



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 6:30pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Jacobs Martyn Collinson (Chair YTT) and 14 members of the public

### **191/2024 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence

### **192/2024 PUBLIC FORUM:**

#### **i) HARBOUR MATTERS**

The Harbour Commissioner was not present.

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

The YTT Chairman delivered a report which forms Appendix 1 below.

Cllr Farrell raised the issue of the condition of the new pine trees at the Common, and the YTT Chairman agreed that an inspection should be carried out.

The landslip opposite the Common was discussed and the Clerk informed that Island Roads had inspected the site and declared that it did not affect the road. However, a property owner nearby has expressed concern about the effect on her property. Cllr T Cowley reported that the inaugural meeting of the Coastal Loss Forum was due to take place at County Hall the following day when this issue would be discussed.

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

The Isle of Wight Councillor's report is recorded below under Appendix 2.

In response to a question from Cllr Farrell the Clerk reported that Keith Herbert of Southern Water had agreed to attend the next YTC meeting, though Cllr Spink undertook to contact him on the lagoon issue before then as he considered it inadvisable to delay; he understood that SW had substantial funds at its disposal to showcase the Island as an example of conservation.

**iv) COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS**

Cllr T Cowley reported that he had attended the recent National Landscape meeting and expressed disappointment that the IWALC chairman had failed to tell any of the local councils about a £150 million grant called Landscape Connections which means that none of the local councils have been consulted about this. It's going to be an eight-year programme and there will be millions of pounds spent on the Island, including the Yarmouth area, as the smaller National Landscape units like the Island are being encouraged to apply to this fund rather than the larger ones.

**v) LOCAL ISSUES**

Cllr Cronin mentioned the flags up by the Common, and reported that he intends to replace the existing flags by March.

Cllr Spink raised the issue of dropped kerbs which YTC had requested several times to be installed at the Common. The Clerk confirmed that he had emailed Island Roads several times on this issue, and had most recently been informed that they cannot make any changes to the existing highway network without the consent of the Isle of Wight Council, and all requests for changes to the network are considered and collated on a database of these called the 'Highways Safety & Improvement Register' and, if feasible, notified to IWC. Island Roads has confirmed that this issue has now been added to that register and will be considered by its Safety Officer.

Cllr T Cowley asked the Council’s permission to prune the apple trees opposite the Mount and to place them on the TPO register so that anyone caught damaging the trees would be liable to prosecution, a proposal which is supported by the IWC Tree Officer; both requests were granted.

Deputy Mayor Head commended Thorley resident Philip Black for his valuable services in collecting litter in the village.

**vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Sylvia Mence explained the reasons for the proposed installation of CCTV at CHOYD which will cost around £2500 to install with £215 annual maintenance charges, and said CHOYD would be seeking a grant from YTC. It was agreed to put this item on the next agenda.

Peter Scott raised the ongoing issue of dog fouling at the Rec which is hazardous for the youth football team using the ground and requires its organiser to inspect the pitch for dog faeces before each session. Discussion was deferred to the appropriate agenda item later.

**193/2024 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Personal</b>	<b>Pecuniary</b>
D McCleary		The Piano Café Wheatsheaf 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 Garden Works
P Spink		IWC Conservative Association Campaign for Protection of Rural England

### **194/2024 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

It was RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the January monthly meeting held 7/1/25 subject to the addition of Cllr Ingram to the list of Councillors present.

### **195/2024 FINANCE**

#### **195/2024.1 Payment of Accounts**

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

245085	G Head	Philip Black gift	£14.00
245086	Wight Digital	Computer repairs	£238.12
245087	IWC	Environment Officer 2024-25	£250.00
245088	Danfo	Maintenance public toilets	£236.03
245089	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds maintenance	£503.82
245090	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds maintenance cemetery	£523.09
245091	CHOYD	Room hire/Broadband	£78.78
245092	YTT	Rec lease	£180.00
245093	ICS	Cleaning public toilets	£728.33
245094	Mark Holmes Cons	Grass cutting Rec	£209.00
245095	Thorley Church	Sep meeting hire	£30.00
245096	Brian Jacobs	Clerk's salary Jan 25	£1,000.27
245097	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary Jan 25	£317.93
DEB	Microsoft	Office 365	£3.00
DEB	GiffGaff	Office phone	£6.00
DD	Everflow	Water charges public toilets	£337.07

#### **195/2024.2 Bank Reconciliation**

The financial statement for 31/1/25 was noted.

#### **195/2024.3 BUDGET 2025/6**

Cllr T Cowley queried the zero entry for book sales in 2025/26 and the Clerk explained that this is an unquantifiable amount and would be balanced off by matching

expenditure; the adjustment for the current year related to a repayment to the HYP Fund.

It was proposed by Cllr T Cowley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Head and agreed unanimously to:

- Increase the provision for Councillor Training to £1000 for 2025/26.
- To make no increase in the precept for 2025/26.

### 196/2024 PLANNING ISSUES

The following were noted:

#### Applications Approved:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
24/01679/HOU	Ossian Cottage High Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 OPN	Removal of first floor conservatory; Proposed extension at first floor level and associated alterations	No objections
24/01600/TW	Opposite The Mount The Common Tennyson Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 OPN	49022; Sycamore (dead stems) - Remove all 3 stems.49997; English elm (dead stems) - Remove all 5 stems.50000; Bay laurel - Remove low branches to provide footpath clearance.49999; Sycamore (dead tree) - Remove tree.50001; Common ash (dead tree) - Remove tree.	
24/01813/RVC	Land Between Glan Y Nor And South-Lyn Tennyson Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight	Variation of condition 2 on 22/02297/FUL for a change to materials	

### 197/2024 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

Cllr S Cowley reported that Yarmouth Scouts & Guides Association had been asked for difficult financial information about the organisation, and it had been suggested they will only be allowed access from Mill Road and have no access to the river which was unacceptable.

Martin Woodward stated that he expects the sale to go through in February.

### **198/2024 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

Working Party Deputy Chairman Cllr T Cowley provided an update on the Housing Needs Survey which will run to 16/2 but could be extended.

He went on explain he had contacted IWC about traffic flow in Yarmouth, concern for which had been expressed in a meeting of the Yarmouth Traders' Association which highlighted inadequacies of signposting, pavements and accessibility to businesses. A meeting had been arranged between Yarmouth Traders' Association and the IWC Regeneration portfolio holder on 17/2 which could result on the neighbourhood plan becoming a place plan, a more complex project. He advised that the last major development in Yarmouth had been the construction of the bus station in 1987. He went on to say that a grant of £2500 had been received for an analysis of pedestrian traffic in the town by company Living Streets which he hoped would be concluded by the end of March.

### **199/2024 PROMOTION**

The Mayor reported that Adey Evans has been arranging to get 3 quotes for the Yarmouth promotional video.

### **200/2024 RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairman Cllr Cronin reported that the Committee was looking into installing CCTV at the Rec in order to deter dog owners from failing to clear up dog mess. Cllr T Cowley reported that a trail cam had been used on Wellow Millenium Green which had proved reasonably effective at capturing people in spite of the difficulties in doing so in such a large area; it's a motion detector camera, available for under £300, and solar powered versions are available.

Cllr Cronin also reported that one of the land drains at the eastern end appears to be blocked. Cllr T Cowley suggested inspecting the site with Mark Holmes and trying to find the drain outfall south of the pitch which might be blocked, before engaging any contractors.

Cllr Cronin suggested that the water which collects in the base of the roundabout could be drained by means of a pipe between the base and the adjacent bank, and that suggestion would be put to the contractors for the land drain.

He also reported that children had been throwing around the substrate laid at each pedestrian gate; Cllr T Cowley suggested that 'self-aggregating pug' should be laid.

Play equipment inspections: Cllr T Cowley suggested that a number of local councils were interested in regular inspections and that IWALC propose to organise a training course for volunteers. In the meantime, Peter Scott has volunteered to carry out a weekly inspection.

Some discussion ensued about repairs to the roundabout and Cllr Cronin proposed to actually remove the roundabout to allow for adjustment and repair. However, Cllr T Cowley suggested that carrying out voluntary repairs could impact on insurance cover, and he will pass on the contact details of a suitable local repair company to the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that he was under way with registration of the land between the Rec and the Cycleway, having taken delivery of the conveyance.

Cllr Cronin reported that he was looking into installing appropriate gate closers on the pedestrian gates.

#### **201/2024 MILL COPSE**

Cllr T Cowley explained that he was trying to get the fencing removed from the end of Mill Copse which Natural England had erected there, and as it is a permissive right of way there should be no restrictions on accessibility by foot.

#### **202/2024 YARMOUTH SPORTS FOUNDATION**

Cllr T Cowley reported that a potential British paralympic candidate has been identified for badminton who could potentially train at the Yarmouth Sports Foundation, which might help to secure the immediate future of the Sports Hall. The Delphi Lakeman Trust is proposing to fund the current shortfall to allow the Foundation to continue for at least another year.

#### **203/2024 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER SERVICE**

The Clerk reported that he had paid the invoice for the current year, and Councillors need to decide whether or not they wished to continue the higher subscription in 2025/26.

Because of threats to the Town environment discussed earlier it was felt that any such threats would be more effectively resolved with participation by an Environment Officer, and it was proposed by Cllr S Cowley, seconded by Cllr T Cowley and universally agreed to continue with the service in 2025/26 at the higher rate of £592 per annum for an hour's inspection each fortnight.

#### **204/2024 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

It was reported that there was little point in pursuing a Yarmouth dedicated group because the incidence of speeding along Bouldnor Road is very small – around 5% of all traffic recorded as speeding. It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas and to receive a quarterly update on speeding in the West Wight area.

#### **205/2024 TREE WARDEN SCHEME**

Wight Nature Fund has agreed to fund the £250 subscription for this scheme. Cllr T Cowley proposed that YTC transact the £250, as it need to be done through a local council, with Wight Nature funding it, and this was seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously.

#### **206/2024 CLERK'S REPORT**

##### **206/2024.1 PATH BY MILL**

The footpath up to and by the front of the Mill was discussed and it was suggested that IWC Rights of Way be requested to improve it.

## **206/2024.2 CLERK'S TIMESHEET**

The Clerk's timesheet for the quarter ended 31/12/24 was noted.

## **206/2024.3 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY**

The Mayor suggested a lighting of the beacon and a parade by Medina Marching Band Band on 8/5 as per last year's D-Day celebrations and the Clerk was asked to arrange this.

## **207/2024 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was noted:

### **Emails**

30-Dec-24 IWC	Full Council to debate devolution and potential election delay amid tight government deadlines
IWC	Isle of Wight Council supports 'Hoodies for Homeless' campaign started by local business owner
07-Jan-25 IWC	Isle of Wight libraries to launch exciting new newsletter in 2025
13-Jan-25 Southern Water Wightlink	Southern Water Isle of Wight Water Recycling Project AI Wightlink's £10,000 Green Innovation Fund
15-Jan-25 Action Fraud	Booking.com users targeted with scam messages
27-Jan-25 IW Alert	Beware of farm machinery scam affecting victims across the UK

## **208/2024 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

CHOYD CCTV

Environment Officer

Harbour powers

King's Garden Party

Mill Copse

Mill Lane footway

VE Day celebrations

Yarmouth promotion

Place Plan, etc

## **209/2024 MEETING VENUES**

The venue was confirmed for the next monthly meeting at 6:30pm 4/3/25, CHOYD.

## Appendix 1: **YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST INFORMATION UPDATE February 4th, 2025**

### **1) Town Hall**

2024 Bookings finished on 31.12.2024 income YTD £4200.00 but we are still getting a few coming in. Town Hall traders have been notified of their allocated dates for 2025.

The Trust has purchased a Henry Vacuum cleaner to assist in keeping the premises clean.

The inside of the upstairs windows need painting and this is being organised.

### **2) The Common:**

It has been confirmed that the missing dog poo bin, Eastern side of the Common, near the steps, by the road, will be replaced by Island Roads asap.

The Trust is trying to get an onsite meeting with Island Roads and/or the County Council to discuss the Common, blocked drainage and a lost jetting head which apparently is buried somewhere.

### **3) Mill Terrace Cottage**

The gates on all cottages need refurbishing – quotes are being obtained.

Re-pointing work on Cottages 9 + 13 completed.

### **4) The Recreation Ground**

The condition of the pitch and ground remains greatly improved with the recent care program.

### **5) Trustee Vacancy**

Following a vacancy due to ill health the usual advertising procedures were followed and the Trustees appointed Kevin Taylor as the replacement Trustee. Kevin lives locally and works with English Heritage maintaining Yarmouth Castle.

**6) Next Trustee Meeting:** The next Trust meeting is being held on Thursday March 13th, 2025.



## **Appendix 2: Report of Ward Councillor For the February Meeting of Yarmouth Town Council.**

1. **Yarmouth School Site:** My understanding is that 'disposal' to the preferred bidder should take place this month.
2. **Removal of Shop-front** (former delicatessen). As reported to the last meeting, an 'enforcement file' has been opened. I do not, at present, have any further update. The Conservation Officer has visited the site and declared the alterations as harmful to the surrounding conservation area. It is rumoured that the Deli has retained the original shop front in case the alterations were declared unacceptable.
3. **Digestive Lagoon, Wilmingham Lane.** : It was reported to me on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January that the Lagoon was leaking into the watercourse, thereby putting designated protected sites at risk. I telephoned the EA Emergency Help-line and an incident file was opened. A temporary repair was carried out to the side of the lagoon; however it was later reported to me that the lagoon was now discharging into a drain and from there into the watercourse. I again telephoned the help line and a second incident file was opened. In response I was contacted by the EA and was informed that they had measured the water at the causeway and the level of pollution was within their 'level of tolerance'. I expressed concern about this and they informed me that they would revisit the lagoon on the following Wednesday (i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> January). I have asked the EA to keep me informed. They advised that it was planned to carry out more extensive repairs in the summer.
4. **Devolution.** On the 16<sup>th</sup> December the Government wrote to the Leaders of the IW, Hampshire, Southampton, and Portsmouth Councils informing them that in order to be considered as a priority for devolution they should confirm their application by the 10<sup>th</sup> January; a rather 'tight' time-frame given the intervention of Christmas and the New Year! The IW cabinet decided that the Island would like to take up this offer and in addition requested local elections to be postponed, for fear of delaying the devolution process. The Government indicated that they would respond by the end of the month, has recently extended this to 'as soon as possible'

I have reservations about both applying to be on the priority list and the suspension of local democracy; not because I am against devolution per se, but because precisely what it means for the Island is unclear; for example it is proposed that overseeing the devolved combined authority would be a potentially rather powerful mayor; almost certainly in my opinion based on the mainland. The Deputy Prime Minister has stated “\_We will give mayors new powers over strategic planning and new call-in powers - so they can build the homes we need and plan for growth on a larger scale”. I am not against this provided 'housing

need' is the 'Island housing need' and not that of Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire.

In addition the White Paper allows unitary authorities to claim 'exceptional circumstances'. I wonder if the Island would be better served had the Leader and his cabinet sought a devolution deal with the Island remaining as a stand alone unitary authority. Unfortunately, that particular train may already have left the station!

Peter Spink,