



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday June 22nd 2021 at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Cowley (Mayor), J Allen, T Cowley, G Head, R Corbett, A Ingram, P Cronin, D McCleary

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Jill Kennett (Harbour Commission Representative, S Mence, Jo Parkinson (CRUSE representative)

37/2021 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from IW Cllr P Spink

38/2021 PUBLIC FORUM:

A presentation by CRUSE Bereavement Care (IOW)

CRUSE representative Jo Parkinson gave a verbal presentation about the nature, objectives and structure of CRUSE, a bereavement care organisation which delivers unconditional and confidential bereavement care to those in need of it, offering 6 sessions face-to-face when conditions permit or via phone or Zoom at present.

Mayor Cowley expressed sincere thanks for the presentation, indicating how beneficial such a service was, and undertook to raise the issue of a grant when this issue was considered later in the agenda. He asked the Clerk to place a link on the YTC website.

i) HARBOUR ISSUES

Marine traffic: Overnight and Short Stay numbers from the start of 2021 to the end of May are up on last year but down in general; this is pandemic related. However, with the good weather in recent weeks we are starting to see the traffic numbers resemble something more normal.

Long Term visitor or 'Pay monthly' occupancy between Jan-May shows an increase of 19% on the previous year; however, the Harbour is now at capacity.

Waste receptacles on Harbour property have been increased in anticipation for a rise in litter generated from take away food orders. The ferry terminal staff and maintenance team will continue with their usual litter clearing duties throughout the season.

Harbour works: The Harbour staff are focussed on planned preventative maintenance in preparation for further relaxation of lockdown restrictions and the summer season.

Wi-Fi: The customer Wi-Fi has experienced a multitude of issues relating to transmitters on the pontoons. Parts were delayed due to Covid-19 but, I am pleased to report that the parts have finally arrived and we are in the process of fixing the problems.

Beach safety: The Harbour has put mitigation measures in place to deal with an increase in personal water craft activity and beach safety related issues. Due to the increase in paddle sport activities in the estuary, south of the bridge the Harbour is now focusing on producing guidance for Harbour users on how to enjoy the estuary safely and responsibly without disturbing the wildlife and the natural habit.

Cllr McCleary raised concerns about beach safety, in particular that of fishermen losing lines as a result of boats fouling them, possibly as a result of boat owners under the influence of alcohol. Cllr Allen added that the same happened in reverse, and the problem was difficult to police whoever was at fault.

ii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As IW Cllr Spink was unable to attend, the Clerk read out the following report from him: *My apologies for not attending tonight's meeting. Unfortunately, I have a prior commitment to attend a meeting at Shalfleet re a proposed planning application for a further 70 houses in Burts Close.*

I am delighted to have been elected to represent Freshwater North and Yarmouth. Since the elections I have been busy carrying out the induction training programme but have also been involved in the following:

1. *Silver Glades Caravan Park (large number of mature oak trees felled in Cranmore AONB): This matter is currently under investigation by the Forestry Commission with a view to prosecution for felling without a licence. I have asked for a replanting order in addition to any other penalty that might be imposed.*

2. *Lucketts Farm (felling in Ancient woodland): This matter is under investigation by the Forestry Commission and IoW Council. I will continue to monitor this (and the Silver Glades) situation.*

3. *West Bay: I have opposed an application to vary the planning conditions and have requested that the matter be heard by the Planning Committee. I am concerned that there will be a loss/reduction in tourism and a loss of leisure amenities for the community. I also consider it appropriate that the Committee examines the financial justification for the variation which has not been disclosed to the public.*

4. *Lee Farm, Wellow: I have been involved in drafting an objection on behalf of the West Wight Villages Residents' Association to a planning application for 17 houses. The objection can be viewed on the planning website.*

I should say that I am not opposed to development per se but am of the view that the current housing targets imposed by Westminster are too high and will not address the

housing needs of the Island. We need homes that Islanders on lower incomes can afford to rent/buy, on brownfield sites. We also need, in my view, greater protection for greenfield and for rural areas.

I have responded to the following matters raised by residents:

5. Yarmouth Doctors Surgery: Unfortunately, I have been informed that there are no plans for a weekly surgery in Yarmouth. I hope that the FYT Bus service will continue to reduce the inconvenience/hardship caused by the closure of the Yarmouth surgery.

6. Damaged fencing/bollards on Bouldnor Road close to junction with Thorley Road: It was originally thought that the ground movement was caused by a burst water main, but this may well not be the case. Further investigation is being carried out by the Highways PFI Team; they will keep me updated.

7. Future Use of Yarmouth School: Residents have asked if the building could be acquired for community use. I would be grateful for your thoughts on this matter.

Some discussion took place about possible uses of Yarmouth School when it closes, and Cllr McCleary raised the issue of pre-school units. The one at All Saints is privately owned and run. It was agreed that data was needed. It was reported that Portacabins were due to be delivered in September having been delayed by Covid.

iii) LOCAL ISSUES

Sylvia Mence reported that the Community Flood Plan Team had been back in action recently, and that Covid had had an impact on its activity.

Cllr Corbett reported that the railings along the Common were in a poor state and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of Island Roads.

Cllr Corbett also referred to the installation of railings by the steps at the Mount, and the Clerk informed that he had been in contact with the contractor about this issue.

Cllr Corbett asked if there was any progress on changing the status of Friars Lane, and the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting finalisation from IWC as a public right of way.

It was also reported that the Yarmouth Youth Centre Bench by Off the Rails had suffered damage to its backboard. It was agreed to consider this along with the tenders for street furniture maintenance.

Cllr Allen suggested that the scaffolding outside Yarmouth School used in the 'Save our School' campaign should be removed.

Cllr Corbett asked the Mayor about the replacement of apple trees at the Mount.

The Mayor brought the Council's attention to the plight of Abbeyfield House, which has been threatened with closure by IWC who wish to make it a house of multiple occupation, which Abbeyfield is resisting because it is not the wish of their residents. Mayor Cowley suggested bringing this to the attention of the local press, and Councillors. RESOLVED that he should do so on behalf of YTC.

Cllr Head complained that the waste bins in Yarmouth weren't being emptied sufficiently frequently, leading to overflow of rubbish in the areas of the bins. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of Island Roads.

It was further suggested that 'Take your rubbish home' stickers should be stuck on the bins, and Cllr Allen undertook to source these.

Cllr Corbett reported that there was much weed growth along Ommanney Road. Cllr Head asked if the Clerk could bring Island Road’s attention to overgrown hedgerows along Thorley Street near to the junction with Wilmingham Lane.

In response to a question about the bench which originally stood outside St James Church, Cllr Allen reported that it would be ready in July.

iv) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no further questions.

39/2021 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Personal	Pecuniary
S Cowley	Yarmouth Town Trust CHOYD Shalfleet PC	Lee Farm
R Corbett	Yarmouth Town Trust	
D McCleary		Yarmouth School
J Allen		Multi-Service Marine River Yar Boatyard
T Cowley		Camp Wight
G Head	British Horse Society RSPB	National Trust

40/2021 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the virtual Annual Town Council and May monthly Town Council meetings held 11/5/21, and to formally confirm all actions taken in those meetings as defined in the minutes.

41/2021 CO-OPTIONS

It was proposed by Mayor Cowley, seconded by Cllr Corbett, and carried unanimously that Alan Ingram be co-opted as a member of Yarmouth Town Council until May 2025.

42/2021 FINANCE

42/2021.1 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved:

2362	Brian Jacobs	Clerk's salary June	£702.47
2363	Brian Jacobs	Clerk's salary May	£703.47
2364	All Round Cleaners	Public toilets April & May	£1,087.42
2365	RoSPA	Safety inspection Play Area	£94.80
2366	Indigo Graphics	Public toilets signage	£429.91
2367	CHOYD	Broadband & Hall hire	£75.60
2368	River Yar Boatyard	Refurbishment street furniture	£1,400.00
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary May/June	£390.12
DEB	Hampshire Flag Co	New Union Jack & St George's Flages	£152.87
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DEB	Microsoft	Office subs	£2.76
DD	SSE	Electricity public toilets	£209.70
DD	Everflow	Water public toilets	£104.94

42/2021.2 Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: To approve the financial statement for 30/5/21

42/2021.3 External Audit and Certificate of Governance

RESOLVED: To confirm and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21

43/2020 PLANNING ISSUES

New applications:

No objections were made to the following application:

Application No	Location	Proposal	Dates
21/00947/FUL	Wheatsheaf Inn Bridge Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0PH	Retention of kitchen duct system	Mon 14 Jun 2021
21/00948/LBC	Wheatsheaf Inn Bridge Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0PH	Listed Building Consent for retention of kitchen duct system	Mon 14 Jun 2021

The following were noted:

Applications Approved:

Application No	Location	Proposal
21/00672/FUL	The Terrace Quay Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0PB	Retention of first floor extension to form a storage area and alterations to create a covered way
21/00802/HOU	Grove Cottage St James Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NU	Proposed alterations and structural repair to include replacement of part of first floor wall

Applications Refused

Application No	Location	Proposal
21/00580/HOU	St Michael Station Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0QX	Proposed first floor extension; new dormer windows to front elevation; alterations and cladding to entire property
20/02204/FUL	The Terrace Quay Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0PB	Proposed pergola on the roof terrace

Application for a Premises Licence:

The Yarmouth Barbers & Connoisseurs, Jireh Place, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight

44/2020 TREE TRIMMING DONATION

Max Berryman recently trimmed the trees up by the Mount and has asked for any fee to be donated to a local charity. Cllr Allen reported that Mr Berryman had suggested Yarmouth Scouts, and agreed to confirm this with the donor.

45/2020 PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT AND RECREATION GROUND

The minutes of the last Recreation Ground Committee meeting of 3/6/21 were considered.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should order similar goals to those at Shalfleet.

Land drains: The Mayor and Cllr Cronin will meet Mark Grieves at the Rec on the coming Saturday to discuss this.

It was RESOLVED to request Brighstone Landscaping to cut the rec twice monthly during the July and August but to leave the cuttings in situ.

The Mayor will speak to a contractor to arrange construction of a petanque pitch in accordance with the agreed siting.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter to residents whose properties back on to the ditch to advise that work will shortly resume.

46/2021 ANNUAL GRANTS

RESOLVED: To approve the following grants:
West Wight Sports & Community Centre: £7575
Cruse: £150

47/2021 ANNUAL TENDERS

RESOLVED:
The award for toilet maintenance was decided in favour of All Round Cleaners.
Replanting of the bus station planters to West Wight Men in Sheds.

No applications have been received for grounds maintenance and the possibility of employing someone to carry out this work was discussed, but discounted.
Street furniture maintenance: An email has been sent to Care in the Garden at Wootton inviting them to tender for street furniture maintenance, and Cllr Allen's tender has already been accepted for furniture at the Mount.

48/2021 YARMOUTH COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FLOOD PLAN TEAM

Brian Tongue is unable to continue on the above Team, and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Allen would act in his place.

49/2021 CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER APPRAISAL

Cllr T Cowley undertook to speak to an acquaintance about producing an Appraisal and to consider this issue at a future meeting when more details were available.

50/2021 LOVESHORE LANE

Cllr Corbett reported that the contractor who had been working on the adjacent house will gravel the Lane in 2 weeks' time. He further proposed 'No Parking' signs to be erected, but this was considered to be outside the powers of YTC.

He also proposed a change of name for the Sea Lane by the Towers to its original 'Refuge Lane', and Councillors were in agreement with this.

51/2021 FLOODING OF CYCLEPATH

The continued flooding of the above. Island Roads was discussed, and it was recommended that Councillors should also raise a complaint individually on the Island Roads website.

52/2021 RISK ASSESSMENT AND PLAY AREA RoSPA REPORT

RESOLVED: To agree the risk assessment schedule for 2021

The recommendations of the RoSPA annual inspection report for the Play Area (previously forwarded) carried out 26/5/21, namely:

Decayed timber backless bench

Basket swing:

- Surfacing not compliant with the requirements of the relevant standards.
- Bird fouling present. It is recommended that playground equipment be regularly checked for bird fouling - if found, the affected items should be cleaned with a disinfectant solution.
- Consider adding cable ties to the top bar
- A secondary support device is required to prevent collapse in the event of supporting component failure, though, as the unit was installed prior to the publication of the current standards, there is no requirement to make retrospective changes

Rocker – Whale:

- Cap missing-replace
- Excessive weed growth on surfacing - mechanical removal is recommended

Carousel - Rotator – Pole:

Fixtures loose or missing – tighten (It is believed that this is causing some lateral movement)

Play Panels:

Replace missing cap

Swing Unit:

Seat(s) set at incorrect height - Adjust to give a minimum of 350mm clearance for standard seats, and 400mm for tyres, baskets and other groups seats. Raising the seat clearance to approximately 500 mm should also help adults to lift users in / out of the swing.

RESOLVED:

The missing caps to be ordered from Playdale

Brighstone Landscaping be asked to weed the matting

53/2021 FYT LOAN APPLICATION

FYT has applied for a £5000 loan from YTC over 5 years to cover the costs of electrifying its fleet. Cllr Allen reported that FYT was only seeking a declaration of support at the present and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should communicate this to the organisation.

54/2021 CLERK'S REPORT

54/2021.1 PUBLIC TOILETS

It was noted that there has been a complaint about smells arising from the Bridge Road toilets, which could be related to people urinating in the gully at the end of the access passage. A CCTV unit is to be installed which will hopefully curb this practice.

54/2021.2 ANNUAL TENDERS TOILETS MAINTENANCE

This had been dealt with under 47/2021

54/2021.3 YARMOUTH ON ICE

Clr Allen presented a report about this proposed event, indicating that a temporary ice rink was to be erected in the pre-Christmas period for 10 days. It will be funded by local businesses and advertising. He suggested that YTC might like to consider funding festoon lights for the Square.

55/2021 CORRESPONDENCE

The only item correspondence not forwarded since the last meeting was noted.

56/2020 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Banking arrangements

Conservation area appraisal

Yarmouth on Ice

57/2020 NEXT MEETING

CHOYD 27/7/21 18:30