



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 6:30pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Tim Adams (YHC) and 4 members of the public

### **210/2025 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from Cllr Peckham and Martyn Collinson

### **211/2025 PUBLIC FORUM:**

#### **i) HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

The Harbour Commissioner reported that a car charging point had been installed at the Harbour to evaluate 2-way charging involving the loan of a staff car from the charging company.

Quayside wooden piles are being replaced using a large crane and composite planks are replacing the old rotten greenheart ones.

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

In the absence of the YTT Chairman, the Clerk read out the following report:

**Town Hall:** The front door needs varnishing and some repairs are required to the Ironwork, this will be done in March/April when the weather improves. Town Hall traders have been notified of their allocated dates for 2026

**The Common:** The new Scots pine trees have now been planted. The Trust has received a request to close the East end of the Common for repairs to the steps and for work to be carried out to the path going East towards Bouldnor (IOW Council land). This is likely to take place at the end of May and is part of the Charles III Coastal path project.

**Mill Terrace Cottages:** Renovation of No 9 are nearly completed. Meetings have been held with Southern Water regarding the incorrect meter readings for the 5 Cottages. Hopefully their records now reflect which meter belongs to which cottage.

**Recreation Ground:** CCTV Cameras have now been installed, they have been a success, greatly improving the dog fouling problem. The issues with drainage on the East side are still on-going, however the Town Council and the Rec Ground Committee have scheduled for the work to start at the end of March, when hopefully the ground will be a lot drier.

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

**Premier Stores:** The head of Enforcement has agreed that an enforcement notice will be issued against the freeholder and the occupier which could result in a criminal conviction. The freeholder has written to the occupier requesting him to replace the shop front; that deadline has now passed and the freeholder can repossess the premises. The IWC Enforcement Officer has written twice to the freeholder's solicitors but received no response.

**The Scrape:** Cllr Spink had contacted IWC about this problem; responsibility had been agreed and the next problem was the funding which is likely to come from the Greenway budget.

**Former school site:** Cllr Spink reported that IWC had confirmed that 8 houses were scheduled to be built on the site, though the size of the allocated land was unclear. There was also some concern about the space allocated for Yarmouth Scouts & Guides.

**IWC Budget:** The IWC has set a budget with some difficulty, using a Government loan, but is close to insolvency which would involve the Government sending in Commissioners.

**Fort Victoria:** The possibility of parking charges and winter toilet closure has been avoided.

In response to a question from the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Spink advised there would be no increase in on-street parking charges in Yarmouth.

**iv) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

There were no Councillors' Reports

**v) LOCAL ISSUES**

There was some discussion about parking at the back of CHOYD following the installation of planters which has led to a significant reduction in the number of cars left on this patch of ground. The suggestion was made that YTC asks IWC to give them ownership of the land. The Clerk advised that in those circumstances YTC would be unable to issue Penalty Charge Notices which are fines, only Parking Charge Notices which require civil court action. However, Cllr Spink agreed to raise this issue with IWC. Cllr Draper reported that surveying had begun on the Barnfield solar farm site and asked for the Clerk to contact the company concerned requesting updates on progress. The supply cable could compromise local Bronze or Iron Age burial sites, and Cllr Spink undertook to investigate the conditions under which permission for the cable was granted. The Deputy Mayor also suggested that the contractors attended a future meeting to provide Councillors with information on this project.

**vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public expressed concern about speeding along Bouldnor Road. A suggestion was made to request Island Roads to install some form of traffic calming in

this area, though the Clerk suggested that funding was unlikely to be forthcoming from IWC in the current financial climate.

Another member of the public reported a problem of cars exiting the Mount area via the one-way the access road.

## **212/2025 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No new interests were declared.

## **213/2025 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

It was RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the February monthly meeting held 3/2/26.

## **214/2025 FINANCE**

### **214/2025.1 Payment of Accounts**

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

256096	Paravectis	Adjust card readers & maintenance public toilets	£150.00
256097	IGM	Rec maintenance Jan/Feb	£970.00
256098	ICS	Mntne public toilets Jan/Feb	£1,396.66
256099	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary Feb	£1,032.28
256100	HRMC	PAYE clerk's salary Feb	£388.99
256101	CHOYD	Room hire 2026/7	£360.00

### **214/2025.2 Bank Reconciliation**

The financial statement for 28/2/26 was noted.

## **215/2025 PLANNING ISSUES**

There were no planning issues arising.

## **216/2025 RECREATION GROUND**

Rec Committee chairman Cllr Cronin, reported that Eldridges had been unable to locate the original deeds and were only aware of holding a copy. He suggested that registration is desirable as there could be grants available under the farming incentive income scheme. In the circumstances the only way forward is via adverse possession. He referred to the replacement of the Play Area matting for which quotes of between £5700 and £12000 had been received. The Clerk reported that RoSPA had ruled that the present cover is satisfactory even though the bonding had decayed and pieces of rubber were attaching themselves to peoples' clothes. Several items of equipment had grass grids beneath them, and that might be suitable.

Cllr Cronin reported that Bembridge PC had a quantity of ball stop netting to dispose of and a price for it was awaited.

Yarmouth Town Council had registered with the Football Federation which could give access to grants.

He referred to remedial work which was needed on benches in the Play Area and the Clerk reported that West Wight Men in Sheds had agreed to carry out this work when the weather was suitable.

### **217/2025 TREE WARDEN/WIGHT NATURE REPORT**

In the absence of the Tree Warden the Clerk read out the following report from him:

**Tree Warden scheme:** *going well; we're planning a training session on Tree Biology and also how to read the 'body language' of trees, for assessing risks, with one of the Island's most prominent tree surveyors*

**Wight Nature Fund:** *we are planning on holding two events during the Biosphere Festival, which covers two weekends. The first event will be at the Wildheart Sanctuary, during their FOCAS Fest. This will be a Tree- Warden programme. The second event will be similar to what was held at CHOYD last year. This was a Scavenger Hunt, for children, photo competition and natural history walk around Mill Copse. We would like to 'turn things up' this year. It would be a great opportunity for groups from Yarmouth to have a Yarmouth-focused Biosphere event. We would be delighted if other constituted bodies, such as the Town Trust, Town Council, Harbour Commissioners and MAT would like to have stands at CHOYD, so they can explain what they do in and around the town, which is obviously a big part of the biosphere. It would be amazing if the Town Council were able to fund the hire of CHOYD. Harveys are providing tea and coffee and we would be delighted if any other businesses were in a position to sponsor any other elements of the event, such as the display photo printing for the competition.*

**Heroes Orchard:** *I have emailed Jerry Willis, the senior tree officer at the IWC about the Tree Preservation Order, which was requested for the orchard last February, but not had any response. It would be very helpful if Councillor Spink could escalate this protection issue within the IWC, as TPOs are supposed to be put on trees if they are at risk. These trees are clearly at risk, as they have been repeatedly cut during what is a years-long campaign of criminal damage. Some of the trees will need replanting this winter, as they have died due to the damage. Jill, Moses Cowley and I completed correct formative pruning across the orchard a couple of weeks ago and we look forward to seeing how the undamaged trees develop in response to this.*

*It was agreed that a copy of the Wight Nature Management Plan would be made available on the YTC website.*

### **218/2025 SCHOOL SITE HOUSING AND SCOUTS & GUIDES RELOCATION**

Cllr Freshwater reported that a meeting had been held between some Councillors and the Yarmouth Scouts & Guides, who had previously met with Yarmouth Community Foundation. From that meeting it appeared that, *inter alia*, the area allocated to the S&G was slightly less than anticipated though still acceptable. There were a number of other issues and Cllr Freshwater had offered whatever assistance YTC could give.

Cllr Farrell was concerned about operating costs he had found on the S&G website which suggested that spend had exceeded income over the last 3 years. He also stated that the organisation had been registered as a charity but not with HMRC which prevented them claiming Gift Aid.

Concern was expressed about the S&G having access to the river, and there was some discussion about storage facilities; it was concluded that further negotiations would be needed.

Affordable housing scheduled for the site was discussed and reference was made to a letter circulated from a local resident which suggested that such housing might breach planning regulations

### **219/2025 DOG FOULING CYCLEWAY AND SIGNAGE**

Cllr Draper reported that the poster competition is under way and judging would take place the following week. As agreed before, the cost of the resultant posters and prizes would be met from the prize money awarded for winning the Best-Kept Village Awards. Posters could also be put up on the YTC and Destination Yarmouth websites

### **220/2025 FUTURE PRIORITIES**

Cllr Freshwater reported that the Future Priorities Working Party had met in February and will meet again in March and hoped to be able to report to YTC in April.

### **221/2025 YARMOUTH PROMOTION**

Cllr Farrell reported that he had continued to look for sponsors for the historic plaques and Thorley lectern.

### **222/2025 CHANGE OF DOMAIN AND WEBSITE**

The Clerk reported that the yarmouth-tc.gov.uk and dedicated councillor email accounts had now been set up, and details would be circulated to Councillors in due course.

Assertion 10 is a new requirement in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide for smaller authorities (parish/town councils) regarding digital and data compliance. It necessitates adopting an IT policy, using dedicated council email accounts (.gov.uk), ensuring website accessibility (WCAG 2.2 AA), and strict data protection (GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018) compliance. Several reliable web designers had been identified who had submitted quotes ranging from £500 to £2500. The Clerk suggested deferring construction of a new website until the change of domain is fully operational.

### **223/2025 CYCLEWAY EROSION AT THE SCRAPE**

This had been discussed above.

### **224/2025 FIRE STATION SITE**

The Clerk reported that no response had yet been received from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service HQ in spite of several reminders. The likelihood is that the fire station site will be sold in the near future.

### **225/2025 VANDALISM OF HEROES ORCHARD**

The Mayor suggested an article about this situation in the local newsletter explaining the vandalism and the significance of the orchard.

**226/2025 CLERK’S REPORT**

**226/2025 CLERK’S REPORT MAR 2026**

**226/2025.1 HOLM OAK MEMORIAL TREE**

It was proposed by Cllr Freshwatter, seconded by the Mayor and agreed by 5 other Councillors to allow the memorial Holm Oak to be retained.

**206/2025.2 CAKES FOR CANCER**

It was noted that Wessex Cancer Support is holding an event called Cakes for Cancer at the Newport Centre and it was felt that this was a matter for CHOYD.

**227/2025 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was noted:

11-Feb-26 UKSA	UKSA Test the Water End of Year Report
12-Feb-26 IWC	Council urges Local Council Tax Support claimants of pension-age to return utility support claim forms before end of February
12-Feb-26 IWC	Isle of Wight Council Public Health launch innovative smart watch loan scheme to support movement and wellbeing
IWC	Newly published decision: Award of Media Management Contract following re-tendering exercise
IWC	Over 10,000 people reapply for postal votes after council campaign

**228/2025 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Heroes’ Orchard
- Affordable Housing
- Fire station site
- New domain and website
- School site
- Dog fouling
- Ownership CHOYD land

**229/2025 MEETING VENUES**

The venue for the April monthly meeting, Thorley Church 7/4/26 18:30 was confirmed.

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

**Date.....**