



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6:30pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Tim Adams (Harbour Commissioner) and 10 members of the public

### **173/2024 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from YTT Chairman Martyn Collinson and Brenda Jacobs (Community Speedwatch)

### **174/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

The Harbour Commissioner reported that boat numbers were exactly the same as last year, and thus still some 2000 down on long term average due mostly to poor weather and the economic situation. However, there were still 150,000 day visitors recorded. The path around the back of the car park had been resurfaced.

He explained about the research YHA had been conducting into replacement flood barriers for the town and distributed some images of examples. The main problem is of tidal surges. Cllr T Cowley suggested that dealing with flooding will be an element of the Neighbourhood Plan currently in preparation, in particular the effect of flood prevention upon the townscape.

Cllr Farrell raised the issue of the dangerously uneven surface of the footpath from the bottom of Mill Lane to Yarmouth Mill, and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of Island Roads/IWC Rights of Way.

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

The YTT Chairman was not present but had indicated by email there was nothing to report this month.

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

Cllr Spink delivered the following report:

**CHOYD Business Rate Relief:** I have received a reply from IWC which indicates that most local organisations in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief have suffered a reduction from 20% to 10%.

**Yarmouth School Site:** I have not received a recent update and will 'chase this'; I will of course keep YTC informed.

**Removal of Shop front (former delicatessen Yarmouth):** I am aware of this and have visited the site. Not only has the shop-front been removed but a replacement has been provided which in my view is not in keeping with the character of Yarmouth and conservation area. In addition a number of extraction fans have been installed at the rear of the premises with what appears to be rather crude wiring. I have today contacted (with photographs) the IW Council Planning Enforcement Officer. Sylvia Mence commented that a freezer placed inside the shop was partially blocking a fire escape. The Mayor expressed concern that the additional refrigeration would create unacceptable noise. The Clerk was asked to contact IWC Planning Enforcement about this issue.

**Planning Application:** Land Adjacent to Fort Victoria: Although just outside the Yarmouth boundary I thought that councillors and residents might like to know that the appeal to the planning Inspector has been dismissed (i.e. planning consent refused). Cllr S Cowley reported that he had contacted IWC for assurance that the affordable housing and the scouts & guides elements of the Yarmouth School site sale would be honoured.

A member of the public raised the issue of sewage discharge into the Yar, and the prospect of further discharges, which the Harbour Commissioner also expressed concern about. Drainage work being carried out by Southern Water contractors at Norton was also discussed which will involve pumping sewage out by powerful electric pumps, and the view was expressed that if this was taking place it could be pumped into the Solent rather than the Yar, although the Solent itself has considerable restrictions due to maritime conservation zones. Cllr Spink was concerned that discharges were becoming more frequent as a result of climate change and asked the Harbour Commissioner to supply him details so that the issue could be raised with Natural England. Cllr T Cowley also undertook to supply details of discharge licences in the Yar area and associated links to further information about discharges. The Mayor suggested inviting Keith Herbert to attend a future YTC meeting and Cllr Spink will supply his contact details to the Clerk.

Cllr S Cowley asked Cllr Spink for any news about the Lee Copse Tourist Resort which adjoins Thorley. Cllr Spink had received written assurance from the planning officer concerned that the development would be refused, but had so far not received any official notification that this had happened and he assured the meeting that he would pursue this.

#### iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

The Mayor complimented all volunteers who had helped with the recent CHOYD senior citizens' lunch, and also congratulated Adey Evans on receiving the 2024 Mayor's Award. She had also attended a FYT bus meeting and came away with the message that the organisation needs more volunteer drivers and assistants, as well as volunteers in its charity shop. All Councillors were in agreement to placing notice of this on the YTC Facebook page. The issue of funding the service was discussed and Cllr S Cowley suggested that a number of community funds were available for organisations like FYT. Cllr Ingram raised the issue of Island Road's closure of Thorley Street and this was discussed.

#### v) LOCAL ISSUES

The Mayor highlighted the hazardous position of the bus stop along Thorley Road, outside Thorley Manor, which is located in the bank with no lighting or footway to ensure safety for those waiting for a bus during the hours of darkness.

#### vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Sylvia Mence reported that CHOYD is considering installing CCTV on the premises following recent incidents where dysfunctional users have been interfering with the heating system controls. Councillors were amenable to her suggestion of placing the recording unit and monitor in the Clerk's Office.

A member of the public pointed out that the landslip along Bouldnor Road has deteriorated to the extent that an 18-metre crack has appeared in the road to the east of the landslip and there is a further crack in the pavement to the west, with possible consequent damage to the gas main in this area. The Clerk advised that the landslip in this area had been reported numerous times over the last few years, and each the agencies involved has declined to accept responsibility for its repair. Cllr Spink had also written to Island Roads 2 years ago and had met with the same lack of commitment. The Clerk agreed to raise this once more with Island Roads.

The Clerk was asked to send Councillors' good wishes to Peter Scott after his recent fall.

#### 175/2024 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
P Farrell	RSWYC	
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
P Spink		IWC Conservative Association

**176/2024 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

It was RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the December monthly meeting held 3/12/24 subject to a correction in the attendees to include Cllr Farrell.

**177/2024 FINANCE**

**177/2024.1 Payment of Accounts**

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

245080a	Paravectis	Public toilets maintenance	£70.00
245081	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£708.33
245082	YTT	Rec lease	£180.00
245083	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary Dec 24	£1,000.27
245084	HMRC	Clerk's salary PAYE Dec 24	£317.93
DEB	Cash	Mayor's Award	£150.00
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00

**177/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation**

The financial statement for 31/12/24 was noted.

**177/2024.3 BUDGET 2025/6**

To review the latest pass of the above. It was noted but a decision on Precept was deferred to the next meeting.

**178/2024 PLANNING ISSUES**

The following were noted:

**New Applications:**

Application No	Location	Proposal	Dates
24/01813/RVC	Land Between Glan Y Nor And South-Lyn Tennyson Road	Variation of condition 2 on 22/02297/FUL for a change to materials	15/1/25

### Applications Approved:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
24/01544/HOU	Pinings Yard High Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 OPL	Proposed single storey extension incorporating re-construction of boundary wall	Yarmouth Town Council is concerned about the use of rooflights in a conservation area
24/01615/LBC	Kings Head Quay Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 OPB	Listed Building Consent for internal alterations to form five en-suite bed and breakfast rooms (including one family suite) in association with the operation of the application premises as a public house	No objections

#### **179/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET**

It was noted that the sale appears to be progressing satisfactorily.

#### **180/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

Working Party Deputy Chairman Cllr T Cowley reported that all the necessary application forms for the housing needs survey had been received and distributed around Yarmouth or are available online – see YTC’s Facebook page or website. The next neighbourhood plan meeting will be 18:30 20/1/25 at CHOYD.

#### **181/2024 PROMOTION**

Cllr T Cowley reported that he had exciting news from Wightlink regarding the proposed video, and reaffirmed that YTC Councillors had agreed to support the project. It was also reported that there were proposals to create floral displays around Yarmouth.

#### **182/2024 RECREATION GROUND**

Cllr P Cronin reported that the football pitch was in a very good state and was being much used.

In response to a question from Cllr T Cowley about the area between the pitch and the cycleway it was reported that YTT were progressing the registration of this land.

It was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Cllr Cronin that the Clerk seek advice from Planning about the tall nets it was proposed to erect at the end of the football pitch.

### **183/2024 MILL COPSE**

Cllr T Cowley reported that resolution of the issue of rights of way, access and fencing in around Mill Copse is in progress and he would continue to keep Councillors appraised.

### **184/2024 YARMOUTH SPORTS FOUNDATION**

Cllr T Cowley reported that he had recently held meetings with John Caulcutt and Tim Honor to discuss the current £8K shortfall in the Foundation's finances. Mr Caulcutt has offered to make a donation via the Delphi Lakeman Trust to overcome all or part of this deficit, and Cllr Cowley suggested that YTC should contribute to this sum, recognising that the Council's Standing Orders would need to be suspended to allow this to happen – Cllr S Cowley, however, cautioned against this for such a large payment to an opaque and unregistered body, and Cllr T Cowley agreed to convey that message to the other parties. Cllr T Cowley further suggested that a lease could be taken out on the site through an existing body in Yarmouth such as the Town Council or CHOYD or both organisations working together. He had discussed this issue with the CHOYD Chairman and considered it was an opportunity to establish new, younger CHOYD trustees which would benefit both organisations. Cllr Cowley had also been in contact with Yarmouth Youth football team organiser Mark Holmes as the Foundation premises have been used in the past for changing facilities for footballers.

Cllr Cowley indicated that the Foundation Trustees Chairman was broadly in favour of this approach as he wished to see badminton continuing at this site. Any trust fund established to buy the site as an alternative to a leasing arrangement would need to be large enough to reflect the admin costs and the value of site itself which is estimated at £250-£450K.

Considerable discussion ensued about all the above suggestions.

### **185/2024 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER SERVICE**

Councillors discussed the IWC proposals for continuing to pay for this service, the actual details of which are still unclear. The Clerk read out a list of tasks which had been undertaken by the Environment Officer in December and it was pointed out that many of the tasks completed were outside the YTC area. The Clerk was asked to respond to IWC about this and seek further clarification of EO duties.

### **186/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

The Cler reported that IWC are going to erect a further speed indicator at the east end of Bouldnor Road.

### **187/2024 CLERK'S REPORT**

There was no Clerk's Report for January

### **188/2024 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**189/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Budget and precept
- Promotional video
- Housing needs survey and neighbourhood plan
- Sports Foundation
- Environment Officer
- Yarmouth School site
- Mill Copse access
- Tree Warden scheme

**190/2024 MEETING VENUES**

The venue for the next monthly meeting at 6:30pm 4/2/25, CHOYD was confirmed.

**Signed..... (Town Mayor)**

**Date.....**