



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 6:30pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Martyn Collinson (Chairman YTT), Tim Adams (YHC Commissioner) and 11 members of the public

### **158/2023 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from Cllr Cronin for injury and Cllr Spink for delay due prior commitment.

### **159/2023 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

The Harbour has made a profit in 2023 but the exact figure is, as yet, uncertain. Boat numbers, however, were good, though some 2000 recreational visits down on a total of 17,500 due, in part, to poor weather.

The Environment Agency has carried out an assessment of the temporary defence management plan and has withdrawn the recently-deployed barriers because of concerns with safety and effectiveness and YHC is trying to find further information about this.

Questions were invited about the new ferry service to Lymington to be operated by Anderson Boat Cruises from April and the Commissioner explained the regulations and problems affecting this venture.

In response to a question from the public about planting new trees on the Common, the Commissioner replied they were working on that issue. Cllr T Cowley undertook to provide details of Woodland Trust from which whips could be obtained.

Cllr S Cowley asked if YHC had been having discussions with local businesses to encourage more visiting boat owners to visit the town rather than just the Harbour, and the Commissioner replied that he had been in talks with local businessmen about this issue.

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

- 1) **Town Hall:** The schedule for hiring the ground floor is agreed and the hiring dates are on the Town Hall notice board.
- 2) **Town Clerk:** Our Town Clerk is away for February with her husband in Cyprus. The Chairman will be checking the post box and keeping in touch by email.
- 3) **The Common:** The Handrail by the steps has scaffold tubes and seems to be sound at the moment; however, more concrete will be used to stabilise. The path has moved and is cracking, stone needs to be cut out and expansion joints put in place.  
Tree planting – The Trust is proposing to plant more Scots Pine on the Common.  
Memorial Benches: The bench traded in is scheduled for delivery on February 14th. The old one is being used to renovate the benches in Graveyard Copse.
- 4) **Graveyard Copse:** The water tap, which had fallen over has been repaired. Bench drainage has been improved with crushed concrete put down.
- 5) **Mill Terrace Cottage:** A maintenance schedule of all anticipated remedial work required on the cottages in the next 2 years has been prepared and estimates are being obtained for work needed to be carried out.
- 6) **Financials:** The proposed budget for 2024/5 will be discussed at the next Trust meeting on March 14th. Following approval, the amount the Trust feels able to give to local causes (who make a request to us) will be agreed at the May meeting.
- 7) **Recreation Ground:** We have received a proposal from Bradbury Sheds which does not include the work needed for a foundation. The focus of the Recreation Sub Committee is how it might service the children football activities (or not).
- 8) **Other:** The Trusts insurance has been renewed for the coming year. Cottages, Town Hall etc.

A member of the public complained about the recent re-seeding of the Rec and the growth of growth of groundsel and thistle, and Cllr T Cowley, who carried out the work, assured that an expensive mix had been used and weed growth had been already present in the ground, and exacerbated by abnormally wet weather as well as the decision not to use chemicals in a public area. The YTC contractors had been asked to carry out a cut of the turf, and Cllr T Cowley would carry out a rolling, and regular cuts will resolve the problem.

Jill Cowley asked if the YTT would be able to make a grant towards a book she was compiling of local residents' WW2 memories.

The Chairman went on to explain the background to the refusal of planning allocation 23/02083/CLPUD below.

#### 14th .iii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Cllr Spink, the Clerk read out the following report:

**1. Yarmouth School:** *I note that this is an agenda item tonight. The IoW Council Scrutiny Committee is to receive a report on the 12th March re the future of the school site in advance of it going to cabinet on the 14th. My understanding is that the Cabinet's preferred bid will be announced at that meeting.*

**2. Neighbourhood Plan:** *There is as yet little clarification from the government re Neighbourhood Priority Statements. In addition, as councillors are aware, the Draft Island Planning Strategy is on 'hold' until at least March, pending clarification re exceptional circumstances. May I suggest that an inaugural meeting of the steering group is postponed until both of these matters have been clarified. Should the council wish, however to go ahead with a meeting I would very much like please to be included.*

**3. Planning Applications:** *I continue 'to press' for the application re Tapnell Farm to be returned to planning committee for determination.*

#### **iv) LOCAL ISSUES**

Deputy Mayor Head commented about the commercial waste which local voluntary litter collector had encountered in Thorley Road, and the Clerk informed that he had reported this to the Environmental Officer.

Cllr T Cowley reported a problem of mud and tree detritus along Hill Place Lane and the Clerk agreed to bring this to the attention of Island Roads.

Cllr Ingram reported a problem with accessing the bus stop at the bottom of Hill Place Lane along the grass verge which is dangerous after recent wet weather, particularly with Hill Place Lane currently used as a diversion to Thorley & Wellow. The Clerk will report this problem to Island Roads.

A question was raised about the bench which used to be outside the church. Cllr T Cowley knew someone who could renovate it and the Clerk was asked to arrange for the bench to be collected.

Mayor McCleary reported on progress with re-establishing the Yarmouth Business Association and will be pressing ahead with a meeting; Cllr Farrell agreed to participate. She had notified John Caulcutt about YTC's decision to award him the Freedom of the Town and she will arrange for a suitable ceremony.

Cllr S Cowley wondered how many second homes are registered as businesses and so do not pay council tax, as IWC is about to double council tax on second homes.

The lack of visibility at the Basketts Lane/Tennyson Road junction was discussed, and the Clerk advised he had reported this back in November but had received no update from Island Roads.

There was some discussion about the clearance of the pathway through from the Rec to the Cycleway, which Cllr T Cowley felt had been badly carried out, and he suggested that it should be a properly surfaced path and replacement of the elm suckers with more suitable trees.

#### **v) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Sylvia Mence reported that CHOYD was considering installing a defibrillator outside the hall as it was felt that the two already provided in the town were not sufficiently accessible. The Trustees had established the British Heart Foundation would supply a unit free of charge, but CHOYD would have to pay for installation and maintenance. She will report to the next YTC meeting about costs and a possible grant from YTC.

She also confirmed that CHOYD will be seeking a YTC grant in respect of the D-Day 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration and will raise that issue at the next YTC meeting. Mayor McCleary asked that both these issues should form part of next month's YTC agenda. A member of the public raised the issue of speeding along Tennyson Road. There was some discussion about the recent speed monitoring check carried out in Freshwater which has had some effect on speeding there. Cllr S Cowley reported that Shalfleet PC had the necessary equipment but not volunteers to man it. The Clerk reminded Councillors that they had refused to allow the police to install a 'grasscrete' area at the top of the Mount which they could use to park the speed-check vehicle. It was agreed to discuss this issue at the next YTC meeting.

### **160/2023 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Personal</b>	<b>Pecuniary</b>
G Head	British Horse Society RSPB	National Trust Bowcombe Estate
A Ingram	Shalfleet PC Millenium Green	
D McCleary		The Piano Bar
S Cowley	Yarmouth Town Trust Shalfleet PC Wight Nature Fund	Lee Farm
T Cowley	Shalfleet PC Wight Nature Fund	Camp Wight
P Farrell	RSYC	

### **161/2023 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

It was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head, and agreed unanimously to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the December monthly meeting held 9/1/24.

### **162/2023 FINANCE**

#### **162/2023.1 Payment of Accounts**

It was proposed by Cllr T Cowley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed unanimously to approve payment of the following accounts for February:

BACS234090	Island Cleaning Solutions	Cleaning public toilets	£728.33
BACS234091	IWALC	Subscription	£243.03
BACS234092	YTT	Lease Rec Ground	£180.00
BACS234093	CHOYD	Room hire	£45.00
BACS234094	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary January	£960.67
BACS234095	Brighstone Landscaping	Cememtry grounds maintenance	£435.91
BACS234096	B Jacobs	Expenses	£100.80

DD	Everflow	Water public toilets	£120.60
DEB	Post Office	Office post	£15.60
DEB	Pay by Phone	Car park charges	£4.95
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DEB	HMRC	Clerk's salary January	£301.32
DEB	Eventbrite	Seminar P Farrell	£39.22
DEB	The Range	Picture frames	£9.98

### 162/2023.1 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/1/24 was approved.

### 163/2023 PLANNING ISSUES

#### New application:

24/00151/HOU – no objections

The following were noted:

#### Application granted:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
23/01885/HOU	Mckinley Victoria Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0QW	Removal of existing conservatory and replacement extension, removal of roof to rear elevation and replacement with flat roof and parapet; replacement of existing windows (Revised Plans)	No objections
23/02067/ADV	Quayside Compound Adjacent To RNLI Lifeboat Pen The Quay Yarmouth Isle Of Wight	Installation of a new flagpole	Supported

#### Application refused:

Application No	Location	Proposal
23/02083/CLPUD	Royal Solent Yacht Club Market Square Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NS	Lawful Development Certificate for proposed pontoon and associated piles

### **164/2023 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET**

Cllr S Cowley suggested that the outcome of the submitted bid should be known by the next meeting.

### **165/2023 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr T Cowley had no update but indicated that, as YTC had decided to proceed with this project that there was little point in considering the Neighbourhood Priority Statement alternative, particularly since there was little information available about it. The Clerk reported that IWC knew no more about it, so there was little point in inviting an officer along to address YTC. Cllr Farrell was concerned to explain to residents why YTC wasn't considering a cheaper and less arduous solution.

### **166/2023 HYP PROJECT PLAQUES**

Cllr Farrell presented the following report about the scheme to extend the Yarmouth Historic Plaques:

**Overall timing:** Kevin Shaw is continuing to develop the final plaque designs for the George Hotel, Refuge Lane and the Yarmouth Mill. His work will now determine the overall pace at which this phase of the project progresses. Finished designs are required by IWC Planning and also Historic England and for final costings. (NB All three buildings are Grade II Listed). Taking into consideration other demands on his time, Kevin is estimating that the plaque designs will be ready in a couple of months.

**Body copy & naming:** Draft body copy, provided by Kevin Shaw, was circulated at last month's council meeting and afterwards by email to council members. No edits have so far been suggested. There was some discussion at our last meeting, however, concerning the correct name for Yarmouth Mill. ie should it be called Thorley Mill. I have looked into this:

- On the English Heritage and Historic England websites, where the Mill is Grade II listed, it is called "Yarmouth Mill", Mill Road, Yarmouth. Searching for Thorley Mill on these sites brings up nothing.
- Both Kevin Shaw and Sebastian Taylor (son of AJP Taylor and the current owner of the Mill) are quite clear in their views that it is called Yarmouth Mill.
- The property is apparently called Yarmouth Mill on the Deeds.
- Informal asking around in Yarmouth indicates that people call it "the Mill" or "Yarmouth Mill". No one seems to call it Thorley Mill.
- This element of the project will be complex and at risk if we call it anything other than Yarmouth Mill.

**Thorley Lectern:** It was decided at last month's council meeting that we should proceed initially with either the replacement or refurbishment of the Thorley lectern which is now quite dilapidated. Two estimates have now been received for the replacement of the oak stand and frame.

- Jason Richie, Wellow : £1200-1500 + VAT (reported last month)
- Clifford J Mathews Ltd, Whitwell : c.£700 + VAT (new estimate)

Clifford Mathews were initially asked for both a replacement and a refurbishment estimate. In view of their much lower estimate for replacement, I have asked them again to visit the lectern and provide an estimate for its refurbishment.

### **167/2023 RECREATION GROUND**

Laying a substrate by the 2 pedestrian access gates – an updated quote is awaited from Brighstone Landscaping.

Basket swing RoSPA and EV – the Environmental Officer has clarified the need for an additional safety chain. It's a minor alteration and is being dealt with by the Rec Committee.

The moleman has been active at the Rec, capturing 7 moles, but somebody has been stealing his traps. CCTV notices have been mounted on the gates and more have been laid; no reports have been received about any further thefts. The contractor will continue to monitor the area for any further infestations over the next 6 weeks.

### **168/2023 TREES**

The Clerk reported that Island Roads had declined to restore the dot trees removed from the car park.

The vandalism of apple trees at the Heroes' Orchard at the Mount was discussed. Cllr S Cowley suggested a plaque to be mounted explaining the reason for the Orchard, and Cllr Farrell agreed to research the cost along with the other plaques he's arranging. It was pointed out that cutting branches on the young trees will not restrict their growth but will result in them growing misshapen.

### **169/2023 D-DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATIONS**

The Mayor explained the arrangements made to date which will include a procession from the Town Hall to the Green led by Medina Marching Band followed by the lighting of the beacon.

Cllr Farrell urged that spectators should eat fish and chips as part of the commemoration, as this dish played a significant part in wartime rations and suggested that local businesses should be approached to provide this fare and that £1 from every portion sold in Yarmouth should be donated to armed forces charities.

The Mayor called for a volunteer to be Town Crier for the day.

Cllr Ingram asked that the word 'commemoration' be used to describe this event rather than 'celebration'.

### **170/2022 CLERK'S REPORT**

#### **170/2023.1 CLERK'S TIMESHEET**

The Clerk's hours for October-December 2023 were noted.

### **171/2023 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**172/2023 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- D-Day 80th Commemorations
- Community speedwatch
- &Use of Rec by youth football team
- Trees
- Plaques
- Carnival report
- CHOYD defibrillator

**173/2022 MEETING VENUES**

The venue for the next meeting was confirmed – CHOYD 5/3/24.

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

**Date.....**