



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 6:30pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Martyn Collinson (Yarmouth Town Trust), Tim Adams (Harbour Commissioner) and 20 members of the public

### **1/2024 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Farrell

### **2/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

The Harbour Commissioner reported that YHC is to upgrade and extend its solar panels. YHC has purchased Salty's with the object of bringing it back into the community and will be letting it out for a reasonable rent to achieve a reasonable return.

Cllr S Cowley asked about the barriers erected across the emergency slipway. The Commissioner responded that they had been erected to prevent unauthorised use of the facility, partly for safety reasons and insurance purposes, but access could still be gained by obtaining a permit from the Harbour Office. Cllr Spink asked about charges for use of the slipway, and was informed that such charges had always applied, and were currently £5 per use or an annual permit for unlimited launches could be purchased.

Cllr T Cowley asked about the proposal to plant trees on the Green. The Commissioner reported that the Commissioners had asked for more information, including planting costs, maintenance, etc.

A member of the public asked if the Harbour Commission was offering any incentives for visiting boat owners to visit the harbour and shop in the town. The Commissioner reported that the Harbour would pass on any promotions from local businesses to every visitor, as well as offering attractive discounts to visiting craft.

## ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

1) **Financials:** Budget – the proposed 2024-25 Budget had been circulated to Trustees and was agreed by all at the meeting.

2) **Town Hall:** 2024 Bookings commenced on 2nd March.

- All weekends and Bank Holidays have been booked by regular traders.

- 6th June has been reserved for the D Day 80th Celebration

- 28th July has been reserved for St James Day

- 10th November has been reserved for Remembrance Sunday

- The staircase will be redecorated in the summer.

3) **The Common:** The replacement Bob Barnes bench was received in February and has been installed. The original bench has been removed and used to restore the benches in Graveyard Copse.

Tree planting – The Trust is looking to source more Scots Pine for the Common.

Grass Cutting: The contract for 2024 has been awarded to Brighstone Landscape

4) **Mill Terrace Cottage:** The drawn-up maintenance schedule will begin once the weather improves.

5) **Recreation Ground:** We have received a proposal to create an under 11 playing facility including a new pavilion. The organisation proposing this states that they have access to grants of £25,000 p.a The YTT and YTC will work together to see if this is a viable option or not.

6) **Other:** The Trust understands that the School site is being sold to the HST/MAT bid it and hopes that they would want to work in cooperation with the YTC & YTT in the best interests of the Yarmouth community.

## iii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

1. **Tapnell Farm:** Cllrs will recall that the planning application was adjourned pending recalculation of nitrate neutrality. I have been informed by the case officer that this has now been carried out and is being considered by Natural England. Once the report from NE is available the application will be recalled for determination by planning committee.

2. These matters are not within the Parish and are therefore for information only.

Slurry Leakage: As the TC is aware a slurry pit at the Southern end of Wilmingham Lane is leaking into the nearby watercourse. The Environment Agency have been notified but as far as I am aware have failed to take any action (notwithstanding that they have also been contacted by Bob Seely). There is a risk of considerable contamination if the wall of the pit is breached further.

**Fort Victoria :** This matter is for information only as the Fort is not within the parish. Unfortunately the problem with the campervan dwellers continues. Although the number of vans has reduced to 3 the threatening behaviour continues with a young woman recently being struck by one of the van dwellers. The incident was reported to the Police, but no further action has been taken other than attending the scene. I have emailed the relevant IoW Council Cabinet Member requesting an explanation. I am also working with the member of staff who is trying to 'move the van-dwellers on'. This is becoming a long and drawn out process; meanwhile the business tenants are being

intimidated and their incomes are suffering. I have advised them to seek legal advice as to what causes of action they may have against the IoW Council.

**3. YH Slipway:** I have been contacted over the weekend by a number of residents who are concerned that the slipway has been 'chained-off' and a charge is to be made for its use. I have not yet had an opportunity of looking into this but will do so as a matter of urgency.

**4. Draft Island Planning Strategy (DIPS):** Cllrs will be aware that the somewhat overdue revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework took place on the 19th December. In particular para 61 was revised to make it easier for 'Islands with no land-bridge and an elderly population' to claim exceptional circumstances (EC) (i.e. to calculate housing need by an alternative method to the government's formula).

The IoW Council instructed a KC to advise on whether the changes would result in a lower 'housing target' than present. Currently the government expects circa 700 houses per annum to be built on the Island. The DIPS seeks to reduce this to 453 on the grounds that more would be undeliverable. The advice of the 'Council's KC/demographer' is that the figure would be unlikely to be reduced to less than 453.

A second opinion from a barrister instructed by the West Wight Villages Resident's Association together with a preliminary demographic report has questioned this conclusion and a full demographic report has been advised. In light of this, and for further changes to be made, the DIPS was adjourned for up to a month by Full Council on 20th March.

#### **iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Deputy Mayor Head reported that she had attended the latest YHAC meeting

Mayor McCleary reported she had attended the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party.

Cllr T Cowley reported that Wight Nature Fund had carried out extensive coppicing at Mill Copse. In response to a question from the public he detailed all the work being carried out at Mill Copse, and the proposed fencing to be erected there to exclude cattle, but with an access gate to preserve the right of way.

#### **v) LOCAL ISSUES**

Cllr Cronin suggested 'remains of 'deep water' by river sign should be removed & the Clerk was asked to arrange this with EA.

Deputy Mayor Head expressed thanks to Philip Black for his continued litter collection efforts in Thorley.

It was reported that a bicycle had been left chained to the Thorley lectern.

Cllr T Cowley reported that the recent works in Hill Place Lane had resulted in no further flooding. He also commended Island Roads on its work at the bottom of Hill Place Lane by the bus stops.

It was reported that work being carried out at 2, Newclose Cottages, Thorley had been referred to Planning Enforcement by local residents.

#### vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Jill Cowley reported that she was under way with her book of wartime memories which she hoped would be available for the D-Day 80 commemorations, and asked YTC to underwrite any shortfall in funding. The Clerk provided financial details of the last publication. It was proposed by Mayor McCleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed by remaining Councillors (Cllrs S Cowley and T Cowley having to abstain because of personal involvement) to underwrite costs up to £4500.

#### 3/2024 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Personal	Pecuniary
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 Spink	IWC CPRE	

#### 4/2024 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

It was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the last monthly meeting held 5/3/24.

#### 5/2024 FINANCE

##### 5/2024.1 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 April:

245001	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary March	£960.67
245002	Island Roads	Play Area litter bin	£115.20
245003	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£728.33
245004	Wight Computers	Web hosting	£78.00
245005	Brighstone Landscaping	Cemetery maintenance	£435.91
245006	Community Land Trust	Subscription	£90.00
DEB	Pay by Phone	Car park charges	£4.95
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary Feb & March	£602.64

##### 5/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/3/24 was noted and agreed.

## 6/2024 PLANNING ISSUES

### New applications:

24/00439: It was felt that this application represented an invasion of privacy for neighbouring properties, and the Clerk was asked to record that on the Planning website.

The following were noted:

### Applications Granted:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
24/00151/HOU	17 The Glen Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0PZ	Proposed replacement windows and doors and new cladding	No objections

### Other:

Street Trading Application

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 4

Application for: Street Trading Consent – Wight Whippy’s Island Wide Mobile Trading

## 7/2024 CHOYD DEFRIBILLATOR

There had been no further developments on this issue and will be considered again in May.

## 8/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

The following report was presented by Cllr S Cowley:

It is very pleasing that the work we did has shaped the future of the site to ensure the site benefits our community.

Because of our plan, both the affordable housing and space for the Scouts and Guides Hall is in the agreement for sale to the Yarmouth Community Trust (YCT).

We have been told that the YCT is being formed as a charitable trust.

The IWC wants to work with us on the housing. I have been contacted by IWC Property Manager to discuss the way forward.

The Herapath Shenton Trust is meeting the Scouts and Guides Trustees.

It is early days yet but I will keep you informed. It’s the duty of YTC and the Steering Group to work closely with all interested parties in the school site redevelopment to ensure the best outcome for the community.

## 9/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr T Cowley read out the Working Party press release for the inaugural meeting 25/3: Yarmouth Town Council’s Neighbourhood Plan Working Party had its first meeting on 25th March. Ten members of the community listened to a presentation by James Brewer, Isle of Wight Council’s Planning Policy Manager, about what functions a Neighbourhood Plan can provide for the area and how it interacts with national and Island policies.

There was a very positive initial discussion under James' guidance, to better understand what Neighbourhood Plans should cover, as well as what they cannot provide governance for. The discussion established useful common ground for objectives among the group. This will help them to create policies for development within the town and parish boundary, for up to the next 15 years.

The group will be gathering evidence around the needs and wants of various different sectors of the community in the coming months. This will include residents young and old, businesses and people from community organisations from within and beyond the Yarmouth and Thorley neighbourhood area.

The Working Party welcomes contributions from everyone within our community and would like to encourage all groups who would like their voices heard to contact the Town Clerk to understand how to take part in this once in a generation forum, to ensure Yarmouth continues to develop as a vibrant and sustainable community.

Cllr S Cowley reported that he had handed out copies of the previous Community Plan to the Working Party as a guide to the current exercise. He also said he was trying to encourage more people from Thorley to join the group.

#### **10/2024 HYP PROJECT PLAQUES**

In Cllr Farrell's absence the Mayor read out a short report received from him saying that completion is now dependent on Kevin Shaw's input, whom he has yet to contact on this issue. Once the design is received then the project can progress.

#### **11/2024 RECREATION GROUND**

Cllr Cronin, Chair of the Rec Committee, reported on matters arising from the 21/3 meeting:

A safety chain for the basket swing had been ordered.

A positive meeting had taken place with Mark Holmes who has asked to use the football pitch for his youth football team which he hoped would eventually mature into an older, perhaps eventually, adult team. He had requested suitable, exclusive, changing facilities be provide at the Rec, which would affect the type of pavilion erected, but for which grants of up to £25K per annum were available from the Football Foundation.

Cllr T Cowley welcomed the greater degree of certitude about the facilities required, and commented that this new interest in the Rec had been as a result of the pitch improvements over the last 2 years.

#### **12/2024 TREES**

This had already been dealt with in the Public Forum.

#### **13/2024 D-DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATION**

The Clerk reported that he was to engage in a Teams meeting about a traffic management plan for the procession and lighting of the beacon.

#### **14/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

The organiser for the proposed community speedwatch gave an update on its progress, indicating her intention to join in a session of the Freshwater unit.

#### **15/2024 COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

The Mayor indicated that she would be organising a second training session in Ethical Leadership to be staged at Yarmouth, and undertook to provide suitable dates.

#### **16/2024 CONTINENTAL STREET MARKET**

Cllr Farrell had reported a meeting with RR Events Solutions Ltd (email 7/2, attached) for a market in Yarmouth in June, and the Clerk read out that report. There was considerable discussion about this proposal, focussing on:

Parking

Impact on local businesses

Access

Consultation

Councillors were supportive of the initiative but considered there was insufficient time to carry out preliminary consultations, etc before June, but would support a smaller venture later in the year and perhaps centred around local produce. Mayor McCleary and Cllr Farrell will respond to RR Events to that effect. This topic will be addressed again next month.

#### **17/2024 BIOSPHERE FESTIVAL**

Participating in the proposed Biosphere Festival (email 27/2 and attached) scheduled for 29-30/6/24 was discussed, but Councillors were concerned that it was unclear what was required of YTC and whether there would be sufficient time to provide it. The Clerk was asked to email the organiser and suggest that YTC was unable to participate this year because of time constraints, but would be happy to consider participating in a future event.

#### **18/2024 ANNUAL GRANTS**

It was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Mayor McCleary and agreed unanimously to make the following grants:

WW Sports Centre £9350

Yarmouth Town Trust re Town Hall maintenance £350.

#### **19/2024 MEETING TIMES**

Beginning meetings at a later time to allow greater flexibility to Cllr Spink was discussed and it was proposed by Mayor McCleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed unanimously to begin future meetings at 7pm.

**20/2024 CLERK'S REPORT**

**202023.2 REHAB 4 ADDICTION LINK**

It was agreed to place a link on the YTC website for the above organisation.

**21/2024 CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**22/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Neighbourhood Plan

School site

Path to Cycleway

Mill Copse right of way

Street Markets

**23/2024 MEETING VENUES**

It was confirmed the next monthly meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting/Monthly Meeting at CHOYD 7pm 7/5/24, and noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be at CHOYD 6:30pm 23/4/24.

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

**Date.....**