



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held Tuesday January 5th 2021 at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Cowley (Mayor), G Head, R Corbett, J Jackson, D McCleary

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Don Treadle (Harbour Commission Representative)

39/2020 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peter Cronin, Cllr Sue Devine and IW Councillor Stuart Hutchinson

Michael Craig gave a presentation about electrification of the FYT buses, detailing the reasoning, methodology and funding of the project

40/2020 PUBLIC FORUM:

i) HARBOUR ISSUES

Boat Numbers 2020: The Harbour received over 10,000 overnights visitors and around 4,000 short stays following the first lockdown in the 4-month period between July and October. This was achieved safely and in line with government guidance and brought some much-needed customers to the Harbour, the towns businesses and supply chains. Long term visitors 2020. LTV numbers show an increase of 727 nights in comparison to the previous year, a total of 26,062 for the 2020.

Finance: Final figures are still to be confirmed but I'm pleased to report that despite a significant drop in income due to the pandemic the Harbour made a profit in 2020.

Harbour Works

Women's shower block: Phase 2 of the shower block refurbishment is well underway. So far, the project is on time and on budget. It is anticipated that the works will be completed early February.

Lockdown: The Harbour has implemented its crisis management plan for the second time in order to mitigate against the impacts of the current Covid-19 restrictions. At the time of writing Wightlink continues to operate a restricted service for essential travel. The Harbour is not accepting visitor traffic to the port during the current lockdown with the exception of commercial operators, vessels that require fuel, vessels in transit and vessels seeking a safe haven. Only vessels that meet this criterion will be permitted to dock at the Harbour.

At the time of writing, Sport England has not specified whether sailing is classed as a permitted outdoor activity but it is looking unlikely. YHC will monitor the guidance and update stakeholders in due course.

The Harbour is being manned with a skeleton crew. The remaining staff are either working from home or have been furloughed.

Subject to change (Please check the website for the latest information) the Harbour will have a minimum of one berthing master on duty between 0900 & 1700 hrs, 7 days a week.

Reception will be open between 0900 – 1700 hrs, 7 days a week. A reduced number of office staff will be on duty between 0900 & 1600 hrs Monday – Friday. Night Security will be patrolling the premises 7 days a week throughout the night. The taxi will be operating between the hours of 0930 & 1630. The bridge will be opened on request where possible between the hours of 0900 & 1630.

Checking your vessel at Yarmouth Harbour: In the interest of safety, the Harbour will permit vessel owners to check their vessels from time to time to prevent fire, sinking and/or pollution to the environment however, there is no specific guidance issued by the DfT at the time of writing relating to this topic. Harbour users should review the Government's full guidance themselves to ensure they are compliant with the latest legislation before undertaking any activity. Please visit the Gov.uk website for the latest information. The Harbour will keep stakeholders informed as and when it receives government agency updates.

The Mayor raised a question about a planning application from the George for an amenity deck. Don responded that he hadn't had chance yet to discuss it with the Harbour Commissioner, but YHC was aware of the application and would be considering it very carefully, though he indicated a personal opinion that good hospitality facilities were already available in the Harbour.

The Mayor also questioned the application by the Terrace for temporary shelters overlooking the sea. Don was non-committal about this application, referring to much good work carried out by the current lessee.

ii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Cllr Hutchinson, the Clerk read out a report received from him:

Local residents seem to have gone very quiet in the last month and though I normally receive a dozen or more requests for help or advice, I've only had two in the last month for the whole ward. None from residents of Yarmouth. On capital expenditure, locally I am hopeful that we shall be able to set aside £340k which will unlock a further £1M from the Environment Agency for repairs to the Yarmouth/Bouldnor seawall. I have no more detail on that as yet.

More generally we continue to wrestle with the 'black hole' in the current years finances. Our rainy day reserves which stood at around £4M above the minimum that triggers an s114 notice are expended as it's been pouring down. I'm hopeful that nevertheless we shall have recovered the position to balance by year end. Next year will be even more difficult than usual because of the escalating costs of adult social care which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. It's likely we shall have no choice but to raise the 3% additional council tax allowed purely for social care. This doesn't solve the problem as it's merely a stop gap because the white paper on paying for care has been postponed yet again.

In the last 12 months we have expended over £100M in support for individuals and business, most from government but supported by additional council money. As we are now in tier 4 we are issuing additional grants as fast as we can, though of course Council staff are subject to the same restrictions as everyone else which isn't making the task easy.

iii) LOCAL ISSUES

There were no Thorley issues.

Cllr Corbett raised 3 Yarmouth issues:

- Corner of South St/High St: Complaints had been received about encroaching vegetation from the corner property. The Clerk undertook to bring this to the attention of Island Roads
- The Mount: The flight of steps from the parking area to the orchard has no handrail and presents a danger. The Clerk agreed to ask the Council's contractor to provide a quote
- River Way car park: Damage to surface drain. The Clerk undertook to bring this to the attention of Island Roads

Cllr Jackson raised the following issues:

- Loveshore Lane: Currently limited access because of muddy surface and scaffolding because of work going on adjacent property. Mayor Cowley suggested deferring any action until building work has been completed.
- Cyclepath: Flooding due to misplacement of sandbags, The Clerk will report this to Island Roads.
- Yarmouth Schools Campaign poster: Has blown over. Mayor Cowley will arrange its removal.

Mayor Cowley thanked Councillors for their help in distributing the Christmas hampers.

iv) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions tendered.

41/2020 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

42/2020 MINUTES

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the virtual Town Council meeting held 3/11/20

43/2020 FINANCE

43/2020.1 Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED: The following accounts were approved for December/January:

2314	PKF Littlejohn	External audit	360.00
2315	IW Design & Print	Hampers Christmas Card	130.00
2316	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary November	702.47
2317	WBS	Stationery	11.99
2318	Print24	Hampers Christmas Card	6.20
2319	A Szydowski	Mayor's Award	130.00
2321	Victim Support	Annual grant	150.00
2322	Citizens Advice	Annual grant	250.00
2323	Yarmouth Carnival Committee	Christmas Tree and lights	200.00
2324	Yarmouth Town Trust	Rental Recreation Ground	180.00
2325	CHOYD	Broadband quarterly charge	48.00
2326	CHOYD	Annual rental Clerk's Office	1400.00
2327	Colin Wilcox	Printing Yarmouth map	13.10
2328	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary December	702.47
2329	Brighstone Landscaping	Removal pavilion base at Rec	1920.00
DC	Microsoft	Office 365 subscription	5.06
DC	GIFFGAFF	Office phone	12.00
DC	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary Oct/Nov	391.50
DD	PWLB	Loan repayment	1787.10

43/2020.2 Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: the financial statement for 31/12/20 was approved

43/2020.3 BUDGET 2021/22

To final draft of the above was noted, and the precept will be set at the next meeting.

44/2020 PLANNING ISSUES

New applications:

RESOLVED: To register the following comments in relation to the applications presented:

20/01928/FUL: A flood risk assessment should be presented before permission is granted

20/02095/HOU: No objections as long as the privacy of neighbouring properties is ensured

20/02097/HOU: No objections

20/02068/HOU: YTC welcome clarification about the trees and fencing on the boundary

20/02140/FUL: YTC objects because of the proximity of listed buildings with which this proposal is out of character

20/02134/FUL: YTC objects because of the proximity of listed buildings with which this proposal is out of character

20/02031/HOU: No objections

20/02192/HOU: Objection on basis that this represents a visual intrusion on the street scene, and involves the removal of natural hedges.

The following were noted:

Permission Granted:

Application No	Location	Proposal
20/01323/HOU	Plevna House South Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0QE	Proposed extension to the first floor of the outrigger bringing the external walls in line with the ground floor; a new roof to the extension with ridge height to match existing
20/01689/LBC	Harwoods The Square Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NS	Listed Building Consent for alterations to access door and lobby to facilitate wheelchair access

20/01730/CLPUD	Land Adjacent To Dog Kennel Cottage Broad Lane Brighstone Isle Of Wight	Lawful Development Certificate for proposed conversion of agricultural building to dwelling house (C3)
20/01701/LBC	The Cottage St James Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NU	Listed Building Consent for adaption and refurbishment of first floor bathroom

44/2020 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The only issue Councillors wished to raise with the IWC Environmental Officer was that of dog fouling on the Cyclepath

45/2020 PUBLIC TOILETS

Work is under way on Bridge Road toilets, and handover is scheduled for 18/1/21. Work has also begun on the Common toilets, with handover scheduled for 19/1/21.

46/2020 PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT AND RECREATION GROUND

An estimate of £2000 has been received from Brighstone Landscaping to clear the boundary between the Rec and 6, Tennyson Close. It was decided to defer a decision on this pending the outcome of Planning Application 20/02068/HOU [The Chair of Yarmouth Town Trust has presented a request to the Trustees to meet half this cost]

47/2020 STREET FURNITURE

Cllr Allen has tendered a quotation of £1400 to renovate the street furniture at the Mount, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to accept this quote to ensure continuation of the materials used in the previous renovation.

In spite of numerous chasers, no quote has yet been received from the contractor who inspected the rest of the street furniture in Yarmouth.

48/2020 GRANTS

It was RESOLVED to make a grant of £500 to West Wight Men in Sheds towards purchase of van to help deliver over hot meals, shopping and prescriptions to the vulnerable and isolated members of the community during lockdown.

49/2020 CLERK'S REPORT

49/2020.1 CLERK'S TIMESHEET

It was agreed to waive the usual timesheet process because of the disruption to normal working caused by the Covid lockdown, both in relation to hours worked and annual leave.

49/2020.2 FREEDOM OF YARMOUTH

After much discussion about the rights to graze sheep throughout Yarmouth it was RESOLVED to endorse the Mayor's decision to grant the Freedom of Yarmouth to Tim at the pharmacy.

49/2020.3 RENEWAL OF PUBLIC TOILETS FINANCE

It was RESOLVED unanimously to renew the application to the DCLG to borrow £160,000 over 25 years for the refurbishment of both toilet blocks in Yarmouth

50/2020 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence report for November/December was noted

51/2020 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Newsletter

Precept

Recreation Ground facilities

52/2020 CLERK'S HOURS

Covered in Clerk's Report

53/2020 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be virtual on 2/2/21 at 18:30.