



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), M Collinson (YTT), T Adams (Yarmouth Harbour Commissioner) and 8 members of the public

**The Mayor announced the success of Yarmouth in winning IW the Best Kept Village, and the Best Large Village and thanked all those who contributed to these awards**

### **129/2025 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Mayor Head

### **130/2025 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

The Harbour Commissioner suggested moving reports to quarterly unless there was something in particular to report. He went on to say that maintenance work was being carried out in the harbour, including replacement of 60 groynes and one of the rams on the linkspan, resulting in the new Quay2Quay ferry service having to temporarily relocate to the south quay.

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

YTT Chairman Martyn Collinson delivered the following report:

- 1) **Town Hall:** The plaque above the front door, repointing and guttering work is currently being carried out by WH Brading. The scaffold will be taken down on Friday in time for the weekend. The inside redecoration is scheduled for next week. The Armistice Parade is taking place in Yarmouth this year and the Town Hall speakers will be put in place on Wednesday Afternoon also for the Guy Fawkes night that evening.
- 2) **The Common:** The cracks at the West end of The Common on the slope down to the sea have been repaired.

- 3) **Mill Terrace Cottages:** Renovation of No 13 will be completed by the end of the month and Tenant of No 9 will be moving in. the work on No 9 will then begin.
- 4) **The Recreation Ground:** Nothing new to report from the Trust.
- 5) **Yarmouth Business Association:** They have received a very favourable quote from Wightlink for a full page advert in their magazine for 15 months and for a 2 page documentary in the spring of 2026. The Trust is offering to share the cost with the Town Council and the Harbour.

In response to the last item, the Mayor brought forward agenda item 147/2025 and it was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by Cllr Farrell and agreed unanimously to contribute a third of the advertising costs to the Yarmouth Traders.

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

**Yarmouth Deli Premises:** The planning officer dealing with this has now left the IWC, but an enforcement notice against the trader and freeholder is still proceeding. A member of the public informed that the freeholder was Cheeseman Trust. Failure to comply with the enforcement notice could result in criminal proceedings. The Mayor suggested that in future agendas this topic should be discussed in the Public Forum rather than as a separate agenda item, and Cllr Spink agreed to this.

**Fort Victoria containers:** The previous white unit which Cllr Spink had complained has now been replaced by a similar grey one which he is still making representations about to the Planning Officer.

**Island Planning Strategy:** The IWC has proposed 600 new living units a year, against the Government's 700, which it's still unlikely to meet because of the impracticality of building more than half the Government target. Furthermore, the IWC has reduced its target of 35% affordable housing. The proposals go before the Policy finance and resources committee on 6/11. In response to a question about the length of the housing waiting list on the IW, Cllr Spink responded that it was around 2000 and went on to explain his efforts in attempting to provide more affordable housing.

### iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Farrell reported that he and Cllr Freshwater had attended an IWALC meeting where the civility and respect pledge which had been developed was discussed, which takes the form of a document to be signed by the parties involved He also referred to Joint Committee of Councils to discuss the potential for signing up all thirty-three Isle of Wight local councils to IWALC membership and the possibility of those Councils then forming a Joint Committee of Councils.

Cllr Draper reported that she and the Deputy Mayor had joined the PCC in Thorley. The Mayor announced that she would be seeking a party of Councillors to address the local Yarmouth and Freshwater School about the activities of YTC.

Cllr Freshwater reported that he and Cllr Draper had attended IWALC finance training. He had also attended a meeting with the chair of Wight Community Access which runs the FYT bus. Generally, all is well with them and they have a healthy number of passengers, as well as a full complement of drivers and PAs. One problem is getting refunds from IWC for concessionary fares and school bus runs, which is currently a sum of £9K and 3 months overdue; he asked if Cllr Spink would take that up with the appropriate officer at County Hall.

Cllr Freshwater had also attended an introductory meeting with Yarmouth Community Foundation directors and Yarmouth Town Trust representatives. Philip Shields had agreed to act on behalf of YCF in talking to Yarmouth Scouts & Guides. Cllr Freshwater agreed with the Mayor's proposal that this issue should in future be dealt with in the Public Forum rather than the main agenda.

**v) LOCAL ISSUES**

It was pointed out that certificates for the recent award to Yarmouth of Best Kept Village had not been adequately displayed. The Clerk pointed out that a copy which had been displayed on the YTC noticeboard had had to be temporarily removed to display the agenda for the current meeting, but it was displayed on the YTC website and Cllr Freshwater had put it up on the Destination Yarmouth Facebook site. Councillors discussed getting some A3 copies printed and displayed in the town and also getting a banner printed, which Cllr Draper agreed to investigate. The Mayor asked Cllr Farrell to speak to the editor of the West Wight newsletter with a view to submitting an article about the Award, and the Mayor also agreed to try to contact her.

There was discussion about the ongoing problem of the lack of visibility for motorists at the junction of Basketts Lane and Tennyson Road, as well as the narrowing of the High Street near its junction with the other end of Basketts Lane, and the Clerk was asked to submit a question about this to the Chair of the IWC Regeneration Committee. Cllr Cronin raised the issue of weed growth along the Tennyson Road boundary of the cemetery. The growth is on the highways side of the boundary, and there followed some discussion about renewing the boundary.

It was reported that the two town maps outside the Town Hall are out of date. The Clerk pointed out there were two other such maps, one by the car park and one by Wightlink.

**vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public asked about the Living Streets Survey and Cllr Farrell explained about that survey, the neighbourhood plan, social housing, Landscape Connections bid, Thorley to Yarmouth footway and a regeneration attack centre. Another member of the public pointed out that an initiative like a place plan could unlock regeneration funding. He also pointed out that YTC does not receive a YHAC report and the Clerk was asked to put a link to it from the YTC website.

Item 145/2025 was brought forward for discussion at this point It was suggested that a working party be formed to consider a place plan/neighbourhood plan, though the Clerk did point out that one already existed. Cllrs Spink, Farrell and Freshwater suggested that a new group should be formed consisting only of Councillors, and those nominated were Cllrs Freshwater, Farrell, Peckham and Draper.

It was pointed out that Shalfleet Parish Council had included Thorley Church within its area, and the Clerk advised he'd emailed Shalfleet PC to request correction.

**131/2025 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

The mayor reported that she wished to add The Gate, Freshwater Bay and Orchards, Freshwater and Cllr Draper had joined Thorley PCC.

## 132/2025 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the October monthly meeting held 30/9/25 subject to a minor amendment.

## 133/2025 FINANCE

### 133/2025.1 Payment of Accounts

It was proposed by Cllr Draper, seconded by Cllr Peckham and agreed unanimously To approve payment of the following accounts for November:

256062	UKSA	Grant	£420.00
256063	Wight Computers	Domain renewal	£15.59
256064	IGM	Grounds maintenance Rec	£925.00
256065	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds maintenance other areas	£991.84
256066	ICS	Cleaning services public toilets	£728.33
256067	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary October	£1,000.27
256068	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary October	£374.99
256069	CHOYD	Room hire	£52.50

### 133/2025.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/10/25 was noted

### 133/2025.3 2026/27 Annual Budget

Cllrs Farrell suggested that Councillors should engage with other organisations in Yarmouth and Thorley to ensure that budgeted funds were targeted in the most suitable areas.

### 133/2025.4 Finance Committee

Cllr Freshwater suggested that a small group of Councillors should follow Cllr Farrell's suggestions above, and meet, discuss and report back to the rest of the Councillors with their recommendations. That group will consist of Cllrs Freshwater, Farrell, Draper and Cronin. The Clerk did remind Councillors that the Budget would need to be finalised by the end of January.

## 134/2025 PLANNING ISSUES

No objections were raised to the following applications:

Yarmouth Town Council raised no objections to this application

Application No	Location	Proposal	Dates
25/01263/HOU	Weslac, Mill Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0RA	Proposed porch	7/11/25
25/01499/HOU	Windward St James Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NU	Proposed single storey rear extension and alterations	14/11/25

The following were noted:

**Applications Approved:**

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
25/01237/TW	Ivy Cottage St James Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 ONU	T1; Holm Oak (Quercus ilex) - Reduce back from neighbours property and garage; Prune overall canopy. Total approximately 30%.	
25/01218/LBC	The Cottage St James Street Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 ONU	Listed Building Consent for proposed replacement of rear first floor bedroom and bathroom windows	No objection

**Street trading application:**

Application for: Street Trading Mobile Consent Renewal – The Plaza Ices FAB 10W, Island Wide

**135/2025 FORMER YARMOUTH DELI**

This had been dealt with in the Public Forum and will continue to do so in future.

**136/2025 YARMOUTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

This had been dealt with in the Public Forum and will continue to do so in future.

**137/2025 RECREATION GROUND**

The Recreation Ground Committee Chairman, Cllr Cronin, reported that he had agreed to a local contractor bringing in plant across the Rec to carry out tree maintenance on certain trees in Wellington Close, subject to precautions being in place to obviate damage to the turf. The CCTV to discourage dog owners allowing their pets to defecate on the pitch appears to have been successful and the recent makeover of the Rec had been very successful.

**138/2025 MILL COPSE, WIGHT NATURE FUND AND TREE WARDEN SCHEME**

Thomas Cowley reported that Wight Nature Fund was applying for a Farming Landscapes Grant to enable them to carry out more activities in Mill Copse and is currently extracting, by traditional coppicing means, wood for the hedgeland competition at the IW Steam Railway.

**139/23025 ADOPTION OF A .GOV.UK DOMAIN FOR YTC AND ASSOCIATED EMAILS**

Cllr Freshwater reported that adoption of a .gov domain is recommended by the Government and YTC's external auditors and is likely to become mandatory. He felt that YTC should also consider dedicated email accounts for Councillors to improve security.

It was proposed by Cllr Freshwater, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously for the Clerk to make these arrangements.

**140/2025 LANDSCAPE CONNECTIONS BID**

Cllr Farrell explained about the above bid.

**141/2025 YARMOUTH SPORTS FOUNDATION**

Thomas Cowley reported that there had been proposals to convert the building to a gym. The Mayor proposed to remove it from the agenda in future and discuss within the public forum.

**142/2025 BENCH, FORMERLY OUTSIDE CHURCH**

A new bench had been agreed and it was proposed that it should be sited outside the church in the same position as its predecessor. The Clerk explained that a local sponsor proposed to fund the bench; he (the Clerk) had contacted Island Roads about replacing the existing bench and was awaiting a response.

**143/2025 BOULDNOR ROAD LANDSLIP**

There was no update on this and it had been referred to in the Public Forum.

**144/2025 DOG FOULING CYCLEWAY AND SIGNAGE**

Cllr Draper reported that dog fouling had diminished recently and suggested that further consideration of this issue could be left to next Spring as it appears to be associated more with visitors than residents.

It was felt that further doggy bins were required and the Clerk explained that it would be necessary to arrange Island Roads to install and empty them at a current cost of £3.50 per empty.

**145/2025 NEIGHBOURHOOD/PLACE PLAN**

This was discussed above.

**146/2025 OLD TROUGH OUTSIDE GOSSIPS CAFÉ**

YHA and Gossips are declining to do anything about this and Cllr Spink agreed to raise this issue at the next YHAC meeting.

**147/2025 YARMOUTH PROMOTION**

This was dealt with above.

**148/2025 CLERK'S REPORT**

**1334/2025.1 IW YOUTH TRUST**

It was proposed by Cllr Freshwater, seconded by Cllr Spink and agreed unanimously to grant IW Youth Trust £250 towards its Winter Wellbeing project.

**134/2025.2 PLANNING**

The appeals lodged for 25/00489/FUL and the application granted for 25/01090/LBC were noted.

**134/2025.3 CLERK'S SALARY**

It was noted that, following the JNC settlement for April 2025, the Clerk's salary will increase by £480 per annum

**149/2025 CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**150/2025 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

It had been agreed to remove several of the agenda items as noted above and discuss them within the Public Forum

**151/2025 MEETING VENUES**

The venue for the December monthly meeting, CHOYD 2/12/25 18:30 was confirmed.

Signed..... (Town Mayor)

Date.....