



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at Thorley Church Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 6:30pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Martyn Collinson (Yarmouth Town Trust), Tim Adams (Harbour Commissioner), 4 members Yarmouth Community Foundation, and 10 members of the public

38/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Miles Peckham and Peter Cronin

39/2025 PUBLIC FORUM:

i) HARBOUR MATTERS

The Harbour Commissioner reported that overnight boat numbers for May were about average, and showing some sign of recovery from recent falls, while sort stays are record-breaking, which is good for both Harbour and Town.

The YHC wifi has been upgraded.

The Sea Shanty Festival was a great success

ii) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

The YTT Chairman's report appears below (Appendix 1)

The Chairman reminded that he awaited nominations from YTC for trustees, and did advise that diversity of age and experience was very desirable.

iii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Spink's report appears below (Appendix 2)

A resident with a property near the former Deli pointed out that the noise emanating from the premises had been measured and found to exceed Environmental Health levels. Environmental health did speak to the proprietor and said that he is required to have a meeting with them. Cllr Spink asked for any relevant emails and documents to be forwarded to him. He was adamant that there should be no compromise on this

issue. The Clerk was asked to invite the Planning Enforcement Officer to the next meeting to discuss this issue.

iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

The Deputy Mayor reported that she had attended the AGM of the St Swithin PCC which included the retirement of Thorley Churchwarden Andrew Johnson where he was also presented with the Mayor's Award.

Cllr Freshwater reported that he had attended a FYT meeting.

Cllr Farrell reported that the VE-Day 80 had gone off very well, though he did suggest such events were better advertised in future. He also praised the Sea Shanty Festival, saying it had been well put together and popular.

v) LOCAL ISSUES

The Deputy Mayor reported that cyclists were still using the footpath at the rear of River Way car park and ignoring the 'No Cycling' notices. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the Harbour Commission.

It was reported that Island Roads had failed to move the farm gate dumped outside Thorley Manor, and the Clerk was asked to contact them again about this issue.

vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked about the Living Streets report, and Cllr Farrell reported that it was 'aspirational' and part of the Neighbourhood Plan and suggested discussing it under that agenda item.

There followed some discussion about the Basketts Lane/Tennyson Road junction which was felt to lack sufficient visibility to be safe because of cars parked along Tennyson Road adjacent to the junction.

Steve Cowley invited everyone to come along to the Biosphere Festival on 5/7/25 which will take place at CHOYD and Mill Copse.

Jill Cowley asked what YTC plan to do regarding the Nature Recovery Programme and recommended inviting the officer responsible, Ian Boyd, to do a presentation at a future YTC meetin.. She also referred to the proposal to plant trees on the Green which the Harbour Commission rejected. Cllr Farrell reported that funding was available under the Woodland Trust Scheme, though it was too late for applications for the current year.

40/2025 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Personal	Pecuniary
G Head	British Horse Society RSPB	National Trust Bowcombe Estate
A Draper	Isle of Wight Food Partnership Strategic Steering Group Grow Gurnard Community Interest Company	

	National Coast Watch Institution Yarmouth Carnival Committee	
D McCleary		The Piano Bar Wheatsheaf Freshwater Bay Vintage
P Spink	IWC CPRE	
P Farrell	RSYC	
B Freshwater	Yarmouth Sailing Club Yarmouth Gig Rowing Club Dabchicks	

41/2025 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and the May monthly meeting, held 6/5/25.

42/2025 FINANCE

42/2025.1 Payment of Accounts

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

256022	RoSPA	Play area inspection	£175.20
256023	Gallagher	Insurance	£1,469.10
256024	ICS	Cleaning Service toilets	£728.33
256025	Mark Holmes	Grounds maintenance Rec	£275.00
256026	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary May 2025	£1,000.27
256027	B Jacobs	Clerk's expenses, less error	£110.90
256028	HMRC	Clerk's salary May 2025 PAYE	£374.99
DEB	Amazon	Print cartridges CHOYD	£46.75
DEB	The Range	Mayor's Award picture frame	£3.99
DEB	White Hart Inn	Error - to be repaid (see above)	£12.30
DEB	Post Office	Office post	£25.20

42/2025.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/5/25 was noted

42/2025.3 Performance against Budget and previous year's accounts 2024/25

The actual expenditure for the previous financial year was noted and was followed by considerable discussion about how to present the accounts each month in a more informative context. Cllr Freshwater pointed out some inconsistencies in the sub-totals within the spreadsheet which the Clerk agreed to investigate and correct.

43/2025 PLANNING ISSUES

There are no planning issues this month.

44/2025 GRANTS

Cllr Farrell voiced concern about the amount of grant proposed for West Wight Sports Centre, though other Councillors disagreed. Standing Orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to point out that WWSC has enormous structural problems which must be addressed.

It was agreed to make the following grants:

		Proposer	Seconder
West Wight Men in Sheds	£75	Deputy Mayor	Cllr Draper
WWSC	£9556	Mayor	Deputy Mayor
Yarmouth Town Trust (Town Hall)	£360	Deputy Mayor	Cllr Draper

All proposals were agreed unanimously.

45/2025 YARMOUTH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET

John Harrison of the Yarmouth Community Foundation explained that the purchase process was nearly complete. It was proposed that the structure of the ongoing Foundation would be very community-focussed and at present consisted of 2 members of the Herapath Shenton Trust and 2 from the Maritime Archaeology Trust and it was hoped to expand that to include representatives from the community, particularly Yarmouth Town Council and Yarmouth Town Trust. The organisation would be entirely non-profit and no director remuneration. He then distributed a map of the site, and that can be found on the YTC website.

He explained that the land allocated for community housing has been retained by the Isle of Wight Council so that it can only be used for affordable housing, and IWC has also placed restrictions on the rest of the site so that it can only be used for education and leisure.

Cllr Farrell asked when the site was likely to be ready and it was explained that the priority was to clean up the site and make it safe, then to apply for grants of £4-5M to redevelop the site.

Negotiations will begin with the scouts and guides who will benefit from the Herapath Shenton fund. They will be subject to restrictions to prevent them passing on the lease. When asked by Cllr Spink about whether or not IWC acted with due propriety, Mr Harrison remarked that the sale process had been somewhat tortuous, and he had exchanged some 300 emails in the course of the sale.

The Deputy Mayor asked about the School sign, which was shown to be fully restored.

46/2025 RECREATION GROUND

It was proposed by Cllr Freshwater, seconded by Cllr Draper and agreed unanimously to allow West Wight Youth FC to use the pitch from 9:30-1:30 15/6 for its end-of season presentations.

Land drain: A new drain is needed and Ross Davidson will be providing an estimate, and he will also construct a drain for the carousel.

47/2025 MILL COPSE

Thomas Cowley reported by email that this issue is still in progress.

48/2025 YARMOUTH SPORTS FOUNDATION

The Mayor reported some progress, but there is currently a lack of communication from the Trustees. A suggestion had been made for incorporating a gym on the premises.

49/2025 TREE WARDEN SCHEME

Thomas Cowley is still pressing ahead with this scheme and will report in due course.

50/2025 BENCH, FORMERLY OUTSIDE CHURCH

The Deputy Mayor is prepared to pick up the bench from Lallows as long as there's a definite plan in place to fix it. Cllr Spink informed that he knew a suitable carpenter to whom the bench could be delivered for another estimate, and he would notify the Clerk of contact details. There followed an inconclusive debate as where the bench could be sited were it be repaired, as its position outside the church is now occupied by an Island Roads bench. The Clerk also reminded that the bench would need to have a hard standing prepared for it.

51/2025 NOMINATION OF YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST REPS

It was decided to nominate 4 representatives to Yarmouth Town Trust at the July meeting.

52/2025 YARMOUTH PROMOTION

Some criticism was voiced re the Yarmouth promotion video and the Mayor agreed to attend the next meeting of Yarmouth Businesses to discuss this with them.

Cllr Farrell advised that the historic plaques scheme is estimated to cost around £4.5K, though the plaque for Refuge Lane had been withdrawn, and there was some doubt as to whether the owners of Yarmouth Mill still wished to have a plaque mounted. The Deputy Mayor suggested putting it on the next agenda so that the new Councillors could be involved in discussions, and that was agreed.

53/2025 RISK ASSESSMENT

It was proposed by Cllr Farrell, seconded by Cllr Freshwater and agreed unanimously to authorise the updated risk assessment.

54/2025 NEIGHBOURHOOD/PLACE PLAN

The Clerk was asked to organise a meeting of the Working Party before the next Council meeting and Cllrs Draper and Freshwater asked to join the Party.

55/2025 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Cllrs Draper and Freshwater are planning to attend the IWALC New Councillor course, and the wider issue of training was deferred to the following meeting.

55/2025 CLERK'S REPORT

55/2025.1 OCTOBER MEETING

It was agreed to bring forward the October meeting to 30/9.

55/2025.2 PLANNING

The following was noted:

Application refused:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
25/00489/FUL	Windy Ridge Bouldnor Road Shalfleet Yar- mouth Isle Of Wight PO40 9UA	Proposed detached dwelling (revised scheme)	No objections

55/2025.3 DOG FOULING ALONG CYCLEPATH

A resident has complained about the above, in particular the area from Thorley Road to Mill Copse. The Clerk advised he had reported this to the Environment Officer but no response received to date. The Clerk was asked to arrange for Island Roads to repair the waste bin at the junction of the Cycleway and Thorley Road. He was also asked to arrange warning notices about dog fouling with Island Roads.

56/2025 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received since the last meeting was noted

57/2025 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Yarmouth Deli
Councillor training
Public bench
MAT School site project
Yarmouth School sign
Dog fouling
Plaques
YTT Reps
YCF Rep

58/2025 MEETING VENUES

RESOLVED: To confirm the venue for the July monthly meeting, CHOYD 1/7/25 18:30.

Signed..... (Town Mayor)

Date.....

YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST INFORMATION UPDATE June 3rd, 2025

1) Town Hall

Bookings continue to be good for 2025.

The Town Hall will be open to the Public on St James day with a Trustee on duty throughout the day.

Our new Trustee, Kevin Taylor, has experience with English Heritage of air purifying solutions and is now recommending a Philips Series 9000 Air Purifier. The Trustees agree to purchase one for Town Hall use.

The annual Risk Assessment was carried out 14th May. A number of minor recommendations were made which the Trust will carry out.

The plaque above the front door, repointing and guttering work has been quoted for by WH Brading. Another quotation is being obtained. The work will be carried out in the autumn, along with repainting the railings and along the bottom of the outside wall.

2) The Common:

The Trust understands that Island Roads have carried out a survey on the drainage of the road which is not yet complete, and we will be given a copy when it is.

The grass cutting is now being carried out by Jack Parsons.

The annual Risk Assessments were carried out on 19th May.

A tree specialist is to be consulted on how best to preserve the trees on the Common as the new ones are mainly dying

3) Mill Terrace Cottages

Renovation of No 11 is nearly completed and the Tenant of No 13 has requested to move into it when completed.

4) Recreation Ground

The Tree specialist visiting will also be asked to look at the Recreation Ground.

5) Graveyard Copse: The broken wooden edging will be removed.

6) Town Council Trustee appointments – there will be a Town Council meeting on Tuesday June 3rd, where the four Town Council Trustee appointments will be discussed. These are for 4 years beginning on the 17th of July.

7) Town Trust Clerk: Unfortunately, Anne is having to pass the role over to someone else due to health reasons. Anyone interested please contact the Chairman

8) Next Trustee Meeting: The next Trust meeting is being held on Thursday May 29th

Appendix 2: Report of Ward Councillor for the Meeting of Yarmouth Town Council on Tuesday the 3rd June 2025

Yarmouth School: I am delighted that the sale has now been completed and am sure that the intended future use will prove to be a real asset to Yarmouth and its residents. I note that the land allocated for community housing has been retained by the Isle of Wight Council to be used for that purpose. I shall liaise with the Council to ensure that the housing meets a 'local need' and benefits the community

The Former Deli: As I mentioned at the last meeting, a planning application had been made to retain the new shop-front. The application did not include the necessary details for it to be 'validated'. The Case Officer set a dead-line for this which was not met. I understand that enforcement will commence, but has been delayed owing to the case officer being unwell. She is expected back at work this week and I shall be asking for an update shortly.

Land at Fort Victoria: I have written to the case officer requesting an update but as yet have not received a reply. I will of course 'chase' this and keep councillors informed.

Island Planning Strategy (IPS): Last week a majority of Full Council voted in support of amending the IPS to incorporate the 'new' housing target of 703 homes per annum, which could become 1104. Very few councillors believe that we need so many houses or that it will be possible to meet the target but voted nevertheless to do so! More allocated sites will, therefore, be added to the IPS, some of which will inevitably be on West Wight greenfield.

There was an alternative motion, by Cllr Jarman, which I supported. This proposed that further public funds should not be spent on amending the IPS and that we should join other councils in lobbying the government for changes to the National Planning Framework, including the possibility of a judicial review.

West Bay: Councillors will no doubt recall that, somewhat controversially, planning consent was granted to permit circa 25 houses to be built on site without having to upgrade the leisure facilities (upgrading the leisure facilities had been a condition of the previous consent). Three of the houses were in the process of being built but work recently stopped. The case officer has kindly informed me as follows: "I have written to the West Bay Club about this, this week. I recently met with neighbours of the site, who are concerned about site levels and the height of the structures that have been constructed so far. They also informed me that no construction works have taken place for at least three months. Therefore, I have asked the planning agent working for West Bay to explain the reason.

I am also hoping to meet with the owners within the next two to three weeks, although they have not sent me potential meeting dates yet. I'm happy to update you once I have heard from them. I will of course keep councillors updated.

Hurst: I am very sorry to hear that the Freshwater Branch is to close. Although not in Yarmouth I expect many residents shop there. I have always thought that it is a very good example of 'Hurst' and have always found the staff to be helpful and friendly. Cllr

Becca Cameron (Freshwater South) is looking into the possibility of the shop being retained, perhaps as a community asset.

Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee: I attended the May Meeting and attach the draft minutes.

Apologies: My apologies for having overlooked requests by Cllr Farrell and the member of the public respectively to provide, an update re the protective fencing along Bouldnor Rd and the parking on the coast-guard green. I will do so at the next meeting.