



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at Thorley Church Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 6:30pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Ian Boyd & 4 members of the public

133/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Spink and Farrell and Martyn Collinson (YTT Chairman)

134/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:

A presentation was given by Ian Boyd about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, statutory document covering the whole country arising from the Environment Act 2021. He presented a series of habitat and environmental maps, emphasising the Island's biodiversity and its richness of habitats. A link to the strategy has been placed on the YTC website.

i) HARBOUR ISSUES

No report had been received from the Harbour Commissioner.

ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

The YTT Chairman had advised by email that there was nothing to report on this month.

iii) OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Clerk read out the local Isle of Wight Councillor's report which appears below as Appendix 1.

iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Cronin reported that the title deeds to the area between the Rec football pitch and the cycleway had been located and that application to register the area would be made. Cllr S Cowley reported that he had attended a very interesting talk at IWALC about scams.

v) LOCAL ISSUES

Thorley bus shelter: There was general agreement that the work carried out by Island Roads was unsatisfactory and the Clerk was asked to request them to rectify this.

Cllr S Cowley expressed concern about hazards to pedestrians using B3401/Wilmington Lane during the Bridge diversion.

Deputy Mayor Head brought Councillors attention to the unsatisfactory state of highway edges along B3401/Wilmington Lane, pointing out that the tarmac laid by Island Roads does not fully reach to the highway borders and thus creates a hazard for cars, cyclists and pedestrians. The Clerk was asked to raise this issue with Island Roads. Cllr T Cowley reported that a Tree Warden had been appointed for the whole of the Island.

Deputy Mayor Head suggested a gift for Philip Black in recognition of his Thorley community work, and all Councillors were in agreement.

Cllr Cronin reported that Island Roads had failed to do satisfactorily trim the brambles by the cemetery, and the Clerk was asked to contact Island Roads about this. It was pointed out that grubbing out the hedge was not ecologically desirable unless it's replaced by a less invasive hedge.

Mayor McCleary thanked Yarmouth Carnival Committee for the excellent fireworks display on 5/11.

vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Sylvia Mence pointed out that YTC had received no public acknowledgement or praise for arranging and funding the fireworks night bus service between Freshwater and Yarmouth, and the Clerk was asked to put a reference to this on the YTC website and Facebook page.

135/2024 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Personal	Pecuniary
D McCleary		The Piano Café Freshwater Bay Vintage
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 137/2024.1

136/2024 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 October monthly meeting held 1/10/24, subject to correction of a minor spelling error.

137/2024 FINANCE

Cllr T Cowley left the meeting at this point because of his pecuniary interest in the accounts for payment below.

137/2024.1 Payment of Accounts

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

245064	CHOYD	Hire of Hall	£270.00
245065	Thomas Cowley	Grounds maintenance	£250.00
245066	Southern Vectis	Bus charter fireworks	£365.00
245067	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£728.33
245068	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary October	£960.67
245069	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary October	£302.32
245070	CHOYD	Broadband	£48.78
245071	Brighstone L'scaping	Grounds maintenance	£875.15
245071	Brighstone L'scaping	Cemetery	£523.09
DEB	IW Air Ambulance	Grant	£750.00
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DD	Everflow	Water services toilets	£124.00

Cllr T Cowley rejoined the meeting.

137/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/10/24 was noted.

137/2024.3 BUDGET 2025/6

The first pass of the above was noted.

138/2024 PLANNING ISSUES

New Applications:

The following responses were agreed:

24/01544/HOU: YTC is concerned about the use of skylight in a conservation area

24/01613/RVC: No objection

24/01615/LBC: No objection

The following were noted:

Applications Granted:

24/01365/HOU

24/01265/TW

24/01227/FUL

Street Trading Applications:

- Street Trading Consent – Really Awesome Coffee Isle of Wight – Island Wide Mobile Consent.
- Street Trading Mobile Consent Renewal – FAB 10W, The Plaza Ices Ltd - Island Wide Mobile Consent

139/2024 CHOYD DISPLAY STANDS

It was proposed by Mayor McCleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed unanimously to meet the £342 costs of the CHOYD display stands.

140/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

Cllr S Cowley reported that he was awaiting a response from the IWC Leader about the latest position on this issue.

Standing orders were suspended to allow Martin Woodward, representing Yarmouth Community Foundation, to provide an update. He had been informed by the IWC that the sale is expected to move on now, is with IWC lawyers, and hopefully in the next few weeks will go through. Yarmouth Community Foundation has been ready to go for some while and is eager to gain access to the site so that the community can see that something is being done.

Deputy Mayor Head asked that the Yarmouth School sign be donated to the community for posterity, and Mr Woodward agreed to suggest this to the YCF.

141/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr T Cowley reported that Liz Murphy, in consultation with Community Action, was pressing ahead with a housing needs survey, and proposed agreeing to proceeding with that and authorising £500 to meet any costs arising. This was seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously.

142/2024 HYP PROJECT PLAQUES

Cllr Farrell was not present to provide an update on this initiative, but concern was expressed about its mounting cost in a period of nationwide economic restraint and Councillors agreed to impose a temporary hold on this project, though to keep it under review at meetings; they felt that, at this point in time, even though funds are available to cover it, those funds might be better employed in promoting Yarmouth and improving its image. Those initiatives will be discussed in forthcoming meetings but several suggestions were made including displaying flags and lights around the town centre and generating a promotional video for Yarmouth.

It was therefore proposed by Mayor McCleary, seconded by Cllr S Cowley and agreed unanimously to impose a temporary hold on the plaques project.

143/2024 RECREATION GROUND

- Cllr Cronin reported that he had installed mesh along the bottom of the access gates to prevent incursion by unaccompanied dogs.

- Mark Holmes had cut the remaining grass areas and the Clerk undertook to remind him to provide his invoice.
- An inspection would be carried out to identify any gaps in the boundaries of the Rec.
- Dysfunctional behaviour had been reported by one of the neighbouring properties.
- There was some discussion as to whether planning permission would be required for tall poles to support nets to prevent balls landing in neighbouring properties (the property owner on the eastern boundary having declared that such balls would not be returned), but the Clerk pointed out that the poles would be temporary structures and had been used previously.
- Cllr Cronin reiterated that the title deeds to the area between the Rec football pitch and the cycleway had been located and that application to register the area would be made.
- Cllr T Cowley recommended replacing the dead elm suckers with disease-resistant American Elms

144/2024 MILL COPSE

Cllr T Cowley reported that he had obtained witness statement forms from IWC Rights of Way.

145/2024 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025/6

The above was noted and approved.

146/2024 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER SERVICE

There was some discussion about the increased cost of this service and its value for money. The Clerk was asked to contact IWC for details of positive outcomes for the provision of this service to Yarmouth over the last year. He was also asked to check if the Council's insurance imposed any obligations for regular inspections.

147/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

No update was available for the proposed community speedwatch along Tennyson Road and speeding/road signage in Thorley and it was decided to keep this on future agendas.

148/2024 RENTAL INCREASE CHOYD

It was proposed by Cllr T Cowley, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously to accept the revised rental from CHOYD for the YTC Office of £1,971.

149/2024 YAR BRIDGE CLOSURE & BUS TRAVEL FIREWORKS

It was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously to confirm the decision to cover the £365 cost of the fireworks night bus service from Freshwater.

150/2024 CLERK'S REPORT

150/2024.1 JNC SALARY INCREASE

The Clerk's annual salary increase was noted.

150/2024.2 YARMOUTH SPORTS FOUNDATION

There was considerable discussion about the possible closure of the above. It was suggested there was a £4K shortfall in the organisation's operating costs and that the premises had been used extensively for low-cost parking. There was only anecdotal information available about the current situation of the sports hall and Councillors were keen to engage in a dialogue with the Trustees. A suggestion was also made to list the building as a community asset.

The Clerk was asked to contact Trustees, and an email address would be provided.

151/2024 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

152/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Speedwatch
- Budget 2025/6
- Plaques and Yarmouth promotion
- Yarmouth Sports Federation
- Environmental Officer
- Mill Copse
- Neighbourhood Plan
- School site sale

153/2024 MEETING VENUES

The venue for the next monthly meeting at 6:30pm 3/12/24, CHOYD was confirmed.

Signed..... (Town Mayor)

Date.....

Appendix 1: Report of Ward Councillor For the November Meeting of Yarmouth Town Council

1. Yarmouth Flood Prevention. I have written to the Environment Agency, posing the following questions:

Why, in brief, the flood barrier has been found unsafe to deploy.

When a new scheme will be devised and implemented.

How Yarmouth will be protected in the interim.

My email has been noted and I await a substantive reply. I will of course keep YTC updated.

2. Digestive Lagoon Wilmingham Lane. I have written to the Environment Agency as follows:

There is widespread concern that with increased winter rain the lagoon will continue to leach and cause significant damage to designated/protected sites.

How is the EA intending to deal with this risk?

My email has been noted and I await a substantive response.

3. Co2 Pipeline: YTC will be aware that this project has been withdrawn due to a lack of government funding. I understand that work in opposition is ongoing should the application be renewed.
4. CHOYD Business Rate Relief: I have written to the IW Council as requested at the last YTC meeting. I will keep YTC informed.
5. Christmas Lights: I was asked at the last meeting to assist with 'fast tracking' the application for Christmas lights (application required to enable lights to cross a public road). I liaised with the Business Association and was informed that as time was short they were content not to pursue an application this year, but might do so next year.
6. Remembrance Sunday: I attended the service at the Totland War Memorial.
7. November 5th Celebrations: Unfortunately, there was an IW Council Planning Committee Meeting that evening which caused me to arrive too late for the Fireworks! From what I have heard, however, it was successful and well attended.

Peter Spink.