



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at Yarmouth Town Hall Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 6:30pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), YHC Commissioner, Yarmouth Town Trust Chairman & 6 members of the public

112/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mayor McCleary and Cllr Spink (delayed at another meeting).

113/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:

i) HARBOUR ISSUES

Visitor traffic decreased in August by 3% compared to last August. In September, overnight stays declined by 22% and lunchtime visits by 43% which will impact local businesses. Long-term visitors are about one percent down. The decline in traffic is attributed to several factors including adverse weather conditions throughout the season, rising operational costs for vessels and the increasing expenses within the hospitality industry. It's apparent that craft will not incur costs and come out unless it's really sunny.

Cumulative booking for the water lodges has reached 179, generating an income of £42K.

Repairs to the path around Mill Creek, will commence within the next couple of weeks. The Harbour Commissioners have rejected the tree planting scheme as they believe that preserving the current open space of the green is essential for maintaining, flexibility and functionality, particularly in accommodating events and activities that are key to the communities which engage with and use the area. Additionally, while Commissioners acknowledge the ecological benefits of tree planting, there are concerns regarding long-term maintenance, and central disruption to the surrounding

infrastructure, including the car park and the Commons usability for other purposes. Furthermore, the future costs of any legal liability for the land remains with the body that owns or manages it, ie the Harbour Commissioners, as the leaseholders who still have the ultimate responsibility for the land, in any issues arising from tree planting.

Flooding: The Harbour Commissioner summarised a report which can be found below in Appendix 1, which Sylvia Mence expanded upon. The Deputy Mayor pledged the support of the Town Council for any alternatives to the largely redundant 2016 plan.

ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

The YTT Chairman presented a report which can be found below under Appendix 2.

A question was asked by a member of the public about air conditioning in the Town Hall, and the Chairman explained that as the building is listed there is very little which can be done to bring it up to modern standards or improve its environment.

iii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As Cllr Spink was delayed at another meeting the Clerk read out his report which can be found under Appendix 3.

When Cllr Spink arrived later, Sylvia Mence addressed a question to him about the reduction in business rates relief which CHOYD had suffered in 2024 and wondered if all other local charities had suffered the same reduction; Cllr Spink agreed to investigate this.

iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr S Cowley reported that he went to the West Wight Town and Parish Council Association the previous night. The Military Road was discussed as its future is still uncertain. The other major topic of compensation was the CO2 Pipeline, and the Association is working out tactics with Richard Quigley and several Island councillors who were there.

He and Cllr Farrell had also met with various traders from the town to discuss the downturn in local trade. He suggested that if they don't want to become a formal association, that perhaps they should think up a programme of works that the Town Council could undertake for their benefit as it is within YTC's remit to support the traders in the town. Various suggestions for improving trade in Yarmouth were discussed.

There followed some discussion about Christmas lighting in Yarmouth and Cllr Spink was later asked to investigate fast-tracking the application to Island Roads for the permit to deploy the lights. There was some discussion about the whereabouts of the Yarmouth on Ice lights YTC and Harbour Commission had purchased, and Anne Kyle from the Carnival Committee said they were still used each year and stored in a local shed.

Adrian Evans reported that the Harbour Commission had taken out a full-page advert in the Island Observer to promote Yarmouth trade while the Bridge is closed. Cllr Farrell commended Tim Adams on his efforts in promoting the town and reported that he had proposed dropping parking charges in the Square which has just been implemented. He also reported that, along with Tim Adams, he had taken an active role in organising car parking on the other side of the Bridge, for which the Deputy Mayor thanked him.

Cllr S Cowley said that he had met with BBC South at the New Inn to discuss the CO2 pipeline.

Cllr T Cowley reported on an IWALC meeting at which the CO2 pipeline had been discussed. He was also on the community-led housing Grant panel last week when a grant of £365K had been awarded to Aspire at Ryde for seven units of community-led housing, which emphasised how important it is to get the community-led housing part of the school site bid into action because there is provision in the IWC budget for community-led housing that could be spent locally to rebalance the Yarmouth community.

v) LOCAL ISSUES

Cllr Ingram reported that the main bus shelter in Thorley was in need of some attention and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of Island Roads.

vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Sylvia Mence reported that the issue of the CHOYD display units was still ongoing.

Martin Woodward of the Yarmouth Community Foundation, which had successfully bid for the Yarmouth School site, addressed the recent rumours surrounding the progress of the redevelopment of the site:

Delays in implementing redevelopment: this was largely down to lack of resources in the IWC legal department, which has now recruited a consultant to deal with this, as a result of which progress was now being made.

Scouts and Guides facilities: there was no truth in the rumour that the scouts & guides had been offered limited use of a proposed on-site café. They have been asked to provide a business plan for their move to the site and that is awaited, and Mr Woodward explained what would be required in that plan.

Affordable Housing: Mr Woodward declared that there was no truth in the rumour that any members of the purchase consortium wished to reduce the number of units.

Parcels of land: delays due to covenants.

Deterioration of the site: Yarmouth Community Foundation are anxious to get access to the site to begin work, but were awaiting permission from the sellers to do so.

In a sometimes heated exchange, Cllr S Cowley complained about the lack of consultation between the Yarmouth Community Foundation and YTC, and it was agreed that a representative of Yarmouth Community Foundation would attend future YTC meetings and provide updates.

Mr Woodward also reported that the Town Trust, as they needed access to Mill Road Cottages, continually pestered the IWC by telephone to clear the playground that was on the far south side of the site so YTT could get access, and that has now been done. The Clerk was asked to do the same for the rest of the site, though he disputed that telephone would be more effective than email.

114/2024 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Personal	Pecuniary
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	

115/2024 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the September monthly meeting held 3/9/24 subject to agreed amendments.

116/2024 FINANCE

116/2024.1 Payment of Accounts

It was proposed by Cllr T Cowley, seconded by Cllr S Cowley and agreed unanimously to approve the following payment of accounts for October:

245056	UKSA	Grant	£250.00
245057	Brian Jacobs	Clerk's salary Sep	£960.67
245058	Royal British Legion	Wreaths	£75.00
245059	YTT	Rec Ground lease	£180.00
245060	Thorley Church	Room hire	£60.00
245061	ICS	Public toilet cleaning	£708.33
245062	Wight Computers	Domain name	£15.59
245063	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary Sep	£301.32
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DD	Everflow	Water services toilets	£124.00

116/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 30/9/24 was noted.

117/2024 PLANNING ISSUES

Applications Granted:

The following was noted:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
24/01057/LBC	Marlborough House High Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0PN	Listed Building Consent for replacement of internal 'workshop' ceiling	No comment

118/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

This issue had ben extensively discussed in the Public Forum above.

119/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr T Cowley reported that he is currently engaged on CO2 pipeline issues for both Yarmouth and Shalfleet and has not had sufficient time to progress the Plan, but a lot has already been achieved and he hoped to focus his attention back on the Plan after his holiday at the end of October.

120/2024 HYP PROJECT PLAQUES

Cllr Farrell reported that little had happened since he last reported, though he had spent some time on the Thorley map. The Thorley lectern is to be reviewed to see if the artwork can be refurbished or copied, and it was decided to dispense with the pictures around the side of the map.

121/2024 RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Cronin, Rec Ground Committee Chairman reported that he had put up the mesh on the gates to hopefully stop unattended dogs wandering on to the pitch and defecating. In fact, Mark Holmes had cut the grass between the Victoria Road entrance and the pitch which had resulted in capturing a conservable amount of dog faeces, and was reluctant to cut it again. Cllr Cronin said his grasscutting had been excellent, but it was hampered by the quantity of dog mess on the pitch and beyond, even though there are signs on each gate to keep dogs on leads, and Mark has asked several dog owners to pick up their pets' mess, all this in spite of the fact that Mark has marked out the pitch in an effort to get dog owners to keep their dogs away from it. Cllr S Cowley reported that Shalfleet Parish Council Chairman has been considering implementing a by-law on its Millenium Green in respect of dog control. It was suggested that Cllr Cronin asks Mark for suitable words to put on another sign in an effort to eradicate this problem. Cllr Cronin reported that Mark's spreading of sand on the area had resulted in an improved quality of grass growth.

Cllr T Cowley asked if any progress had been made in identifying the land certificate for the area between the pitch and the cycleway, but this has so far been unsuccessful.

122/2024 MILL COPSE

Cllr T Cowley reported that he has received the witness forms which need to be completed by as many users of this thoroughfare as possible over the last 40+ years. The site owners have fenced off the footpaths concerned with barbed wire and blocked the paths with brush which have hitherto been used for many years.

123/2024 TREES

This scheme has been vetoed by the Harbour Commission as noted above.

124/2024 LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY PRESENTATION

There will be a presentation by Ian Boyd at the November meeting.

125/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The organiser of this initiative reported that a Thorley resident had offered to join this initiative, and, in the meantime, she has been working with the Freshwater group. She felt the Yarmouth speedwatch should be set up further along Tennyson Road by the speed sign. The last survey carried out indicated that 7% of vehicles in this area were exceeding the speed limit per hour. It was noted that the police speed camera unit had not been deployed along this stretch of road for some time.

Cllr Farrell felt there should be a pedestrian crossing near the River Road car park.

126/2024 PATH AROUND MILL CREEK AND CYCLEPATH

This had been dealt with in the Public Forum.

127/2024 TREE WARDEN SCHEME

This can now be removed from future agendas.

128/2024 CROSS ISLAND CO2 PIPELINE

Cllr T Cowley had done a considerable amount of work within the campaign against the pipeline, and there was some discussion about this, including information that an older pipeline was already in place. However, shortly after this meeting it was announced that Exxon had abandoned this scheme.

129/2024 CLERK'S REPORT

129/2024.1 DROPPED KERBS

Cllr Spink reported that he had emailed Island Roads about this issue and awaited its response.

129/2024.2 CLERK'S TIMESHEET

The Clerk's timesheet for the quarter ended 30/9/24 was noted.

129/2024.3 DONATION TO IW AIR AMBULANCE

It was proposed by Cllr T Cowley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed unanimously to grant the IW Air Ambulance £750.

129/2024.4 CHOYD OFFICE RENTAL

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor Head, seconded by Cllr T Cowley and agreed unanimously to accept the proposed increase in the CHOYD annual lease payment for the YTC office.

129/2024.5 PLANNING

The following were noted:

Approval

24/01151/RVC

Land Between Glan Y Nor And South-Lyn Tennyson Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight
Variation of condition 2 on 22/02297/FUL to allow alterations to detailing

in eaves to allow for inboard concealed gutter, new parapet to gable ends, reduction to width of the building and height of gable and continuous ridge

Street Trading Application

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 4

Application for: Street Trading Consent - Renewal – Scarrots Lane Bakery PO16 GJF,
Mobile Island Wide Consent

130/2024 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received since the last meeting which hadn't been circulated.

131/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Budget 2025/6

Local Nature Recovery Scheme

Community Speedwatch

Calendar of meetings

132/2024 MEETING VENUES

The venue for the next monthly meeting at 6:30pm 12/11/24, Thorley Church was confirmed.

**Appendix 1:
Yarmouth – Flood Risk Management Scheme 2016 : Environment Agency Stakeholders
Statement September 2024**

The Harbour Master reported he had received an email and a September 2024 Stakeholders Statement from the Environment Agency(EA) which informed that the EA had now reviewed the Temporary Defence Management Plan of (TDMP) 2016 for Yarmouth relating to the deployment of temporary barriers to better protect the town centre from tidal flooding.

The EA said: “As a result of this review and having considered all relevant matters and after consulting with Isle of Wight Council, we have decided that the TDMP at Yarmouth will be permanently withdrawn due to the time it would take to deploy and health and safety concerns. We are now investigating a different approach to managing flood risk in Yarmouth. We recognise that represents a change in the operational response your organisation may have been expecting and would like to work with you further to further explore the implications.”

After discussion, YTC agreed that that the Harbour Master reply to the EA Statement on behalf of YTC and the Harbour Commissioners to confirm that they wish to take up the offer to work with the EA to investigate a different approach to managing flood risk in Yarmouth, and look forward to hearing further from the EA.

Appendix 2: YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST INFORMATION UPDATE October 1st 2024

1) Financials:

Accounts for 2023/4 have been approved by the Independent Examiner and submitted to the Charity Commission.

2) Town Hall

The decoration to the staircase has now been carried out. The brass shield on the wall presented during the second world war needs refurbishing.

The Trustees decided not to increase the rates for hire of the Town Hall by small local businesses in 2025. Booking forms will be sent out during October.

3) The Common:

There have been some signs of minor land slippage on the common which may be due to cracks in the pavement above. The Trustees have ordered a survey of the whole Common and a report is expected shortly.

4) Mill Terrace Cottage

A quotation has been accepted for re-pointing work to the cottages and for repairs to some of the guttering and this will begin shortly. Quotes are being obtained for refurbishing all the gates.

The overgrowth from the school on No 13 has been cleared.

5) Recreation Ground

There is a lot of clay that dries out and cracks during dry weather and sand is being used to help with this.

6) Remembrance Day

The Trust will be using last years wreaths at Totland and Yarmouth this year as they are not recyclable and making a donation to the Royal British Legion instead of purchasing new ones.

7) Next Trustee Meeting: The next Trust meeting is being held on Thursday November 14th

Appendix 3: Report of Ward Councillor for Meeting of Yarmouth Town Council on 1st October 2024

As ever, this meeting clashes with that of Freshwater Parish Council. Although, as a Town Councillor, I prioritise YTC it is necessary in my role as Ward Councillor to attend at least part of the meeting of FPC this evening. Please, therefore, accept my apologies in advance of what will be a late arrival tonight at YTC. Unfortunately, I will miss more of the meeting than I had expected as I note that the starting time has reverted to 6.30p.m. I was extremely grateful to YTC for changing the time in order to assist me and am disappointed by the revocation of that decision.

I am very sorry indeed to hear that Mayor Debbie McCleary is unwell and has undergone major surgery. I wish her a full and timely recovery.

1. Overnight Parking by the Common.

It has been reported to me that campervans are staying overnight in the parking spaces adjacent to the Common. In addition, some have been emptying their chemical toilets in the public lavatories causing quite a mess. I have emailed the relevant member of staff at the IW Council and will keep YTC informed of progress.

2. Yarmouth Flood Prevention.

I received a somewhat vague email from IW Council re this matter, stating that the current flood defences are no longer sufficient and that there are no proposals as yet, other than sand-bags. I will email requesting further information.

3. Co2 Pipeline:

The campaign against this proposal is well underway. The petition has been signed by over 30,000 members of the public and a steering group has been formed of which I am a member. The 2nd meeting of the group will take place on Thursday. I attended, together with others, a meeting today with BBC South.

4. National Planning Policy Framework

I shall be attending the Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee Meeting on Thursday which will be considering the effect of the changes to the NPPF on the Island.

5. Appeal re Land Adjacent to Fort Victoria

This has been set down for a 4 day hearing commencing on 22nd October, probably at County Hall. It is a public hearing which residents are entitled to attend and, if they wish, to address the meeting.

Peter Spink.

Freshwater North and Yarmouth