



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 6:30pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), YHC representative, YTT Chairman Martyn Collinson, IWC Cllr Peter Spink, IW MP Bob Seeley, IW County Press, and 26 members of the public

### **1/2023 APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received

### **2/2023 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

**Visitor traffic:** The number of boats visiting the Harbour throughout the month of March were down by around 50% in comparison to previous years. This is largely due to inclement weather.

#### **Harbour Works:**

**Dredging:** This year's dredge campaign was successful. A post dredge bathymetric survey was conducted on the 8th March. This information has been published on the website.

**The project south of the bridge:** The improvement works south of the bridge commenced on the 6th of March. A notice to mariners was published. It is anticipated that most of the works will be complete at the end of next week, except for the replacement linkspan and security gate. These items are delayed at the manufacturers.

**Velux window:** 30 Velux windows were replaced on the Harbour building over the winter as they were at the end of their useful life and leaking.

**Solar:** The solar hot water system, which is located on the roof of the harbour offices has been refurbished and is now efficiently offsetting the costs associated with heating water in the visitor shower blocks.

In response to a question about completion of the River works, the YHC Representative advised that it should be at the end of the following week.

## **ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST**

The Clerk read the following report:

### **1) Common:**

**a. Memorial Benches:** Topsoil and grass in the areas around the plinths on the three new benches has now been carried out.

**b. Grass Area to the West:** The area between the Wight House and the path has been cleared and grass seed laid and will now be added to the grass cutting carried out on the rest of the Common.

**2) Finances:** The Trustees approved a new budget for the coming year.

**3) Town Hall:** The Memorial Stone is in need of a protective re-coating and Wight Stonemasonry is to carry out this work in the spring when the weather is warmer. The Stone around the windows will also be re-furbished. Scaffolding will be required before the work can begin. The stairwell will be painted in July/August and a visual inspection by drone is to be made of the chimney. The letterbox has been replaced due to the wear & tear on the old one. Appropriate banners will be placed on the Town Hall for the King's Coronation.

**4) Mill Road Cottages:** Temporary repairs have been made to the chimney at no 9 and the scaffold removed. Further remedial work is planned on all cottages once the weather improves.

**5) The Recreation Ground:** The Yarmouth Town Council are purchasing a goal to enable enthusiasts of all ages to practice football.

**6) Graveyard Copse:** The fencing between the Copse and the graveyard is to be re-instated in April.

**7) West Wight Heritage:** The Trust held its third meeting with the West Wight Heritage and discussed the forthcoming display on the three River Yar Bridges which will be shown at their premises over Easter.

**8) Yarmouth School Site:** The Town Trustees held a meeting with Peter Spink & Bob Seely on Friday 17th February in the Town Hall to give their views on the future of the site.

**9) Next Trustee Meeting:** The next Trust meeting is being held on Thursday 18th May.

Mr Collinson invited suggestions regarding air conditioning at the Town Hall.

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

Cllr Spink advised that IWC had not yet begun marketing the School site, but it was expected to begin shortly.

IWC has issued a planning enforcement notice for West Bay.

He had referred the Barnfield Solar Farm and Tapnell Farm applications to Planning Committee, and these are still outstanding.

He reported that the IW Planning Strategy has paused in anticipation of the Levelling-up Bill.

He reported that the Forestry Commission will be prosecuting Silver Glades Caravan Site, Cranmore for illegal felling of trees, compelling the company to replant. Although

it will take some years for the site to recover, it sends out a clear message to all others contemplating unauthorised felling.

In response to a question from Cllr T Cowley he reported that there was no progress regarding a footway from the Thorley turn-off.

Cllr McCleary asked about the fate of the planters outside the former Yarmouth School, and Cllr T Cowley informed that they had been relocated to the new Freshwater School.

**iv) LOCAL ISSUES**

Cllr Ingram reported that no action had yet been taken regarding the blocked-off footbridge at Thorley and the Clerk was asked to press for a response.

It was reported that there was still a blockage occurring at the bridge down Hill Place Lane, and the Clerk was asked to chase this up.

Deputy Mayor Corbett reported an abandoned bicycle outside Yarmouth Deli, and the Clerk was asked to raise this with Island Roads.

**v) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public asked if Cllr Corbett was prepared to offer a public apology for alleged bullying at the last monthly meeting. He did so and this was accepted by Cllrs Head and McCleary. This issue was dealt with in agenda item 12 below.

**3/2023 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

| <b>Councillor</b> | <b>Personal</b>  | <b>Pecuniary</b>                             |
|-------------------|--|--|
| R Corbett         | Yarmouth Town Trust                                      |  |
| J Allen           | RSYC   | Multi-Service Marine River Yar Boatyard      |
| G Head            | British Horse Society<br>RSPB                            | National Trust<br>Bowcombe Estate            |
| A Ingram          | Shalfleet PC   |  |
| D McCleary        |  | Highdown Inn                                 |
| S Cowley          | Yarmouth Town Trust<br>Shalfleet PC<br>Wight Nature Fund | Lee Farm                                     |
| T Cowley          | Shalfleet PC<br>Wight Nature Fund                        | Camp Wight<br>The Plant Shop (item 170/2022) |

**4/2023 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the last monthly meeting held 7/3/23 were accepted subject to an addition to future agenda items of reading out standing orders and recording meetings.

## 5/2023 FINANCE

### 5/2023.1 Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED: To approve THE FOLLOWING payments for April:

|            |                        |   |           |
|------------|------------------------|---|-----------|
| BACS234002 | All Round Cleaners     | Cleaning public toilets                         | £1,081.57 |
| BACS234003 | AMCF Cleaning          | Newsletter delivery                             | £150.00   |
| BACS234004 | Wight Computers        | Web hosting                                     | £78.00    |
| BACS234005 | Brian Jacobs           | Clerk's salary March                            | £901.57   |
| BACS234006 | The New View           | Eastern boundary work, Rec                      | £1,820.00 |
| BACS234007 | Danfo                  | Replaacement door handles,<br>Bridge Rd toilets | £47.10    |
| BACS234008 | Brighstone Landscaping | Plaque installation Queen's<br>Canopy           | £300.00   |
| DEB        | HMRC                   | PAYE Clerk's salary March                       | £276.71   |
| DEB        | Argos                  | Office furniture                                | £90.00    |
| DEB        | Giffgaff               | Office Phone                                    | £6.00     |
| DEB        | Microsoft              | Office 365                                      | £2.76     |
| DEB        | Post Office            | Office post                                     | £10.15    |

### 5/2023.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/3/23 was agreed

## 6/2023 PLANNING ISSUES

### New applications:

No objections were raised to the following applications:

| Application No | Location  | Proposal   | Dates              |
|----------------|---|--|--------------------|
| 23/00294/HOU   | Petas Cottage Alma<br>Place Yarmouth Isle<br>Of Wight PO41 0QQ        | Demolition of lean-to and<br>outbuildings; Proposed two<br>storey rear extension | Tue 11 Apr<br>2023 |
| 23/00314/HOU   | School House<br>Tattels Lane<br>Yarmouth<br>Isle Of Wight<br>PO41 0SW | Demolition of lean-to and<br>outbuildings; Proposed two<br>storey rear extension | Tue 11 Apr<br>2023 |

The following were noted:

### Applications granted:

| Application No | Location  | Proposal   | YTC<br>Comments |
|----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| 22/02184/CLEUD | Land Adjacent East<br>Cottage Newport<br>Road Yarmouth Isle<br>Of Wight | Lawful Development<br>Certificate for continued<br>use as live seafood<br>merchant and wholesalers<br>(readvertised application) | No objections   |

|             |  |   |            |
|-------------|--|---|------------|
| 23/00399/TW | George Hotel Quay<br>Street Yarmouth Isle<br>Of Wight PO41 0PE | 5 Day Notice of intent to<br>remove/make safe due to<br>it's dead and hazardous<br>crown. | No comment |
|-------------|--|---|------------|

**7/2023 RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk read out the minutes of the last Recreation Ground Committee meeting 16/3 and it was noted that the delivery of the new goalposts was imminent.

**8/2023 ANNUAL GRANTS**

It was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Cllr T Cowley and agreed unanimously to award grants in accordance with the schedule presented:

Yarmouth Sea Songs and Shanties £250

West Wight Sports Centre Trust £8500

West Wight Timebank £300

**9/2023 CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER APPRAISAL**

Cllr T Cowley reported that there had been no further progress regarding the Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

**10/2023 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET**

Cllr S Cowley presented the following report about the recent meetings of the School Site Steering Group:

*Yarmouth TC School Site Working Group has had many meetings with a host of different interesting and interested groups. The site has been registered as an Asset of Community Value by YTC, and the Town Council has expressed an interest in obtaining the site. It is difficult to be sure of the deadline for making an offer for the site, but we will continue to seek clarification.*

*The group has had a great deal of support from the Yarmouth Community in seeking information from the IWC, DfE, the Diocese of Portsmouth etc.*

*The Council has leafleted both Yarmouth and Thorley with a tear off return slip and an online survey. There have been over 200 responses so far.*

*We met with Bob Seely who sent out a leaflet supporting and encouraging residents to respond to Town Council's survey.*

*Amongst suggested future uses are Scout and Guide centre, affordable housing for people with a local connection, educational centre, various environmental groups, workshops, boat building, museum/exhibition centre and a 40 bed Care Home.*

*We have met with Ollie Boulter to discuss planning options and explore the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan.*

*We had a meeting with the IW Action which is supported by IWC Regeneration Team to explore the possibility of Community Led Housing and other options put forward by local people. Funding could come from IW Action for initial advice from a Planning Consultant.*

*There is a need for a 'section 77' consultation for the Department for Education before the site is sold. We do not yet know when this will be or how it works and are again seeking clarification.*

*The IWC also has told us that the decision to sell has not been finalised.*

*I would like to thank all those from the local community who have encouraged and support the work of the Working Party.*

### **11/2023      QUEEN COMMEMORATION AND KING'S CORONATION**

It was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Cllr D McCleary and agreed unanimously to meet the costs of the two suggestions made in previous meetings from Special Projects.

### **12/2023      CONDUCT AT AND RECORDING OF MEETINGS**

The Clerk read out the relevant sections of the YTC Standing Orders regarding behaviour at meetings and also and the Code of Conduct.

Cllr Corbett repeated his apology to Cllrs McCleary and Head and suggested that other councillors should also be concerned about their behaviour at public meetings, with particular reference to comments directed at Cllr Spink in previous meetings and commented on abusive phone calls and comments. Standing Orders were suspended and a contentious exchange took place between Councillors and Councillors and the public.

Cllr McCleary pointed out that Councillors were there to serve the public and it was in everyone's interest to move on, a sentiment that was echoed by Cllr Head, and thanked Cllr Spink for his contribution.

Cllr Spink reported that he had been dissuaded from attending YTC meetings, and suggested that the former Mayor, Cllr Allen, had resigned in unpleasant circumstances and that YTC Councillors should consider the impression given to the public.

Cllr T Cowley suggested that there had been no intention to be disrespectful or discourteous.

There were expressions of discontent made by various members of the public about YTC's image, and there were suggestions of lack of leadership, objectivity and respect, as well as bullying and intimidation.

A suggestion by Cllrs Head and Ingram that future YTC meetings are recorded by audio or audio/visual means was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would present suggestions for audio recordings to the next meeting.

### **13/2023      NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Deputy Mayor Corbett outlined the Neighbourhood Plan process, and Cllr T Cowley reported that he had consulted local councils on the Island who had produced such a document, 3 of whom had responded positively. It would be a statutory document carrying a similar weight to the Island Plan and would identify resources and gaps in the local community, and its value would be reinforced by forthcoming legislation.

Cllr S Cowley reminded that the Community Plan already in existence had led to the creation of CHOYD.

Deputy Mayor Corbett suggested that committing to a Neighbourhood Plan required careful thought because of the huge resources which would be involved, and Cllr Ingram thought the length of time needed to produce it would mean its finalisation would be too late to benefit the School Site campaign. Cllr T Cowley disagreed with the timespan suggested because Yarmouth Was such a small area.

MP Bob Seeley recommended producing a Plan, but did warn that it would be costly in terms of expenditure and Councillors' time, and take a considerable time to produce and be adopted, though a certain amount of resources would be available from the IWC.

It was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Cllr T Cowley and agreed by a further 4 Councillors, with 1 against, to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan subject to clarification of costs and process. Cllr T Cowley undertook to investigate this and report back to a forthcoming meeting.

**14/2022 CLERK'S REPORT**

**14/2023.1 20MPH RESTRICTIONS ON YARMOUTH STREETS**

Councillors considered a suggestion to IWC Highways by a local resident that all roads off Tennyson Road are covered by a 20mph speed restriction. The Clerk was asked to recommend IWC consider it as part of a forthcoming review into West Wight traffic.

**15/2022 CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**16/2022 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Recording of meetings
- Yarmouth School site campaign
- Annual tenders

**17/2022 MEETING VENUES**

RESOLVED: To confirm the venue for the next monthly meeting – 2/5/23 CHOYD and the Annual Town Meeting CHOYD 9/5/23

Signed..... (Town Mayor)

Date.....