



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 7:00pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Martyn Collinson (Yarmouth Town Trust), Tim Adams (Harbour Commissioner) and 34 members of the public

### **67/2024 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence

### **68/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

The Harbour Commissioner reported that the number of visitors last year was the lowest for the last 10 years and were 300 down from last June which he attributed to the poor weather and cost of living crisis. He referred to the proposed new catamaran ferry service from Yarmouth which should have a capacity of 110 passengers, though no berthing was yet available for it.

In response to a question from the public about the condition of the path adjacent to the YHC car park, the Commission repeated that it was hoped to carry out remedial work in the near future.

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

The YTT Chairman, Martyn Collinson, presented the following report:

##### **1) Financials:**

Accounts for 2023/4 have been approved by the Trustees, forwarded to the Accountant who raised a query that has now been answered and will be signed off and forwarded to the Charity Commission.

##### **2) Town Hall**

The Trustees will be carrying out re-decoration to the stairwell shortly now the weather is dryer.

##### **3) The Common:**

The 10 Scots Firs recently planted need a lot of watering during their first year or two. The Trustees are looking at ways or carrying this out with no nearby taps. A further no cycling notice is being placed at the East End of the Common in July. This will be on the front for the viewing of people accesses from the Bouldnor end.

#### **4) Mill Terrace Cottage**

The maintenance schedule will begin shortly.

#### **5) Recreation Ground**

Discussions continue with the new under 11s football team regarding a new pavilion. This will move forward once they have formed a "Yarmouth" unit and registered with the Charity Commission – probably 2025.

6) **Graveyard Copse:** The benches have now been repaired or replaced and are back in full use.

7) **Next Trustee Meeting:** The next Trust meeting is being held on Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup>

A member of the public raised the issue of caravans parking overnight at the Common, but the YTT Chairman advised that YTT had no power to prevent that as it was a highways issue.

Jill Cowley thanked YTT for its help in producing the WW2 memories book, recently published to commemorate D-Day 80.

Cllr T Cowley asked for a 'No Cycling' to be erected at the eastern end of the sea wall to avoid potential accidents and the YTT Chairman agreed to undertake this.

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

Cllr Spink spoke about a question asked by a local resident about whether there was any land available in Yarmouth, Thorley or Shalfleet area where the respective local councils might wish trees to be planted, and he had referred the question on to the IWC Tree Officer and was awaiting a response.

He also spoke about a judicial review he's recently attended at Southampton about a planning application for 500 houses at Westridge, Ryde, when questions had been raised about possible IWC improprieties and incorrect advice given by Planning officers.

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

Mayor McCleary reported that she had visited local resident Gwen Pagnell on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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

Cllr Farrell referred to the path between Mill Gate and the Causeway and had been advised it would be repaired before the year end.

Cllr T Cowley reported the satisfactory removal of a tree along Thorley Street, one of a row which has given concern in the past. Deputy Mayor Head asked if the Clerk could request the IWC Tree Officer to carry out a survey of those other trees to establish whether or not they are safe.

#### **vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Sylvia Mence congratulated Yarmouth Town Council on a very successful D-Day 80 commemoration. She also referred to the need for display stands in CHOYD to be used for such occasions and would be approaching YTC for a grant towards them. The Clerk was asked to raise an agenda item for the next meeting in September.

Considerable concern was expressed by Councillors and members of the public about the deterioration of the former Yarmouth Primary School and the adjacent grounds. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of IWC and request some maintenance to be undertaken before the fabric of the building deteriorates further.

**69/2024 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Personal</b>	<b>Pecuniary</b>
D McCleary		The Piano Cafe
G Head	British Horse Society RSPB	National Trust Bowcombe Estate
A Ingram	Shalfleet PC Millenium Green	
S Cowley	Yarmouth Town Trust Shalfleet PC Wight Nature Fund	Lee Farm
T Cowley	Shalfleet PC Wight Nature Fund	Camp Wight Agenda item 71/2024
P Farrell	RSYC	

**70/2024 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

It was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by Cllr S Cowley and agreed unanimously to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the June monthly meeting held 4/6/24.

**71/2024 FINANCE****71/2024.1 Payment of Accounts**

Cllr T Cowley withdrew from the meeting because of his pecuniary interest in one of the payments.

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

245028	Thomas Cowley	Grounds maintenance Rec	£385.00
245029	Sentinel Env Services	Molecatching	£439.44
245030	Medina Marching Band	Display D-Day 80	£300.00
245031	ICS	Cleaning public toilets	£708.33
245032	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary June	£960.67
245033	Gallagher	Annual insurance	£1,419.03
245034	Thorley Church	Venue hire	£30.00
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DEB	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary May & June	£602.80
DD	Everflow	Water services toilets	£136.65

**71/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation**

The financial statement for 30/6/24 was noted.

## 72/2024 PLANNING ISSUES

### New Applications:

24/00896/RVC : Yarmouth Town Council objects to the roof lights in this application as it's contrary to the dark skies objective

There were some vociferous objections from members of the public, in response to which Cllr Spink agreed to check that planning conditions have not been breached.

The following were noted:

### Applications Granted:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
24/00527/HOU	Tattels Cottages Tattels Lane Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 OSP	Proposed garage	No Objections
24/00564/HOU	2 Newclose Cottages Main Road Thorley Yarmouth Isle Of Wight	Proposed single storey rear extension	Concern that work on it appears to have already begun before permission has been granted.

### Applications Refused:

Application No	Location	Proposal	Comments made
24/00565/HOU	Heytesbury Hall Tattels Lane Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 OSW	Proposed garage, associated access and hardstanding, and summerhouse	No comments submitted

## 73/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

Cllr S Cowley reported that progress of the School site sale had and development had been slow. It had been reported that the scouts & guides had been offered use of a café on the site 2 hours a week. Last March's Cabinet report on this issue stated that the purchasers had signed up to '8 units of combination' thought it appears that some members of the purchasing group are not in favour of that. Much of this news has not come from direct sources and cannot be verified, though it appears that Yarmouth

Community Association has not yet registered with the Charity Commission He asked Cllr Spink to raise these issues with Andrea Jenkins of IWC, which Cllr Spink agreed to do. Cllr T Cowley asked Cllr Spink to also check if both parcels of land had been sold, as the scouts & guides hoped to use the outdoor parcel of land. He further suggested it could be sold for a nominal sum to the scouts, as the land was unlikely to be of use to any other organisation.

#### **74/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Working Party Deputy Chairman, Cllr T Cowley began by explaining the aims and objectives of the Plan. He referred to the issues of pedestrianisation of Yarmouth centre which had generated much concern within the Town. He explained any plan must have the support of the businesses in Yarmouth and be beneficial for those businesses. There have been discussions about narrow pavements and poor accessibility around the town for less mobile residents; there was concern that vehicles were favoured at the expense of pedestrians. The NP Working Party is looking to engage with UK charity, Living Streets, to gain advice and understand how they might capture and analyse data about the Town in relation to this issue. This analysis could highlight if it's possible to unlock significant benefits to Yarmouth, businesses, residents and visitors, but he emphasised that any information which had come to light was purely hypothetical, and that any plan for the pedestrianisation of Yarmouth was not something the Neighbourhood Plan could deliver, other than as a recommendation to the various public bodies involved in highways management.

A member of the public expressed concern about disability access, and Cllr T Cowley suggested that Living Streets would engage in a survey and consultation about pedestrian and vehicle traffic in Yarmouth and make recommendations. He pointed out that this was only one of the many which the Working Party was addressing.

#### **75/2024 HYP PROJECT PLAQUES**

The following reported was delivered by Cllr Farrell:

**General Status:** I met with Andrew Thearle at AJ Wells on Wednesday 19th June. The key purpose was to: - explain to AJW the final design requirements - discuss how best to manufacture and present each plaque in aesthetic and cost terms - to provide as much detail on our requirements as possible to AJW so that they could produce more accurate and actionable quotes It was a useful meeting in all of these respects. I was hoping to get updated quotations before this meeting but I am advised that I will get them before the end of this week.

**Individual Plaque Status:** The George - the owner/general manager of the George Hotel have agreed in writing to the design, wording and location of the proposed plaque. Refuge Lane - John Caulcutt has agreed to the design and location of the proposed plaque but thinks that the wording can be improved. He has more detailed history on the Refuge/Towers. I will meet him next week when he is down for the Taittinger Regatta to develop new wording. The Mill - Mary and Sebastian Taylor have agreed in principle with the plaque and have no problems with the current wording. The Mill has now, however, been bequeathed to nine grandchildren for its management and maintenance. They have all now been consulted on this project. They have been mainly concerned with the location of the plaque and its possible effect on their privacy. They seem to be having problems resolving these issues amongst themselves. They are also unresponsive when I try to move the project onwards. It may be that we will have to move on with the overall project and include the Mill as soon as these things are resolved.

**Thorley Lectern:** AJW will be quoting for the Thorley lectern assuming the current wooden stand is retained with an enamel plaque of a similar size to the current one. They will need good quality photographs of the Mill, Thorley Manor, the Old Church and St Swinthin's.

**Heroes Orchard Lectern:** the quotation from AJW will be based on an enamel plaque the same size as that planned for Thorley ie approximately 60cm x 45cm, and the same colour as all of the other plaques. The plaque would be mounted on a round alloy pole. The content of this plaque is still in development. The quotations will be available for the next council meeting.

**Next steps:**

Consider the updated quotations from AJ Wells

Consider potential funding sources

Proceed to Planning - IWC, Historic England

Manufacture & Installation

**76/2024 RECREATION GROUND**

Cllr Cronin thanked Cllr T Cowley for cutting the Rec and reported that Mark Holmes was still trying to register the Yarmouth Youth football team with the Hampshire League, which will be the key to unlocking funding.

Cllr Cronin recommended funding for dressing the pitch to take account of the cracks which had occurred following the onset of dry conditions after a long period of rainfall. Mark Holmes estimated that this would cost in the region of £3K. Cllr T Cowley was concerned about this cost and wondered if it could be recurrent and suggested a discussion with Cllr Cronin before September.

Cllr T Cowley went on to report that a number of trees, around 16, within the Queen's Canopy had died and needed replacement. There was some uncertainty about how far the Rec Ground lease extended southwards, which was of particular concern with regard to improving accessibility to the Rec from the Cycleway, and the Clerk was asked to provide that information for the next meeting. Cllr S Cowley reported that the IWC had recently received a grant of £13.6M to improve accessibility to rights of way and suggested submitting a budget to IWC to improve access to the Rec from the Cycleway.

**77/2024 MILL COPSE**

Natural England has fenced off the western corner of Mill Copse, most of which is controlled by Wight Nature Fund, which has prevented a circular walking route from the Cycleway, and it would be desirable to claim a right of way through that section, especially for those with mobility problems.

**78/2024 TREES**

Cllr T Cowley has submitted a planting plan to IWC for a row of trees along the northern perimeter of the car park, and expressed a hope that YTC would be financially supportive of planting and maintaining them. He suggested that grants were available from the Woodland Trust for such a project. Tim Adams requested a written copy.

**79/2024 LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY PRESENTATION**

It was proposed to get a speaker along to deliver this presentation at the next meeting.

### **80/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

An update for the proposed community speedwatch along Tennyson Road was presented by Brenda Jacobs. She has been on a course at Newport Police Station. She now requires a laptop and gun.

### **81/2024 COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

There has been no further progress on this.

### **82/2024 PATH AROUND MILL CREEK AND CYCLEPATH**

There has been an undertaking to resurface this path, maintained by YHC, from the Harbour Commissioners car park to where it joins another path that runs down from Mill Road, and to consider the erosion along the cyclepath.

### **83/2024 CLERK'S REPORT**

#### **83/2024.1 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

PCC Church Yarmouth has asked for a grant towards repair of the church clock, which is estimated to be up to £3000 + VAT. It was proposed by Mayor McCleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed by a majority of 4-3 to make a grant of up to £1500 for this.

Heartbeat is a regional charity established in 1992, and helps newborns, children and adults diagnosed with congenital and cardiovascular diseases. It has requested funding, leaflet drops, posters and mention in the local newsletter (information emailed to Councillors 28/6).

It was proposed by Mayor McCleary, seconded by Cllr T Cowley and agreed unanimously to make a grant of £250.

#### **83/2024.2 DROPPED KERBS**

The instigator of the request for dropped kerbs up at the Common, John Veal, has reminded the Clerk that no commitment to action has yet been received from IWC or Island Roads. Cllr Spink agreed to pursue this matter with those 2 bodies, and Councillors agreed to make a contribution to the costs if necessary.

### **84/2024 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

### **85/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Display stands CHOYD  
Dropped kerbs at Common  
Local nature recovery strategy presentation  
Mill Copse access  
Tree planting

### **86/2024 MEETING VENUES**

The venue for the next monthly meeting, Thorley Church 3/9/24 7pm.

1/10/24 meeting will be at Yarmouth Town Hall and 3/12/24 is confirmed for CHOYD