



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a virtual meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 2pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Cowley (Mayor), J Allen, G Head, S Devine,

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Tim Adams (Harbour Commission Representative)

### AGENDA

#### 1/2020 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from IW Cllr Stuart Hutchinson

#### 2/2020 PUBLIC FORUM:

##### i) HARBOUR ISSUES

Harbour Commissioner Tim Adams reported that, as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, boat numbers for July were down on last year:

Boat Numbers July 2020:

Overnights 2982

Short Stays 820

However, numbers had recovered since the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, and the figures for August were up on last year:

Boat Numbers – August so far:

Overnights 1400

Short Stays 502

##### ii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In his absence IW Cllr Hutchinson submitted the following report by email:

*Like others, my work over the past few months has been dominated by the Covid19 emergency, almost to the exclusion of everything else.*

*I have had a huge increase in the number of emails, which has now become the dominant means of communication, followed by telephone. No face to face and almost no letters.*

*I know that I have had a number of emails from residents of the parish because they have said so in the emails and sometimes have included an address where that's been necessary to resolve the query, but I have had hundreds more with no way of knowing whether they are from Yarmouth and Thorley residents or others. The email address gives no clue and unfortunately as representative of a ward named West Wight I'm often the default Councillor to approach. And as Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources I get requests from all over the Island, and many from second home owners off Island. The most common queries have been about support funding, rates relief and lifeline services.*

*Approving spending and changes to operation has been by executive action. Meetings to agree this have been and are still by MS teams or zoom and for most Cabinet Members we have been spending 5 -7 hours a day on this several days week.*

*Reports are received and modified on line and approvals by electronic signature.*

*It's surprisingly tiring spending so much time in front of a screen - or perhaps tha's just me.*

*Since the Covid lockdown and the government support funding being put in place we have reviewed rates for many hundreds of premises in the leisure, tourism and hospitality industries and reduced them to zero for this financial year. Unfortunately there have been even larger numbers that have had no relief, even though in some cases almost all their business has been as a supplier to one of those trades. We have presented that case to the government and have managed to get some of those rules relaxed. In addition we have issued £49m in direct grants.*

*I'm pleased to say that IWC got out reliefs and grants much quicker than mainland councils. We are still dealing with requests and appeals.*

*Additional support to community groups and third sector charities have been funded with monthly grants to cover costs of accommodation, transport, phones etc and we have underwritten the cost of food parcels to those most badly affected.*

*To make these changes and provide the additional support some 200 staff have been repurposed and retrained, and a few, where that hasn't been possible, have had to be furloughed. We are now gradually returning to a more usual position although the new normal is looking very different to the old.*

*To date, exclusive of government funding, the costs to the Council in the additional cost of delivery of services (over £1.5m in PPE) alone, and the loss of income has amounted to some £19M. By redirecting funds, deferring immediate expenditure on non-statutory services, and with some additional specific government support that shortfall is reduced to £10M in this financial year.*

*The situation is of course ongoing and we are already working on economic recovery and actions in the event of an infection spike and any necessary localised lockdown either of individual premises or a Town*

### **iii) LOCAL ISSUES**

Cllr Head reported that Thorley Church was struggling financially as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, and, in recognition that it was acting as a community hub during the present crisis, proposed awarding them £500. This was seconded by Cllr Devine and carried unanimously.

It was reported that the photographs in the former telephone box had become rather tatty, and the Clerk undertook to speak to Cllr Corbett about this.

Mayor Cowley recorded condolences on behalf of Yarmouth Town Councillors on the death of former Yarmouth Mayor Colin Campbell. Cllr Devine suggested mounting a commemorative plaque on one of the undedicated benches in the Town and undertook to discuss this with Mr Campbell’s family and report back to a future meeting.

**iv) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public

**3/2020 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

S Cowley	Yarmouth Town Trust CHOYD Shalfleet PC	Lee Farm
J Allen		Multi-Service Marine River Yar Boatyard
G Head	British Horse Society RSPB Shalfleet Parish Council	National Trust
S Devine	RSPB	

**4/2020 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the monthly Town Council held 3/3/20

**5/2020 FINANCE**

**5/2020.1 Payment of Accounts**

Retrospective approval was given for the following payments made since the previous meeting:

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount (inc VAT)</b>
1915	All Round Cleaners	Cleaning Services Jan-Mar	1521.45
1916	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds maintenance	257.35
1917	WWSCC Trust Ltd	Distribution Coronavirus leaflets	86.18
1914	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary March	683.56
2280	Barbara Hilton	Coronavirus aid	500.00
2281	WWSCC	Annual grant	7426.00
2282	Gareth Hughes	Internal audit	190.00
2283	Came & Co	Annual insurance	1021.27
2284	RoSPA	Play Area safety check	94.80
2285	Cancelled		
2286	Everflow	Water services public toilets	95.59
2287	Cash	Lord Holmes Charity	140.00
2288	YTT	Recreation Ground rental	540.00
2289	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance	2897.21
2290	CHOYD	Broadband March-June	69.60
2291	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary Apr-July	2734.64
2293	SSE	Reposition electricity meter Pavilion - duplicate 2276	276.00
2294	Care in the Garden	Planters	414.00
2276	SSE	Reposition electricity meter Pavilion - CHEQUE STOPPED	-276.00
DC	GIFFGAFF	Office phone	6.00
DC	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary Apr	189.63
DC	Microsoft	Office 365 subscription	2.76
DD	Amazon	Print cartridges CHOYD	70.36
DEB	giffgaff CD 1228		6.00
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary Apr	187.64
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary May	187.84
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary June	187.64
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary July	187.84

### **5/2020.2 Bank Reconciliation**

RESOLVED: To approve the financial statement as at 31/7/2020

### **5/2020.3 External Audit**

REESOLVED: To agree the AGAR 3 AS PRESENTED and authorise the Mayor to sign on behalf of the Council prior to submission to the external auditor

### **6/2020 PLANNING ISSUES**

The following were noted:

#### **Permission Granted:**

Application No	Location	Proposal
20/00053/HOU	Elm Cottage Ommanney Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0QA	Proposed single storey side and rear extension
20/00507/HOU	South House Victoria Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0QW	Proposed garage (readvertised application)

**7/2020 PUBLIC TOILETS**

The re-opening of Bridge Road toilets following a risk assessment (previously circulated) was discussed and it was RESOLVED to confirm and continue with the operation of Bridge Road toilets subject to display of an agreed notice.

It was noted that the planning applications for the refurbishment of both toilet blocks had been submitted by Danfo.

**8/2020 PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT AND RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk reported that the meter relocation from the old Pavilion to the hut had taken place.

The Clerk reported that a householder whose property backs on to the southern drainage ditch was attempting to annexe a section of the ditch to his property, and it was RESOLVED to refer this to the Recreation Ground Committee.

**9/2020 STREET FURNITURE AUDIT**

Cllrs Head and Allen volunteered to participate in a work party to assess street furniture in Yarmouth which the Clerk will arrange in the near future.

Signed..... (Town Mayor)

Date.....