues. If a problem persists, it can be escalated to tier two, meaning that enforcement can be undertaken by the police. To enable us to set up the scheme we will need at least 6 volunteers. If anyone is interested in

becoming a part of speed watch and has concerns about speeding in a particular area please do contact us.

A speed watch group has recently been set up in the Freshwater and Totland area.

To find out more about speedwatch please visit www.hampshire.police.uk and type community speed watch in to the search option.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

What have we done?

We continue to engage with person(s) who have been the subject of anti-social behaviour and have been brought to Police attention. We work alongside our partner agencies which include the IW Council, Housing, Environmental Health, amongst other agencies to help tackle any ASB related problems.

There are resources/programs available which young offenders/first time offenders can take part in to help them learn and accept the consequences of their bad decisions. We as a neighbourhood policing team take these steps to help educate offenders and hopefully deter any further offences being committed by them. We also work alongside the youth offending team who work with first time offenders and repeat offenders. We also have programs available to us, from our partner agencies, to help support troubled families within the communities.

Pubwatch - PCSO Oatley has assisted with setting up a Pubwatch scheme in Yarmouth town which hopefully will extend to surrounding areas. The objectives of pub watch are to tackle and prevent anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, promote safe drinking environments for customers and secure working environments for staff and improve communication and sharing information between licensees.

Theft of pedal cycles – West/South Wight

What have we done?

This did occur last year and previous years during peak times. Campsites were targeted on the Island as well as cycle businesses.

The Neighbourhood policing team will continue visits to campsites and offer security advice/crime prevention advice and also gather any intelligence that may be connected to potential thieves.

ENGAGEMENT

PCSO Quinn is responsible for the areas of Yarmouth, Shalfleet, Brighstone, Calbourne, Porchfield and all the villages in between. PCSO Quinn also assists with the areas of Freshwater and Totland.

PCSO QUINN continues to attend the Tuesday CHOYD coffee morning once a month to be accessible for the public to discuss any concerns they may want to talk about.

As things begin to get back to normal post Covid, we are hoping to attend more of our frequent engagements this year. This will include attending local events when our duties allow us. In the past we have carried out engagements at the Garlic Festival, Chale show and the Wolverton show. Attending these events will allow us to engage with the public and distribute crime prevention advice as well as being available to speak to for general public reassurance.

The Neighbourhood Policing team for the West Wight/South Wight consists of PCSO's and PC's along with a Sergeant who is also responsible for the Cowes neighbourhoods policing team. We all work together to tackle any neighbourhood

issues within the west and parts of the South Wight. We are assisted by our response and patrol team who respond to emergency calls and work 24/7. To view the crime stats for the Isle of Wight please visit www.police.uk. This website allows you to explore the latest crime statistics in any area. To end, thank you for your ongoing support over the years. If there are any priorities or any emerging issues you feel we could assist with please do inform the neighbourhood team or PCSO Quinn.

Appendix 3: West Wight Ward

I stood for election in May '21 because I was concerned by the amount and type of housing proposed for the Island. I felt that we were not building houses for Islanders in need, at prices that they could afford; we in the West Wight we were losing our precious countryside with little benefit to the local community. In particular I was appalled by the proposal for a minimum of 1,000 houses in a so called garden village which would have stretched from Wellow most of the way to Yarmouth. I am pleased to say that this particular development has been withdrawn.

My principal election pledge was to oppose inappropriate development, particularly on greenfield sites. Much of my first year as a councillor has, therefore, been spent on planning issues. The Island does not have an up to date 5 year land supply and has failed to meet housing targets imposed by central government. Accordingly, the so called 'tilted-balance' has been applied to the Island which makes it more difficult for planning applications to be refused. The Council has agreed to join forces with the 53 other local authorities which are subject to the tilted balance to bring about its suspension by lobby the Government. Michael Gove has indicated that there are to be major changes to planning law, which may well include the scrapping of mandatory housing targets. It seems somewhat illogical, therefore, to punish local authorities for failing to meet past targets.

I am a member of the following council committees, planning, corporate scrutiny, licensing, appeals and as the ward councillor I attend meetings of the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee, and parish and town council meetings. In addition I was chair of the Task and Finish Group appointed to review the proposed Draft Island Planning Strategy.

Appendix 4: Report on the year ended 31 March 2022 for 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

We were pleased to welcome Sue Clarke as our new Town Trust Clerk at the beginning of the year and wish to thank Angela Cordon for her contribution over the last two years.

1 – Financial Matters

A – The annual accounts of the Town Trust will be considered by the Trustees at their next meeting on the 12th 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 downstairs was hired during the year in line with Government COVID guidelines.

C – The Trustees wish to thank Mark Paterson for his generous donations during 2021.

2 – The Town Hall

Internal painting has taken place during the year with approved materials. The upper windows are showing signs of rot and need painting over the summer months. This will involve scaffolding. The valley gutter will be checked at the same time.

The upstairs windows need repair and re-painting over the summer which will involve scaffolding being erected.

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

The Trustees gave permission for the downstairs to be turned into a Santa's Grotto during the Christmas period. This proved a great success with children from all over the area coming to see Father Christmas, many for the first time.

The Trustees are currently in discussions with English Heritage concerning an exhibition of the Trust's historical achievements in Yarmouth Castle.

3 – Mill Road Cottages

Given their age and construction the condition of the cottages is much improved after major renovation works over the last two to three years. To be able to budget going forward in terms of future maintenance the Trustees are in the process of obtaining an updated structural survey in order to ensure the necessary reserves are put by.

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

a) Renewed Children's Play Area: After initial feedback one item in the play area (the board rider) was not being used to the degree expected and has been replaced with swings at the Eastern end.

b) The Sports Pavilion: the previous Sports Pavilion became unsafe and a potential safety hazard. This has now been demolished and planning permission obtained for a small, vandal resistant replacement. The Town Trust and Town Council are still reviewing the best options for this replacement building. The electricity supply has been transferred to the concrete storage building nearby.

c) Drainage: The drainage on the Recreation Ground has been poor for many years. A survey has taken place and options reviewed as to the best way to remedy this problem.

d) Jubilee Tree Planting: A major tree planting project has taken place in recognition of the Platinum Jubilee. A selection of trees including Oak, Scots Pine and Hazel will grow into a valuable addition and encourage wildlife to the area.

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 continue to use his considerable talents to assist us in the coming months. Our new Clerk will shortly be taking on the task of managing the website.

6 – The Common

The physical condition of each memorial bench on the Common continues to be monitored. Ongoing maintenance work is currently being carried out and three new "sponsored" benches being purchased.

Mike Dorey is working on the concreting required for the benches and for the Eastern steps. The beacon tray (4 ft dia.) had rotted through as has now been repaired.

7 – Graveyard Copse

Two shrubs are scheduled to be replaced. The three curved benches have some rot and have been taped up to prevent usage. New benches are on order but will take 4 to 5 months. The Trust is arranging for a temporary repair in the meantime.

A new tree has been planted in memory of Richard Minchin.

8 - Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

At our next meeting the Trustees will be discussing the sending of a message of congratulations to the Queen similar to the one sent on her diamond jubilee.

9 – Trustees

The Trustees at the end of March 2022 are: John Caulcutt, Rodney Corbett, Steve Cowley, Mike Dorey, Denise Cronin, Richard Leonard, John May, Bernie Tucker and the undersigned.

Trust meetings have been moved to Thursday evenings at 18.30 hours and take place in the Town Hall. The Trustees will be considering a motion at the next meeting to apply for an Addendum to permit electronic attendance at the meetings. This was allowed by Government Decree during COVID but ended on the 18th April.

The 2022 the remaining meeting dates are scheduled for May 12th, July 14th, September 15th and November 10th.

Appendix 5: REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY HALL OF YARMOUTH AND DISTRICT to YARMOUTH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 26th APRIL 2022

I am pleased to present this report of the Community Hall on behalf of the Trustees relating to the period 2019 – 2021.

2019 was a busy and successful year, thanks to the many people who gave their time and skills to manage the charity, bar and premises, to raise income, and to serve the community by providing a venue for a wide variety and number of activities.

These activities ended with the 20th March 2020 national lockdown due to the Covid pandemic. When restrictions were modified from time to time, we had some activity, in particular the Hall was a Centre for 6 weeks for Lateral Flow Tests and also a one day Polling Station. For these and for a few hirings we had Risk Assessments and protocols in place to safeguard contractors, volunteers, staff and hirers. The Trustees continued to carry out their responsibilities via emails and Virtual Meetings. An AGM was held on 8th November 2021 to cover the years 2019 and 2020. The next AGM for 2021 reports is planned for 20th June 2022.

Since the last Annual Town Meeting in 2019, we have continued to update the premises by installing a modern acoustic room divider and refurbishing the central socialising area and the River Room with modern cost-efficient lighting, new carpet and curtains, re-upholstery of chairs, a face-lift to the Bar, and redecoration. We are very grateful to our generous donors to our 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 annual Raffles.

Turning to Regulations and Finance, the Trustees follow the guidance of the Charity Commission and submit the required Annual Return documents. Our Annual Accounts have continued to be approved by an external auditor. In the pandemic period, we have much appreciated the grants from the national Covid Hospitality, Recreation and Leisure Scheme via the Isle of Wight Council. The grants have covered ongoing costs so that, with very little income, we have avoided annual revenue deficits

Since July 2021 when many national Covid restrictions were lifted, we have seen a gradual return to activity and hirings, although there is still an understandable hesitation to mix freely among some elderly and more vulnerable members of our community.

We remain a charity run by volunteers, paying only for cleaning and the annual audit. CHOYD's sustainability is dependent on volunteers and we value highly our many helpers. However, we do need more volunteers to spread the load, particularly for administration and publicity. The time given can be flexible and responsibility shared. Teamwork is essential.

We are now looking forward to celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a Fun Open Day on Friday 3rd June. It is pleasing to report that planning for this has involved other local organisations, such as The Yarmouth Society, the Carnival Committee, the Women's Institute, and the Wednesday Girls. CHOYD's costs have been helped by contributions from the Town Council and the Wednesday Girls.

Finally, the Trustees would like to thank the Town Council and all those local groups and residents who encourage our volunteers by their practical and financial support.

Kevin Shaw, Trustee

Appendix 6: Yarmouth Carnival Committee

So far this year

Yarmouth Carnival Committee have hosted the annual Pancake Races and the Easter Duck Race. Yarmouth School are keen to continue with the pancake races once they move to Freshwater and we will continue to work with the school and hope this will be possible.

Coming up next

Carnival Week planning is underway with the week of entertainment being confirmed as we speak. Carnival week will be 7th – 13th August and the parade theme will be the Jubilee.

Later in the year

Fireworks on 5th November will go ahead.

Carols in the Square will go ahead – date to be confirmed (subject to Yarmouth on Ice)

Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch.

Other

Yarmouth Carnival Committee are increasingly involving the school. For example, we introduced a design a duck competition for the school children for the Easter Duck Race and we're working with the school on Carnival Week. We hope this will help to keep relations between the school, the pupils and Yarmouth.

Our vouchers scheme introduced during Covid was very well received by the shops as well as the recipients and so we've decided to roll these out across the year of events. Where we would have given out cash prizes, we now give out vouchers to be spent in the town.

Fundraising at events across the year continues to fund fireworks, our greatest expense of the year.

Appendix 7: Report of The Yarmouth Society

The Yarmouth Society has continued to run meetings held in the comfort of the Community Hall ('CHOYD') on the second Tuesday of each month from September/October each year through to the following April. At each of these, talks or presentations are offered on a wide range of topics of interest and (usually!) relevance to the membership, which is drawn from Yarmouth and its environs. As before, refreshments are always available from the kitchen, and, in what has proved a popular innovation, the CHOYD bar is also open.

The well-attended meetings throughout the season which started in 2019 were abruptly halted after the March meeting of 2020 – the point at which Coronavirus led to our first national 'lockdown'.

Although one meeting was then lost in April, remarkably it proved the only one – because membership was sustained through the entire season 2020-21 by virtue of a full programme of presentations via Zoom, albeit a small proportion of members were unable to partake. Since last September (2021) 'live' meetings have happily resumed (admittedly amidst the caution of face masks, etc) and a full and complete season of events achieved. Already healthy, membership numbers are now rising.

The Society owes many thanks during the difficult past two years to the quality and interest of the speakers, who have ranged from island experts on Art Restoration and Film & Television on the Isle of Wight, to local leading lights, Michael (Lord) Grade and Susie Sheldon, our Lord Lieutenant. But it is also indebted to all the hard work (mostly behind the scenes) of the eight-strong Committee who organise and expedite everything. Aply led by Chair Frances Chard until August 2021, and since by Kevin Shaw, the Secretary Fay Keen, Speakers' Secretary Mal Butler and Treasurer Janet Pitman, have been proactively helped by Ruth Mower and strongly supported by former chairmen Ian Dallison and Derek Moore.

Notwithstanding the success of its meetings and membership, the society is keen to engage more actively in its broader aim of 'Supporting and safeguarding interest In Yarmouth's Past Present and Future' in conjunction and cooperation with other key elements of the town.

In June 2020 the Society planted a tree (just beyond the old graveyard) to mark the life of the Duke of Edinburgh. It now intends, among other plans to celebrate the event, to match this with another tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As the Yarmouth Society looks forward to celebrating its own 50th Anniversary later in the year, I think it is fair to report that it is currently in good shape.