



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

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

PRESENT: Councillors D McCleary (Mayor), G Head (Deputy Mayor), P Cronin, P Spink, P Farrell, A Draper, M Peckham, B Freshwater

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), M Collinson (YTT), 7 members of the public

**The Mayor paid tribute to former head of Yarmouth School Sandy Toms who recently died.**

### **104/2025 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received for absence from the Harbour Commissioner.

### **105/2025 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

There was no report from the Harbour Commissioner

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

The following report was presented by Chairman Martyn Collinson:

1) **Town Hall:** Bookings for 2026 to be open soon – the Trustees voted for a 7.5% increase to reflect current cost increases. The Town Hall was open to the Public on St James day with a Trustee on duty throughout the day. Many people, mostly tourists, came in and one even left a £10 donation! The plaque above the front door, repointing and guttering work will be carried out by WH Brading in the next couple of months along with repainting the railings and along the bottom of the outside wall. Scaffolding will be erected.

2) **The Common:** The Trust has now received a copy of a survey on the drainage of the road above the Common which shows damaged and blocked drains. Work is expected to be carried out shortly. There are some cracks that need refilling at the West end of The Common on the slope down to the sea. Andrew Wallis is coming to do the repairs in October.

3) **Mill Terrace Cottages:** Renovation of No 11 has been completed and the Tenant of No 13 has moved in. No 13 will now have work done in order for the Tenant of no 9 to move in there.

4) **The Recreation Ground:** The Trust has received a request from the Town Council for a grant towards drainage work to the West side of the Recreation Ground and the Trustees agreed to contribute half of the cost.

5) **Graveyard Copse:** Two of the benches are to be replaced. Due to damage.

6) **Town Council Trustee appointments:** the Town Council appointed the usual four nominees to sit on the Town Trust for the next four years. They are Debbie McCleary, Miles Peckham, Mike Dorey and Denise Cronin. The first meeting of the newly formed Committee met on Thursday 4th September and all agreed it was a constructive and fruitful meeting.

7) **Town Trust Clerk:** Our new Town Trust Clerk is now firmly into the role after a successful handover. Her name is Denise Needham who lives locally and comes with good experience of what the role involves.

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

Cllr Spink was delayed by a previous meeting, but subsequently reported on the planning situation regarding the former Yarmouth deli (below)

### iv) **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Cllr Farrell reported that he had attended the last IWALC meeting at which the National Landscape Project was discussed.

The Deputy Mayor reported on the initiative regarding Thorley Old Church and plans to declare it a nature reserve.

The Mayor reported that she had attended the recent open day at the former Yarmouth School and found it well-presented and informative. A lottery grant has been applied for which is expected to be successful. A member of the public expressed dismay that the D-Day presentation gave little mention of Yarmouth's role in that event. A member of Yarmouth Community Foundation (YCF) explained that no disrespect was intended and that future exhibitions would take account of any such deficiencies.

Cllr Peckham reported on Yarmouth Carnival Committee's activities, the next of which would be Bonfire Night which will be staged with the help of Wightlink. Planning is under way for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yarmouth Pier in 2026.

Cllr Freshwater reported that he had attended IWALC planning training, had attended a meeting of YCF and spoken with Yarmouth Scouts & Guides representatives.

### v) **LOCAL ISSUES**

Cllr Freshwater said he had inspected the posts along Coastguard's Green and found only one to be rotten. The Clerk agreed to arrange for this to be replaced and others straightened up. Cllr Cronin further suggested that additional posts should be installed by CHOYD to prevent unauthorised parking. CHOYD Scribe Sylvia Mence emphasised this problem which has been getting worse in recent times. The Clerk was asked to contact IWC to see if it is prepared to take any action on this area.

Cllr Peckham asked if the local pharmacist could be allowed to park in the CHOYD car park or obtain a free parking space in Pier Square. The Clerk was asked to contact Yarmouth Harbour Commission to seek its consent to this.

The Deputy Mayor reported that she had cleaned the road sign at the junction of Thorley Road and Thorley Street. The Clerk was asked to contact Island Roads and ask that the adjacent bench be refurbished and also bring its attention to the hazardous bus stop in this location.

The Mayor reported that Yarmouth Scouts & Guides want to plant bulbs somewhere in Yarmouth as part of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and all Councillors were in agreement that this should be done up by The Mount.

**vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

It was asked that Yarmouth pupils be involved in next year's Yarmouth Pier celebrations.

Thomas Cowley reported on activities at Mill Copse and Wight Nature Fund. There is a 10-year plan to regenerate the Copse with pupils from IW College by coppicing around the eastern side and Thomas asked that YTC support his application to YHC to allow access for minibuses via YHC land.

In response to a question about consultation with Yarmouth Community Foundation the Mayor replied that a YTC representative had been appointed and would be reporting on all relevant issues.

**106/2025 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations additional to those registered.

**107/2025 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Farrell and agreed unanimously to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the June monthly meeting held 2/9/25.

**108/2025 FINANCE**

**108/2025.1 Payment of Accounts**

It was proposed by Cllr Farrell, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and agreed unanimously to approve the following payment of accounts for October:

|        |                     |                         |           |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 256053 | RBS                 | Wreaths                 | £50.00    |
| 256054 | CHOYD               | Room hire               | £52.50    |
| 256055 | CHOYD               | Broadband               | £53.76    |
| 256056 | Yarmouth Town Trust | Rec lease               | £180.00   |
| 256057 | Island Roads        | Play Area bin           | £92.40    |
| 256058 | B Jacobs            | Clerk's salary Sep      | £1,000.27 |
| 256059 | HMRC                | PAYE Clerk's salary Sep | £374.99   |
| 256060 | BDO                 | External audit          | £378.00   |
| 256061 | ICS                 | Cleaning public toilets | £708.33   |

**108/2025.2 Bank Reconciliation**

The financial statement for 30/9/25 was noted.

The Clerk was asked to add an item to the next agenda regarding the establishment of a finance committee.

## **109/2025 PLANNING ISSUES**

### **New Applications:**

No objections were raised to the following:

25/01218/LBC

25/01090/LBC

25/01368/HOU

### **Applications approved:**

The following were noted:

25/01089/HOU

25/01091/LBC

## **110/2025 FORMER YARMOUTH DELI**

Cllr Spink reported that slow but steady progress is being made.

- The illuminated sign has been removed
- **Fan units:** it has been established that these represent a breach of planning law and the owners had been given a deadline to remove them which has now expired.
- **Shop front:** Notice of compliance to restore the original shop front has now expired. The Enforcement Officer will carry out a site visit because she must physically see that the equipment is still in place and that the illegal shop front is still there. An enforcement notice will be served on both the Shopkeeper and the Freeholder, after which further time will be given to carry out the necessary work. If this is not complied with, IWC can, at its discretion, take criminal proceedings or carry out the remedial work itself and then bill the freeholder and the lessee for it.

## **111/2025 YARMOUTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

YCF representative Cllr Freshwater reported that he had met with other representatives and was able to assure YTC that the Scouts and Guides had been consulted. The Open Day had been attended by some 150 people and £500 raised.

## **112/2025 RECREATION GROUND**

Committee Chairman Cllr Cronin reported that Yarmouth Town Trust had agreed to meet half the £2500 cost of installing a new land drain at the Rec. It was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by Cllr Farrell and agreed unanimously to proceed with this work at the price quoted.

The CCTV has now been installed at the Rec to track and discourage irresponsible dog owners and it just remained to sort out the operational details.

Contractors IGM have been instructed to clear the Rec and cut the grass. Ongoing maintenance costs await agreement.

Yarmouth Youth football team manager Mark Holmes had applied to register the Team with the Island Football Federation, which would then give access to grants to, for example, build a new pavilion and changing rooms.

### **113/2025 LANDSCAPE CONNECTIONS BID**

There is potential funding of £275K available which can be bid for in November for action from April 26 with a further £5M from 2028. The West Wight bid is focused on the Triangular area from St Catherine's point to the river Yar and involves the recovery of important habitats, buffer habitats, and tree nurseries. The philosophy is to encourage community engagement, education and celebrations.

### **114/2025 YARMOUTH SPORTS FOUNDATION**

There were no further developments on this issue.

### **115/2025 BENCH, FORMERLY OUTSIDE CHURCH**

It was agreed that repair of the original bench is untenable, so a replica has been sourced online for around £1K. Location of the bench has yet to be decided, but it has been suggested that the engraved top rail of the original bench could be displayed in the YCF building.

### **116/2025 BOULDNOR ROAD LANDSLIP**

Cllr Spink reported that there was no update on this initiative.

### **117/2025 YARMOUTH PROMOTION**

YTC paid for the Yarmouth promotion video at a cost of £1250, rather less than the £6K anticipated. They are now requesting assistance with a full-page advert in Wightlife which has offered half price deal for 3 months £750 + VAT or 6 months at £1500 + VAT. It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously to contribute £750 to this advertising.

Cllr Farrell offered to approach the local Trusts to try to secure funding for the plaques.

### **118/2025 DOG FOULING CYCLEWAY AND SIGNAGE**

Cllr Freshwater was thanked by the Mayor for his email suggestions. Various solutions to this problem were discussed such as spraying paint around faeces, posters, a project at Yarmouth & Freshwater School and asking conscientious dog walkers to engage with those less responsible. The Clerk reported that Environment Officers' reports indicated the Town itself was exceptionally clean. Cllrs Draper and Freshwater agreed to contact the School to promote this initiative.

The necessity of more and bigger bins at the Common was discussed and the Clerk informed that he had requested this of Island Roads, who declared they were unable to deal with it and passed it on to IWC.

### **119/2025 NEIGHBOURHOOD/PLACE PLAN/HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

It was proposed by Cllr Farrell, seconded by Cllr Peckham and agreed unanimously to sign off the Housing Needs Survey as presented.

Cllr Farrell reported that he had spoken to James Brewer at IWC who confirmed that there will be no government funding for a place/neighbourhood plan. He suggested switching to a place plan which would be a lot less work and expense and advised holding a further meeting of the Working Party to discuss this. Cllr Peckham suggested a meeting with Yarmouth Town Trust and a separate one with the Working Party, and this was agreed.

#### **120/2025 OLD TROUGH OUTSIDE GOSSIPS CAFÉ**

There was some discussion about Gossips café owners having boarded up the old water trough. The freeholder, YHA, has suggested the Council raises the issue directly with them and the Clerk was asked to write to the café owners and request the boarding be removed.

#### **121/2025 FLAGPOLES**

One of the new flagpoles has been slightly out of vertical. Cllr Cronin advised that the recent wet weather following the very dry summer has restored the pole to a vertical position and advised no action at present and reviewing its declension next year.

A 'Lest we Forget' flag for has been purchased for display in support of Remembrance Day.

#### **122/2025 DISPOSABLE BARBECUES**

Many of these have been found on beaches around Yarmouth, especially Sandhard. They are sold in Yarmouth. Their use is linked to wildfires, and burns suffered by children stepping on to still-hot barbecues in sand on beaches.

The Mayor suggested a ban on using them on YTC-controlled land. Cllr Cronin further suggested asking local shops not to sell them.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the purpose of this particular item was just to express support for the BBQ ban, to which all Councillors agreed.

#### **123/2025 UKSA: REQUEST FOR GRANT AID**

It was proposed by Cllr Freshwater, seconded by Cllr Farrell, and agreed unanimously to grant UKSA £420.

#### **124/2025 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The Deputy Mayor and Cllr Draper will attend Thorley, and the Mayor will officiate at Yarmouth. Cllrs Freshwater and Farrell will put the roundels on Yarmouth lampposts. Cllrs Cronin and Freshwater will erect the stands on the Saturday morning before the event.

#### **125/2025 CLERK'S REPORT**

##### **125/2025.1 MEMORIAL TREES**

It was agreed that both applicants would supply an oak tree, preferably very young to give a better chance of growth, and their own plaques, and the planting location will be opposite the Common where dead trees have recently been removed by IWC. The

Clerk was asked to contact the applicants and make arrangements along with Cllr Cronin for the location. The applicants will be asked to plant the trees themselves.

### **126/2025    CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was noted:

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16-Sep-26 IWC           | Bus Settlement Grant Funding 2025/26                                                                                                                                  |
| 17-Sep-25 Rights of Way | ing Charles III England Coast Path - Commencement of new access rights from Chilton Chine to Colwell Chine and Gurnard Luck to West Cowes Chain Ferry (Isle of Wight) |

### **127/2025    FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Financial information  
Place Plan  
YCF  
Gossips trough  
Dog fouling  
Landscape Connections bid  
Former Yarmouth deli  
Bench  
Bouldnor landslip  
Training  
Mill Copse, Wight Nature Fund update and Tree Warden scheme  
Adoption of a .gov.uk domain for YTC and associated emails

### **128/2025    MEETING VENUES**

The venue for the October monthly meeting, CHOYD 4/11/25 18:30 was confirmed.