



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at Thorley Church Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7:00pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), David Wallace, Mark Holmes & 4 members of the public

Wood carver David Wallace, introduced himself and explained that an ancient metrological numbering system indicated that the area known as the Mount was the location of a chapel and had been seen as a sacred site, and, in recognition of this, he would like to carve and erect a 2.8m high Celtic cross. He passed around drawings of his suggested carvings and indicated that the structure would be painted gold and he hoped to have it ready for the next summer solstice. The structure would be surmounted by a small transparent pyramid filled with crystals to reflect the light. He would like to get local residents involved in determining the nature of the carvings and, indeed, get them involved in doing them, making it a true community project. He further went on to say that he'd been approached by a German filmmaker to record a documentary about making this structure.

Councillors felt that a natural wood finish rather than gold would be a better option. Cllr T Cowley suggested that it was important the designs and configurations should be laid out on paper to ensure that everyone involved had a clear understanding of the final product. The Mayor suggested having these available for discussion at the next meeting on October 1st.

He still wished to undertake carving one of the dead trees in the area and would have that completed by the year end. The issue of funding was touched upon and Cllr T Cowley suggested David contacted the local Biosphere Team and Richard Grogan of the National Landscape Unit to seek funding.

87/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Spink and YTT Chairman

8/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:

i) HARBOUR ISSUES

There was no report from the Harbour Commissioner.

ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

There was no report from the YTT Chairman as there was nothing to report this month.

iii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of the Isle of Wight Councillor, the Clerk read out the following report:

1. Update re Actions raised at last Meeting

- I have received a reply from the IoW Council Tree Auditor re planting of trees on Council owned sites: "Hi Peter, thank you for your enquiry. In short the answer is no, not at the moment. All the parks and open spaces we own are leased to T&P Councils, private individuals, or the harbour commission. There are plans underway to plant a strip of trees on the edge of the carpark in Riverside Park, Yarmouth. This is Harbour Commission land. Totland Parish manage Totland Rec and Colwell Green, and I believe that they are already planting"
- I have written to Island Roads and Isle Access re drop kerbs at the Common and will keep the TC appraised of progress.
- I have also written to Andrea Jenkins (IW Council) re Yarmouth School site, as requested by Cllrs Steve and Thomas Cowley and will keep the TC appraised of progress.

2. The judgement re the Judicial Review of Westridge Farm, Ryde has now been given and the challenge by residents has been dismissed. I understand that an appeal against the judgement may be made by residents to the Court of Appeal.

3. An appeal has been lodged by the Applicant re the refusal of planning permission to develop land adjacent to Fort Victoria. It will be heard on the Island in October.

4. Draft Island Planning Strategy:

- The R19 Consultation has now been concluded. Concerns have been raised by a number of residents re the complexity of the response form and the failure of the link to take them to the relevant section of the IW Council's website; this fault persisted for the first 11 days of the consultation. My request that the consultation period should be extended by 11 days has been refused by the CEO of the IW Council.
- The incoming Labour Government has imposed mandatory housing targets, and has raised the Island's target to a minimum of 1,104 units per annum. The IW Council is seeking to reduce this figure to 453 on the grounds that the Island is not capable of building the new target.

iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

There were no reports by Councillors concerning local groups

v) LOCAL ISSUES

Cllr T Cowley reported that he had located a source of teak with which to repair the bench formerly outside the Church, and he will be transporting the unit to a boatyard in Cowes to have it assessed and get an estimate for the repairs.

The Mayor reported that she had been in contact with the FYT bus group who hoped to get along to the September meeting.

Cllr Farrell said he'd been along to several Yarmouth Carnival events which had gone really well. Deputy Mayor Head expressed her disappointment that the Mayor hadn't been invited to their fundraising party, bearing in mind the support which YTC give to Yarmouth Carnival Committee.

Cllr S Cowley referred to a possible lack of planning permission for small bridge over Thorley Brook, but Cllr Ingram advised that it had been there for some 20 years; it was concluded that no action was required by YTC.

The Deputy Mayor paid tribute to Philip Black and his untiring efforts to keep Thorley litter-free.

Cllr Farrell brought up the issue of the Fudge Shop in Yarmouth, which apparently is using other businesses' waste bins and moving their signs; the police were involved at some point. However, this was not considered to be a matter for the Town Council, though the Deputy Mayor expressed concern about the proliferation of A-boards in the middle of Yarmouth.

Several Councillors were also worried about a possible hike in parking charges in the town which would hit local businesses by discouraging people stopping in the town. The Mayor reported that she had also been notified of problems in getting the online parking app to work. This provoked some discussion about resurrecting the Yarmouth Business Association which the Mayor is trying to encourage and it was suggested arranging a business-focussed Neighbourhood Plan meeting and inviting local businesses to participate, and it was decided to set this up at the next NP meeting.

Cllr Cronin asked that item 96/2024 be brought forward to enable Mark Holmes to speak. Mark reported on the state of the pitch which was covered in large cracks following the wet winter and the onset of drier weather. Cllr T Cowley advised that these cracks will take a long time to close naturally. Mark informed that he had spread 7 tons of sand over the affected area and suggested that further sand was needed to dress the cracks to prevent a recurrence of the problem; it was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and unanimously agreed that the Council would meet the £230 cost of this.

Cllr T Cowley confirmed that this approach would prevent soil shrinkage and improve drainage and suggested YTC should consider replacing drains on the eastern side of the ground having done those on the opposite side.

Cllr Cronin spoke about the latest RoSPA report on the Play Area, which had suggested some minor maintenance involving screw caps and washers and the Clerk was asked to order these. He had tightened up the bearings on the carousel rotator pole. He also reported that the base of the roundabout was covered in water and suggested that the mechanism would need to be removed, a soakaway dug and the ball bearings replaced or renewed. Alternatives were discussed and Cllr T Cowley offered to help with lifting

equipment. Cllr Cowley also reported that he had mowed and strimmed the Play Area but recommended an application of weedkiller to eradicate the weeds growing through the matting. Cllr Cronin reported that he would be mounting mesh on the bottom of the access gates to prevent incursion by unaccompanied dogs.

He also reported that considerable use had been made of the Rec facilities during the summer holidays.

vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public complained about camper vans parked overnight at the Mount, who were not only causing disruption but also using the public toilets to empty their chemical toilets. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the IWC Environmental Officer, Cllr Spink and Island Roads.

Jill Cowley asked about the financial progress of her D-Day 80 book. She announced that she has been asked to write another one about Edwardian West Wight and asked for Councillors to underwrite the associated costs. This was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and agreed unanimously, apart from Cllr S Cowley and Cllr T Cowley who could not participate because of personal interests.

89/2024 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Personal	Pecuniary
D McCleary		Wheatsheaf Inn
G Head	British Horse Society RSPB	National Trust Bowcombe Estate
A Ingram	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	

90/2024 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

It was agreed to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of July monthly meeting held 2/7/24.

91/2024 FINANCE

91/2024.1 Payment of Accounts

It was proposed by Cllr T Cowley, seconded by Cllr Farrell and agreed unanimously to approve payment of accounts for August & September as presented:

245051	St Jame's Church	Grant	£1,500.00
245052	Brian Jacobs	Clerk's salary August	£960.67
245053	CHOYD	Room hire	£30.00
245054	ICS	Public toilet cleaning	£728.33
245055	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary August	£301.32
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DD	Everflow	Water services toilets	£123.26

91/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statements for 31/7/24 and 31/8/24 were noted. Cllr Farrell raised the issue of some public toilets users who had paid to use the toilets but were unable to gain admission. The Clerk responded that such occurrences probably occurred when the toilets, in accordance with notices on each door, automatically locked for the night.

92/2024 PLANNING ISSUES

New Applications:

Councillors made no comments in respect of the following applications:

Application No	Location	Proposal	Dates
24/01227/FUL	Bugle Hotel Market Square Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NS	Retention of partially covered seating area with outside bar/servery; retention of courtyard awning and fixings	16/9/24
24/01228/LBC	Bugle Hotel Market Square Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NS	Listed Building Consent for retention of partially covered seating area with outside bar/servery; retention of courtyard awning and fixings	16/9/24

The following were noted:

Applications Granted:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
24/00896/RVC	West View Mill Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0RA	Variation of condition 2 on 22/01499/HOU to allow alterations to materials, windows, roof design and addition of roof lights (revised plans)	Yarmouth Town Council is concerned about the impact of roof windows on the dark skies policy

93/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

Cllr S Cowley reported that he had been in contact with the relevant IWC officers about progress of the submitted bid and any other relevant developments and was informed that the resolution to the Cabinet is that they sell the whole site to the Shipwreck Museum, who then obtain planning approval for the affordable housing, before handing back the site. It was not known whether both lots of the property were being sold. The IWC also said that also said the purchasers would be in regular contact with the Town Council, though no contact appears to have been made.

The Clerk undertook to follow up the concern expressed to IWC about the deteriorating fabric of the buildings.

It was felt the purchasers were in breach of the contract and the suggestion was made for the YTC consortium to renew its offer to the vendor at half its previous tender.

94/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Deputy of the Working Group, Cllr T Cowley reported that Cllr Farrell was doing a fantastic job working through the various applications to try and get some funding and has also been in contact with Living Streets, which are the UK's walking and wheeling charity, about doing a study of Yarmouth and looking for opportunities. For pedestrianisation, that would improve the fabric of the town and traffic flow, to actually get an informed view of what is possible. They've given a quote and have provided contact details for the organisation Locality who could provide a grant to cover the work of Living Streets and get the study supported by the Government, a study which could involve several Island organisations.

95/2024 HYP PROJECT PLAQUES

Cllr Farrell provided the following report for the scheme to extend the Yarmouth Historic Plaques:

A final quotation has been received from AJW & Sons. This includes; artwork, manufacture plus on-site installation and comes to a total of £4,058 net. This excludes the plaque for Refuge Lane since John Caulcutt has now said that he does not want a plaque on Towers at the current time.

As we are a local client, some flexibility is offered within this regarding final sizes and content. The project now comprises 4 plaques; The George Hotel, the Mill, The Mount/Heroes Orchard, and Thorley Lectern. A deposit of 1/3rd is required on placement of the order so, £1352, at which point the final artwork will be produced.

Next steps:

- Council Review of the quotation and overall costs
- Consideration of potential funding sources
- Placement of the order with AJW
- Proceed to Planning - IWC and Historic England (Planning costs based on last time will be £1000 +)
- Marketing - £500 was spent on marketing in 2012
- Implementation

96/2024 RECREATION GROUND

This topic was dealt with in the Public Forum

97/2024 MILL COPSE

It was agreed to defer this issue until next month.

98/2024 TREES

Cllr T Cowley reported that he had been in contact with the Woodland Trust which makes grants of up to 75% for relevant projects. However, as the planting scheme proposed does not satisfy the 0.5 hectares minimum area required to receive a grant, he proposed a joint scheme with Shalfleet PC under the More Woods scheme. He prepared a scheme which has been reviewed by tree expert Tom Murphy and IWC Tree Officer Tony Gillingham and proposed that YTC will purchase the trees, pay or use volunteers to plant them, pay for tree shelters, pay for fencing around the planting in the form of a smooth wire fence around the two groups of planting which would leave the Gateway entrance to the green and YTC will also commit to cover the cost of future expenses and liabilities associated with maintaining the trees.

It was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by the Mayor and agreed unanimously to proceed with this scheme.

99/2024 LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY PRESENTATION

It was proposed to invite Ian Boyd to the November meeting at CHOYD to give a presentation on this initiative.

100/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The proposer for the community speedwatch along Tennyson Road was not present to make a report.

Deputy Mayor Head raised the issue of speeding in Thorley, exacerbated by the absence of a 30mph sign on the road surface at the Wellow approach.

101/2024 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

This is still ongoing, but it was agreed to remove this from future agendas until a new session had been organised.

102/2024 PATH AROUND MILL CREEK AND CYCLEPATH

As there was no one present from the Harbour Commission there was no update available.

103/2024 LITHIUM ION EBIKES & SCOOTERS

The Clerk read out an email from Ron Bailey (previously circulated 15/7) but it was agreed that this issue was not really relevant to YTC.

104/2024 GRANTS

UKSA has requested a grant for its activities (email circulated 22/7). It was proposed by Deputy Mayor Head, seconded by Cllr Farrell and agreed by a majority of 4 to grant £250.

105/2024 TREE WARDEN SCHEME

Cllr T Cowley gave details of this scheme and recommended YTC supports it. He suggested Helen Butler be contacted accordingly and informed that YTC has a potential candidate.

106/2024 CROSS ISLAND CO2 PIPELINE

Cllr T Cowley had prepared a template in response to this scheme in an email circulated 27/8. In response to a question by Cllr Farrell as to why the pipeline couldn't be laid under the sea, Cllr Cowley responded that Exxon indicated that it would lead to scouring of the Hurst Narrows which is a shipping channel, and the ground through the alternative route of the marsh is insufficiently stable.

The Clerk was asked to submit Cllr T Cowley's template to Exxon, copy to Richard Quigley, MP.

107/2024 CLERK'S REPORT

106/2024.1 DROPPED KERBS

This was referred to in Cllr Spink's report above.

106/2024.2 REMEMBRANCE DAY

This year, the West Wight Annual Service of Remembrance will be held at Totland War Memorial on Sunday 10 November. The following was agreed:

Thorley – Deputy Mayor Head

Totland – Mayor McCleary

Yarmouth – Cllr Cronin, who will also deploy the stands, currently held at CHOYD.

108/2024 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

109/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Dropped Kerbs
- Tree Warden
- Tree Planting
- CO2 Pipeline
- Speedwatch
- Mill Creek Path
- Mill Copse
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy

110/2024 MEETING VENUES

To confirm the venue for the next monthly meeting at 6:30pm 1/10/24, Yarmouth Town Hall.

Signed..... (Town Mayor)

Date.....