



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a virtual meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held Tuesday February 2nd 2021 at 6:30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Cowley (Mayor), J Allen, S Devine, G Head, R Corbett, J Jackson, P Cronin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Sue Poston (Harbour Commission Representative), Phil Keen

### **54/2020 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from IW Cllr S Hutchinson and Cllr D McCleary

### **55/2020 PUBLIC FORUM:**

#### **i) HARBOUR ISSUES**

**Boat numbers:** There have been no recreational visits from yacht traffic during the current lockdown. The main activities in the Harbour are from the limited service provided by the ferry for essential journeys such as freight and smaller commercial operators within the fishing fleet.

**Harbour works:** The Harbour staff are focussed on planned preventative maintenance in preparation for a relaxation of lockdown restrictions. The shower refurbishment is on target for completion at the end of February.

**Beach safety:** Throughout the south coast there has been a rise in personal water craft (PWC) activity, together with a significant increase in dangerous activity, anti-social behaviour and a notable increase in death or serious injury as a result. This is thought to be the result of an increase in people taking vacations in the UK, when lockdown restrictions have allowed, instead of travelling abroad for their vacations during this pandemic. PWCs come in a variety of forms from paddle boards to jet skis and rigid inflatable boats.

The marine police have responded by forming a division named operation 'Wave-breaker' in order to support local authorities with this issue. YHC are focusing on improving beach safety for both swimmers and PWC users through education and by the designation of areas within the Harbours jurisdiction which are deemed safe for each activity. The Harbour, working in partnership with the RYA and the Personal Watercraft Partnership are producing signage to be located on the fuel berth and the sand hard beach with a view to highlighting the dangers surrounding these activities and best practice. In addition, the Harbour is looking to improve the buoyage designating the swim area so that it is more visible to those operating PWCs and are looking at the possibilities of designating an area specifically for PWC landing on the shore. Guidance for our stakeholders will be published online, on our website and social media as and when improvements are implemented. A group has formed locally called the 'The West Wight Bays Project' with the aim of tackling the issues related to PWCs and beach safety in around the local coastline. The Harbour is supporting this project and is active within the group.

CLlr Corbett asked if this meant an implied ban on certain vessels entering the harbour, but Sue Poston confirmed that this was not the case.

CLlr Devine expressed concern about the impact of river traffic on wildlife in this area. Sue Poston replied that YHC was equally concerned about this issue and suggested that if anyone witnessed any river user engaging in activity likely to cause harm to wildlife, they should contact YHC.

Mayor Cowley asked that YHC consider planting trees along the border of Riverway car park to replace those removed by IWC, and Sue agreed to pass along the request.

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

IW Councillor Stuart Hutchinson had submitted the following report by email:

*Once again a quiet month as far as Parish issues are concerned. I've had an one email from a resident, Mrs Cooke which you've also had expressing displeasure about paying more for residents parking for her two cars. This decision was part of last February's budget.*

*Also I'm pleased to report that the Beach Management Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January. The council will be setting up a Coastal Management Forum to consult with stakeholders about issues relating to coastal safety and protection and will include a range of stakeholder individuals and organisations such as harbours, coastal Town and Parish Councils.*

#### **iii) LOCAL ISSUES**

Mayor Cowley reported that there was a dead swan by Off the Rails restaurant and asked that the Clerk bring this to the attention of IWC Environmental Health [*reported on IWC website 3/2/21*].

#### **iv) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Phil Keen spoke about his development of the Terrace Restaurant, and expressed disappointment that YTC had failed to support the installation of temporary shelters. He suggested that local residents he approached had been in favour of the shelters, he maintained that the proposed pergola was sympathetic to the character of the area, did not detract from it and, being glass did not obstruct the view of Yarmouth Castle.

Mayor Cowley raised the issue of the alterations to the fenestration of the building which YTC had contested because the removal of the glazing bars had resulted in windows which Councillors felt were out of keeping with surrounding properties, though Mr Keen maintained they matched those in the Wightlink building. He explained that his operation contributed to local business generated significant employment; he invited Councillors to call in for a coffee and inspect his improvements when circumstances permitted.

**56/2020 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

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

**57/2020 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the virtual Town Council meeting held 5/1/21

**58/2020 FINANCE**

**58/2020.1 Payment of Accounts**

RESOLVED: To approve the following payment of accounts for February:

|      |                         |                                     |        |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 2330 | Brian Jacobs            | Clerk's salary January              | 702.47 |
| 2331 | IWALC                   | Subscription                        | 169.32 |
| 2332 | Wight Computers         | Website maintenance                 | 178.20 |
| 2333 | Brightstone Landscaping | Grounds Maintenance                 | 346.06 |
| 2330 | WW Men in Sheds         | Grant                               | 500.00 |
| DC   | SSE                     | Meter reconnection charge           | 94.80  |
|      |                         | Rec                                 |        |
| DC   | Ebay                    | Ballpoint refills                   | 6.99   |
| DD   | Everflow                | Water services public toilets       | 93.87  |
| DC   | GiffGaff                | Office telephone                    | 6.00   |
| DC   | HMRC                    | PAYE Clerk's salary Dec             | 195.87 |
| DC   | IWC                     | Business rates Bridge Rd<br>toilets | 881.35 |
| DC   | Microsoft               | Office 365 subscription             | 2.76   |

**58/2020.2 Bank Reconciliation**

RESOLVED: To approve the financial statement for 31/1/21

### 58/2020.3 BUDGET 2021/22

The final draft of the above was agreed and no questions were forthcoming.

Precept for 2021/22: It was proposed by Mayor Cowley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Allen and RESOLVED unanimously that no increase in the precept be made for 2021/21.

### 59/2020 PLANNING ISSUES

The following were considered:

#### New applications:

| Application No | Location  | Proposal   | Dates           |
|----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| 20/02210/FUL   | Tapnell Farm<br>Newport Road<br>Freshwater<br>Isle Of Wight<br>PO41 0YJ | Change of use of land from agricultural to leisure recreation; proposed football golf course | Fri 05 Feb 2021 |
| 20/02204/FUL   | The Terrace Quay<br>Street Yarmouth Isle<br>Of Wight PO41 0PB           | Proposed pergola on the roof terrace   | Fri 26 Feb 2021 |

It was RESOLVED to register the following comments:

20/02210/FUL: No objections

20/02204/FUL: It was RESOLVED by a majority of Councillors present to object to the application as a visually intrusive permanent structure in a conservation area.

The following were noted:

#### Permission Granted:

| Application No | Location  | Proposal  |
|----------------|---|---|
| 20/02007/HOU   | Eastholme Station Road Yarmouth<br>Isle Of Wight PO41 0QT | Proposed single storey rear extension   |
| 20/02097/HOU   | Threeways Station Road Yarmouth<br>Isle Of Wight PO41 0QX | Demolition of conservatory; erection of single storey rear extension and single storey side extension |

### 60/2020 PUBLIC TOILETS

The Clerk reported that completion of the 2 toilets blocks has been delayed because of supply problems, lockdown, weather and the project manager going down with Covid. However, the loan is now in place to meet the project cost.

A contactless card payment option was discussed for the toilets, at a cost of £900+VAT for each of the 6 cubicles; sufficient funds available within the PWLB loan. The ongoing monthly service costs for the facility have been quoted at £10 per reader + bank transaction fees of 2.95%. It was decided the Clerk would seek a lower installation cost before a firm decision was made.

It was RESOLVED to install a CCTV surveillance unit at Bridge Road toilets. Danfo has reported that works asbestos was identified and removed that was not on the original Isle of Wight Council asbestos report provided by Yarmouth Town Council as part of the project. The cost of disposal was £1350 which Danfo has offered to split 50/50 with YTC, and this was agreed.

#### **61/2020 PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT AND RECREATION GROUND**

The following additional facilities at the Recreation Ground was discussed:

Outdoor Gym equipment £6,500

Goals £1,350.

Petanque £2,500

It was RESOLVED to approve these additions, subject to advice about their siting by the Recreation Ground Committee.

#### **62/2020 THE MOUNT**

A request has been received from a local resident to plant a tree in memory of her late husband, and it was RESOLVED to agree her request. A suitable site at the Mount will be agreed when Covid restrictions are lifted and the time of the year more suitable.

#### **63/2020 NEWSLETTER**

Topics agreed for a YTC Newsletter were as follows:

New toilets

West Wight hub

#### **64/2020 CLERK'S REPORT**

Both topics in the Clerk's Report for February had already been discussed.

#### **65/2020 CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted that the only correspondence not forwarded has been letters of thanks from Victim Support and Citizens Advice

#### **66/2020 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Local elections

Sea defences along the Common and associated issues

Recreation Ground facilities

Public toilets card payment

Parking on Coastguard's Green

#### **67/2020 NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLEVED that the next virtual meeting will be 6/4/21

**Signed..... (Town Mayor)**

**Date.....**