



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7:15pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), and 12 members of the public

Monique Gallop gave a presentation about setting up a food waste distribution centre on the Island, explaining that there was a lot of surplus food on the Island which is sent to the mainland, and much of it redistributed back to the Island. The aim of her organisation is to set up a food distribution centre on the Island with Fair Share, which will reduce the carbon footprint of the food in question and help alleviate food poverty over the coming 6 years.

24/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Tim Adams (Harbour Commissioner) and Martyn Collinson (Yarmouth Town Trust).

25/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:

i) HARBOUR ISSUES

The Harbour Commissioner had previously emailed to say there was nothing to report.

ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

The YTT Chairman had previously emailed to say there was nothing to report.

iii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Spink presented the following report:

Breaches of IoW Council's Constitution: *A considerable amount of my time has been spent on issues of process and adherence by councillors and members of staff to the Council's Constitution. The constitution is intended to ensure proper and fair democratic process but it is unfortunately often broken and disregarded. The effect of which is to prevent full discussion and examination of policies. Complaints made about this by myself and other councillors' are invariably dismissed by senior council staff or simply*

not investigated. This has contributed to ill feeling, a lack of trust and an often toxic atmosphere at meetings.

It is hoped that changing the council's system of governance from a cabinet model to a committee system will improve the situation by involving more councillors in the decision making process and discouraging party politics and point scoring. The decision whether to implement this new system is to be taken by an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council on the 1st of May. The Extraordinary Meeting delayed the implementation for a year (i.e. AGM 2025). Having voted for it to be implemented this month, I am disappointed that it has been delayed on the grounds that it should not be rushed; the change-over has been 'worked on' for approximately a year.

Draft Island Planning Strategy Affects Us All: Also to be decided by Full Council on the 1st of May is whether the Draft Island Planning Strategy should continue to its 2nd public consultation and thence for examination by a government inspector. I recognise that we need a new planning strategy and that we also need housing across the Island including Yarmouth; but it needs to be affordable by Islanders, particularly those of working age. In my view our farmland and woods should not be squandered on housing that developers want and Islanders cannot afford. I have, therefore been pressing for a small but important number of changes to the Draft Strategy. In view of significant public opposition to the proposal to build 70 houses alongside the 26 or so that were built a few years ago in Burt Close Shalfleet, I have put forward an amendment to reduce development in the countryside to smaller, more appropriate sites of 10 or 20 houses in accordance with national policy. The cabinet, and surprisingly the local ward councillor for that part of Shalfleet, are opposing my amendment.

The Draft Strategy also proposes to extend Freshwater's settlement boundary to enable development on high quality agricultural land at Camp Road. This is in breach of government policy to retain such land for food production. I have tried to prevent this by a further amendment but again the cabinet and the same ward councillor do not support this amendment.

The Draft Strategy aims for 453 houses to be built on the Island every year for the next 15 years. It is hard to see why we need that number of houses when census figures show that in the 10 years between 2011 and 2021 the Island's population increased by only 2,000 (approximately) a significant proportion of which were over 60s moving here from the mainland. Further, we have already granted permission for approximately 2,000 houses which have yet to be built. I hope that the above explains why I cannot support the Draft Strategy in its current form.

The majority of Councillors voted in favour of the DIPS to progress to R19 consultation. I intend to call for the above amendments as part of the consultation process. I shall also continue to campaign for 'exceptional circumstances' for the Island, which would enable us to build houses that Islanders need as opposed to those that developers want.

IW Council Committees: Over the past year I have continued in my role as Vice-Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, Chair of the Planning Protocol Group, member of the Health and Social Care Committee, The Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Group, Full Council, and until recently Planning Committee. I am not a member of cabinet but nevertheless attend the majority of meetings.

Ward Duties: *I have assisted residents of my Ward with a number of issues ranging from planning, planning enforcement, unlawful tree-felling, flooding, roads, speed limits, the future use of the Yarmouth School site, permanent over stayers at Fort Victoria Campsite, empty properties, and more.*

With regard to the Wilmingham Lane digestate lagoon Bob Seely M.P. kindly wrote at my request to the Environment Agency. In addition, the planning enforcement officer maintains that it is not a planning issue. I shall continue to press in this regard.

Cllr T Cowley commented that there were 4 such lagoons on the Island in other local council areas.

iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr S Cowley reported that he had recently attended an IWALC meeting in which there had been an informative discussion about community-led housing.

Cllr Cronin reported that copies of the Community Flood Plan had been distributed to all relevant properties in Yarmouth.

There was some discussion about erosion along the cycleway and the Clerk was asked to make a formal complaint to Island Roads about the lack of effective action on this issue, highlighting its importance to the proposed Greenway.

Cllr T Cowley reported that he had attended the AONB AGM. He referred to a report by Ian Boyd about the local nature recovery strategy which is new Government legislation to assist nature recovery in nature deprived areas, and could affect Yarmouth and Thorley, looking at areas adjacent to designated areas that recovery could be extended into. He suggested inviting Ian Boyd to a future YTC meeting to explain the policy in more detail.

v) LOCAL ISSUES

Cllr Ingram commented about parking at 2, Newclose Cottages, Thorley which has been the subject of a referral to Planning Enforcement.

Cllr Farrell referred to a damaged bollard along Quay Street, which the Clerk said he had reported to Island Roads.

vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mayor McCleary introduced Mark Holmes who then gave a report on his Yarmouth Youth football team's use of the Rec. He was awaiting confirmation from the FA that he can start a new club and went on to discuss the removable stop netting necessary on the eastern boundary to stop balls going into neighbouring properties. He also detailed plans for a temporary shipping container to be sited somewhere on the Rec to store equipment until the new pavilion is sorted out. He explained that there were many grants available for developing new clubs and the issue of match funding was discussed.

Jill Cowley reported on the progress of her war memoirs book which will be launched at CHOYD on 1/6. She hoped to make a donation from the sale of books to dementia charities.

26/2024 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 Farrell	RSYC	

27/2024 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor Head, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the last monthly meeting held 2/4/24.

28/2024 FINANCE**28/2024.1 Payment of Accounts**

It was proposed by Cllr T Cowley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed unanimously to make the following payments in May:

245007	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary March	£960.87
245008	WWSSC	Annual grant	£9,350.00
245009	YTT	Annual grant Town Hall	£350.00
245010	Thorley Church	Contribution Thorley Curch wall	£550.00
245011	Paravectis	Service lock mechanisms public toilets	£130.00
245012	Danfo	Replacement coin mechanism Common	£236.03
245013	Gareth Hughes	Internal audit	£205.00
245014	CHOYD	Internet facilities	£40.77
245015	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£728.33
245016	UK Map Centre	Area map for neighbourhood plan	£60.96
245017	Community Acion IW	Annual payroll charge	£90.00
245018	Peter Scott	Safety chain basket swing	£57.38
245019	B Jacobs	Expenses	£201.60
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 April	£301.12

28/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 30/4/24 was noted.

28/2024.2 Final accounts and Audit 2023/24

It was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed unanimously for the Mayor to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the external audit.

28a/2024 PLANNING ISSUES

New Applications:

24/00527/HOU: No objections

24/00564/HOU: No objections but concern about car parking and application for enforcement.

24/00565/HOU: No objections.

The following were noted.

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The following application has been accepted by the licensing authority:

Application for a Premises Licence – Kraken, Yarmouth Harbour, Isle of Wight

Applications Granted:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
24/00258/TW	Harbour Masters Office Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners Bridge Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NT	T12; White poplar - Fell.	No comment submitted

29/2024 CHOYD DEFRIBILLATOR

CHOYD's application has been declined and this item can be removed from future agendas.

30/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

Cllr S Cowley had no update apart from waiting to hear from the preferred bidder on the way forward.

A member of the public raised concerns about the maintenance of the empty premises and Councillors wondered if volunteers would need to be enlisted to ensure that this is carried out.

31/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Working Party Deputy Chairman, Cllr T Cowley, reported that the last meeting had gone very well and a number of specialist sub-groups had been formed, in particular

one to ensure preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Yarmouth and Thorley area. He explained that a public forum would be held on 28/5 to update residents on progress.

32/2024 HYP PROJECT PLAQUES

Cllr Farrell reported that the design stage had been reached, enabling firm quotes for manufacture of the plaques to be obtained. There was some discussion about the correct name for the tide mill and the view was expressed that it should be agreed with the owners, who were present and were adamant that the title should be 'Yarmouth Mill'. Cllr Farrell was reminded that it had been decided to generate a plaque for the Heroes' Orchard as well as restoration of the Thorley lectern. Cllr Farrell will liaise with Jill Cowley on appropriate wording for the Heroes' plaque.

33/2024 RECREATION GROUND

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mark Holmes to reiterate earlier comments about siting a temporary shipping container in the North West corner of the Rec until the new pavilion is ready. This was agreed by Councillors as was siting a temporary portable toilet adjacent to the concrete hut and the use of tall stop netting.

Cllr S Cowley indicated that YTC could help funding the new facilities pending grants from other organisations, as well as assisting with any planning permission which might be required for any of the proposed structures. There followed some discussion and agreement about rolling the pitch and disposing of grass cuttings.

Councillors were in agreement to mesh infills underneath each of the access gates to prevent dogs wandering onto the pitch and fouling it, and to mounting warning signs at each entrance requesting dog owners to keep their pets on leads and to clear up any fouling made on the pitch.

Cllr Cronin also drew Councillors' attention to the new safety chain which had been put on the basket swing and thanked Peter Scott for helping to instal this.

34/2024 MEMORIAL

In response to an application by her daughter for a regular visitor to Yarmouth to have a memorial bench dedicated, it was suggested, since there is only one undedicated bench available, that a tree could be planted locally, perhaps as part of the scheme under agenda item 34, and dedicated to her mother.

34/2024 TREES

Cllr T Cowley reported that he is awaiting a response from YHC about the proposed trees on the Green. He also referred to Farming in Protected Landscapes grants.

35/2024 D-DAY 80TH COMMEMORATION

The Clerk reported that a traffic management plan had been produced and accepted, and commented that it was proving frustrating to get guidance from Island Roads about the road closure process.

June Ring reported the CHOYD programme for the 6/6.

36/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

There was nothing to report on the proposed community speedwatch along Tennyson Road.

37/2024 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

The Mayor reported that she was still waiting to hear from Steve Cooper re the proposed IWALC training course in Ethical Leadership.

38/2024 CONTINENTAL STREET MARKET

It was decided to defer any further consideration of this until the Mayor and Cllr Farrell had the opportunity to discuss this with business owners in the town following the re-establishment of the Business Association.

39/2024 ANNUAL GRANTS

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr T Cowley and agreed unanimously to make a grant of £250 to IW Pantries to help set up a food waste distribution centre on the Island.

40/2024 PATH AROUND MILL CREEK

The Clerk was asked to find out from the Harbour Commissioner when repairs to this path were scheduled to be undertaken.

40/2024 CLERK’S REPORT

40/2023.1 TPOs

The TPO for St Swithins Church, Thorley, was discussed and noted.

40/2024.2 KNIFE AMNESTY

The proposed knife amnesty by the local police on 16/17 May was noted.

40/2024.3 SAFETY CHAIN BASKET SWING, PLAY AREA

This had already been dealt with under 33/2024.

41/2024 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

42/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Mill Copse access
- Risk Analysis
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Football team.

43/2024 MEETING VENUES

The venue for the next monthly meeting, Thorley Church 4/6/24 7pm was noted.

Signed.....(Town Mayor) Date.....