



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 2nd April May following the Annual Council Meeting at 6:30pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Martyn Collinson (YTT), IWCP, IW Cllr Spink and 28 members of the public

### **18/2023 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence

### **19/2023 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

A Harbour Commissioner's representative was not present

#### **ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST**

Martyn Collinson, Chairman of YTT, read out the following report:

- 1) Town Hall:** The Town Hall will be dressed with celebration banners for the coronation. 2 prints of old maps of Yarmouth Town to be framed for public display in the downstairs chamber. Trustees will be reviewing drone footage of the Town Hall roof at their next meeting. Wight Stonemasonry have advised against a lime-shelter coat for the War Memorial stone. The Town Hall windows are due to be fitted August/September depending on the weather. The pavement will be closed. No date agreed yet for the stairwell redecoration, possibly June / July time. Waiting for the brickwork and plaster to dry out. No luck with Wright Refrigeration & Air Condition – no answer to website, emails or phone calls.
- 2) 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.
- 3) The Common:** Repairs have been carried out to the bicycle rack.

- 4) **The Recreation Ground:** The Yarmouth Town Council have purchased goal posts. But they had to be concreted in so the intention is to swap them for mobile ones.
- 5) **Graveyard Copse:** The fencing between the Copse and the graveyard is now complete.
- 6) **West Wight Heritage:** A display on the three River Yar Bridges is currently being shown at their premises in Freshwater. YTT will be joining the West Wight Heritage Group in an exhibition at the IW Family History Society event on 13th May
- 7) **Next Trustee Meeting:** The next Trust meeting is being held on Thursday 18th May.

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

Cllr Spink reported that he had still received no updates from IWC regarding Fort Victoria and Barnesfield Solar Farm

He reported that Yarmouth residents had expressed concern about the conduct at recent Yarmouth Town Council meetings and was pleased to note that the present one appeared to be progressing rather better. Mayor McCleary thanked him for his comments.

### iv) LOCAL ISSUES

Cllr Ingram asked the Clerk if he had received an update about the 2 footbridges in Thorley which had been reported to IWC and Island Roads. The Clerk had not had a positive response and undertook to pursue this matter.

Cllr T Cowley reported that ten dangerous trees, identified in a recent tree survey have been felled to ensure safety of walkers. The hide has been reopened, with the door removed and unglazed windows in the sheltered side of the building. This is to ensure it's not suitable for use for living in by the homeless, as that's why it was closed during the pandemic. The bluebells are currently in bloom around the woods and we encourage people to visit and enjoy them, but not to pick them.

Cllr Head raised the issue of a public litter pick in Thorley, raised by a Thorley resident, and the Clerk was asked to check what the public insurance position would be and report back to the next meeting. All were in agreement that YTC should provide black sacks and hi-viz tabards. It was proposed to advertise the event on the YTC website when a date was agreed.

### v) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public queried the grant of £500 made to Thorley Church in respect of a Coronation event at Wellow, when Shalfleet PC had only allocated £50. Mayor McCleary explained that the decision to grant the money was made democratically and Cllr S Cowley, also Chairman of Shalfleet PC, was unhappy that only £50 had been granted, but it was a majority decision.

A member of the public raised the issue of a letter in the Isle of Wight Observer alleging disrespectful comments about the IW Cllr Spink and IW MP Bob Seeley by 'democratically elected members of YTC' and asked who those were. Cllr S Cowley explained about the local election process and that all members of YTC had been elected unopposed. He encouraged as many of the public as possible to participate in this both for the present vacancies and for the next elections in 2025.

## 20/2023 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

This had been dealt with in the Annual Council Meeting.

## **21/2023 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the March monthly meeting on 7/3/23 and the last monthly meeting held 4/4/23 subject to agreed minor amendments.

## **22/2023 FINANCE**

### **22/2023.1 Payment of Accounts**

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

BACS234009	Yarmouth Sea Songs and Shanties	Grant	£250.00
BACS234011	Community Action IW	Payroll Services	£78.00
BACS234012	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary	£901.77
BACS234013	WBS	Stationery	£59.94
BACS234014	Brighstone Landscaping	Grpunds maintenance	£215.92
BACS234016	Grays Coast & Country	Coronation Square event	£2,010.00
BACS234017	St Swithuns Church Wellow	Coronation event	£500.00
BACS234018	CHOYD	Broadband & Warm Spaces	£396.00
BACS234019	B Jacobs	Expenses	£243.00
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary April	£276.34
DEB	Hampshire Flag Ltd	Flags	£385.49
DEB	Giffgaff	Office Phone	£6.00
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£2.76
DEB	Post Office	Office post	£8.00

### **22/2023.2 Bank Reconciliation**

The financial statement for 30/4/23 was agreed.

## **23/2023 PLANNING ISSUES**

There were no applications to consider.

## **24/2023 RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk read out the salient points from the minutes of the last Recreation Ground Committee meeting 27/4, which were:

- No further progress had been made with the new pavilion due to restricted resources
- The new goalposts had been delivered but were unsuitable and would be replaced
- The old play facilities at the former Yarmouth School had been cemented in and so were unusable
- The issue of a 'trim trail' was to be resurrected again at full Council.
- The rolling and cutting of the pitch was discussed, as was the damage caused last year by Southern Housing contractors.
- The complaint about the dead tree by the householder who shares the eastern boundary was discussed and considered to be unfounded. Peter Scott will plant

some birches in the northern corner of the eastern boundary when conditions are suitable.

- Peter Scott reported that someone had attempted to clean the Corten steel plaque at the Queen's Canopy with a wire brush, and recommended leaving the plaque untouched for a while and the artwork should come back.

### **25/2023 CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER APPRAISAL**

Cllrs T Cowley had circulated the draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal and will shortly submit to IWC. Cllr Cronin said he'd picked up a couple of anomalies and would liaise about them.

### **26/2023 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET**

Cllr S Cowley presented a report about the recent meetings of the School Site Steering Group. A lot of work had been carried out, and a meeting had been held with John Prickett, IW Community Action Community Housing Officer, who had secured funding to carry out work associated with the School site.

The recent survey via the Newsletter and online had indicated strong support for educational purposes and an exhibition centre.

He has arranged a meeting for 15/5/23 with John Prickett and Andrew White.

Cllr T Cowley commented that local feeling strongly supported the premise that any solution should be viable.

### **27/2023 QUEEN COMMEMORATION AND KING'S CORONATION**

Chairman of the Yarmouth Carnival Committee, Anna Pas-Kyle reported on plans for the coming event.

### **28/2023 COUNCILLOR BY ELECTION**

All Councillors were in favour of the issuing of poll cards as this is the first election that will need voters to produce Voter ID.

### **29/2023 COUNCILLOR TRAINING COURSE**

It was proposed by Cllr Head, seconded by Cllr S Cowley and agreed unanimously to hold a councillors training course in Yarmouth when the new councillors were in place. Cllr S Cowley will organise this.

### **30/2023 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr T Cowley proposed that the area covered by a Neighbourhood Plan should include all of Yarmouth and Thorley. This was seconded by Cllr S Cowley and agreed unanimously.

A Steering Group is to be formed with an agreed membership of 10 and the Mayor encouraged members of the public to volunteer to join the Group. Cllrs T Cowley, S Cowley, Cronin and Mayor McCleary agreed to participate.

Themes need to be identified, eg residential (social housing, affordable housing, etc) industrial and environmental and in line with human rights requirements.

The next step would be consultations to establish scoping, terms of reference and likely costs, for which some funding is likely to be available.

Details are to be published on the Council website and noticeboards and Cllr T Cowley will also put up details on the Council's Facebook page.

It was agreed to invite IWC officers to a forthcoming meeting to explain in more detail about the Plan and Cllr S Cowley offered to contact the officers concerned and arrange this.

### **31/2023 BUS STATION PLANTERS**

Cllr Head suggested that the planters had become rather untidy, though the Clerk felt that they were in a reasonable condition apart from some woody growth. West Wight Men in Sheds had agreed to renew the soil in them and add such plants they considered necessary.

### **32/2022 CLERK'S REPORT**

#### **32/2023.1 RECORDING OF MEETINGS**

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Cronin had considered a number of devices, as it was often difficult to pick up from audio recordings who's speaking, and consideration should also be given to bear Government accessibility requirements if it's intended to make recordings available on the Council website.

A basic audio only unit and an audio/visual unit are both around £120, and both will enable recordings to be made via laptop, and a more sophisticated audio/visual unit is available for around £550.

Cllr T Cowley asked for details of the suggested units to be forwarded to him, as he had some experience with this technology.

#### **32/2023.2 CLERK'S TIMESHEET**

The Clerk's timesheet for Jan-Mar 2023 was noted.

### **33/2022 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

### **34/2022 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Risk analysis

External audit and governance

Recording of meetings

Tenders

### **35/2022 MEETING VENUES**

The venues for the next 2 meetings were confirmed – the Annual Town Meeting CHOYD 9/5/23 and 6/6/23 at Thorley Church.