



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at Thorley Church Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 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), and 7 members of the public

**The Mayor announced her condolences for the recent death of local resident Mikey Lock.**

### **1/2026 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peckham.

### **2/2026 PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Cllr Spink announced that he is still pursuing an enforcement notice against the Premier Store and expects it to be granted. Cllr Farrell informed that the store has been served notice to quit, and that a local shop is interested in taking over the premises.

He also reported that he had received written confirmation from the IWC that 8 housing units were scheduled to be built on the former School site and there was adequate area reserved for them. In response to a question from the public, he advised that there is a restrictive Covenant that the land allocated for housing can only be used for affordable housing. He undertook to report back when he had held a meeting with IWC.

The Scrape: Cllr Spink reported that he had been advised that funding to address this erosion would be found from the Greenway project but was disappointed at the inadequate response so far.

In response to a question from the public about the proposed scale of tree planting he advised that he did not have that information but agreed to look into it.

#### **ii) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Cllr Draper reported that the annual duck race was very successful and had attracted a large attendance.

The Mayor reported that she and the Deputy Mayor had attended Village Hall Day staged by Community Action and the Mayor opened the Day.

Cllr Farrell referred to the problem of inadequate waste bins at the Common, and the Clerk was asked to raise this matter with IWC.

**iii) LOCAL ISSUES**

The Clerk was asked to order a new set of flags. Cllr Spink advised the fitting of a fabric sealing strip to the flag which apparently prolongs the flag life, which could be done locally.

There was some discussion about unauthorised hedge-trimming at the cemetery, and the Mayor reported that she had some relevant information about the perpetrator, including video evidence of the vandalism. Cllr Farrell suggested installing CCTV in this area and a member of the public, Thomas Cowley, suggested installing a trail cam. Consideration was then given to replacing the vandalised trees in the Heroes' Orchard and Thomas suggested that the Tree Council has indicated it would fund the planting of older and bigger trees to replace the damaged ones.

The Deputy Mayor raised the issue of signage on the eastern approach to Yarmouth and suggested that the 'Welcome to Yarmouth' sign could be more prominent and that illuminated speed warning signs, present on the other carriageway, should be installed in the other direction. The Clerk was asked to contact Island Roads about this.

**iv) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public praised the present condition of the Rec.

The question of visibility at the Basketts Lane/Tennyson Road junction was raised and the Clerk was asked to contact Island Roads about this issue and Cllr Spink further suggested bringing it to the attention of the Chair of the IWC Transport and Infrastructure Committee.

Thomas raised the issue of the hazard presented by dead elm trees along Thorley Marsh and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of Island Roads. He also referred to the lack of success regarding the Landscape Connections bid. He further reported successful coppicing by volunteers at Mill Copse, and that Wight Nature had been identified in the Landscape Connections bid as an exemplar of ancient wood restoration.

The Deputy Mayor reported that Cllr Peckham had donated a bench which will be placed outside the mortuary chapel at the old Thorley Church.

**3/2026 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no additional declarations to be recorded.

**4/2026 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS**

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

## 5/2026 FINANCE

### 5/2026.1 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 April:

267001	Bill Freshwater	Expenses re school poster comp (to be shared with Freshwater PC)	£93.00
267002	YTT	Rec lease	£180.00
267003	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£728.33
267004	Wight Computers	Web hosting	£96.00
267005	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds maintenance Yarmouth	£248.50
267005	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds maintenance cememtery	£564.94
267006	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary March	£1,032.28
267007	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary March	£388.99
267008	Wight Digital	Printer & computer repair	£120.00

### 5/2026.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/3/26 was noted.

In response to a question from Cllr Freshwater about numbers using the public toilets following the recent increase, the Clerk advised that footfall appears to have declined around 70% compared to the same time last year, and income by 25%. The clerk also reported that actual year end cash balances were very close to forecast.

## 6/2026 PLANNING ISSUES

### New applications:

No objections were made for the following application:

Application No	Location	Proposal	Dates
26/00287/HOU	The Lookout Tapnell Farm Newport Road Freshwater Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0YJ	Extensions and alterations to dwelling	14/4/26

The following were noted:

### Street Trading Applications

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 4

**Application for: Street Trading Consent Renewal – Wight Whippy's Island Wide Consent – 1 April to 30 September 2026**

## **Application for: Street Trading Consent – Queen Whippy – Island Wide Mobile Consent**

### **7/2026 RECREATION GROUND**

Rec Committee Chairman Cllr Cronin reported that the ground should be suitable for installing the new land drain in about a month.

West Wight Men in Sheds had not yet renovated the benches in the Play Area and the Clerk undertook to remind them.

It was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and agreed unanimously to purchase ball nets from Bembridge PC for £2500.

Cllr Cronin advised that it would be necessary to purchase larger goals though it might be possible to cover this with grant funding from the Football Foundation.

It was reported that a number of other local teams might be interested in using the pitch.

No progress had been made in locating the deeds for the parcel of land between the pitch and the Cycleway and the likelihood is that YTC would need to prove adverse possession. Thomas advised that it's possible to apply for land parcels with the RPA or the banks agency without actually having land registered and so enabling management control. So YTC could state it would like to claim these land parcels, which it possesses and would agree to start taking action on them to improve them and change them.

The Clerk advised that RoSPA had indicated there was no need to change the matting in the Play Area for reasons of safety and suggested using 'grasscrete' if it was felt there was a need to change it.

### **8/2026 TREE WARDEN/WIGHT NATURE REPORT**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and agreed unanimously to award a grant of £90 to Wight Nature to cover the hiring of CHOYD for the 2026 Biosphere event.

### **9/2026 SCHOOL SITE HOUSING AND SCOUTS & GUIDES RELOCATION**

The Clerk was asked to send a grant application form to the above in connection with with pre-development costs of £7000 for a proposed new Scouts and Guides Hall in Yarmouth, and the Mayor suggested that they should be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting about their plans. Cllr Spink suggested that any award should be contingent on getting a written agreement with the Community Foundation that it is going to lease a certain amount of land to the Scouts & Guides. Cllr Freshwater reported that YCF had provided Yarmouth Scouts & Guides with a draught agreement. The Deputy Mayor wondered if the Scouts & Guides would be able to repay any grant when their existing premises were sold.

Cllr Freshwater reported that IWC has employed a consultant to oversee submission of pre planning application advice to the local Planning Authority and, as part of that work, a flood risk assessment and sequential test (FRA and ST) will be undertaken, which is a critical piece of work for this project given the site's location within the flood zone.

Assuming the outcome of this assessment is positive, PBH will commence drafting the planning application.

### **10/2026 DOG FOULING CYCLEWAY AND SIGNAGE**

Cllr Draper reported that she and the Mayor had judged the recent 'poo posters' competition at Yarmouth & Freshwater School and had picked 5 posters which it was agreed to put up on the YTC website. The Mayor proposed to take this off the agenda and include it with Councillor Reports in future.

### **11/2026 FUTURE PRIORITIES**

Cllr Farrell presented 2 reports delineating Priorities Selection and Process 2026/7, and Yarmouth Town Centre Regeneration Early-Stage Funding Strategy, drawn up at the last meeting of the Future Priorities Working Party. In response, the Mayor suggested that the most important current issue was traffic and the Deputy Mayor added that her concern was an absence of signage in Yarmouth directing visitors to the town centre. In response to concern expressed by Sylvia Mence about getting younger volunteers to help with running CHOYD, the Mayor promised that a note to that effect could be put up on the YTC website.

### **12/2026 CHANGE OF DOMAIN AND WEBSITE**

The Clerk reported that the new domain yarmouth-tc.gov.uk and dedicated councillor email accounts are now live and encouraged all Councillors who had not already done so to set up their new email accounts. The Deputy Mayor reported that she had not received any messages at all from the new YTC email.

With regard to Assertion 10, a new requirement in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide for smaller authorities (parish/town councils) regarding digital and data compliance, Cllr Freshwater reported that the existing site was sufficiently compliant for the time being. In response to the Clerk's suggested IT policy, Cllr Freshwater said he had forwarded suggested amendments to the Clerk.

### **13/2026 FIRE STATION SITE**

The Clerk reported that he had sent several emails to the Fire Service asking for an indication of the likely fate of the site but had had no response.

### **14/2026 VANDALISM OF HEROES ORCHARD**

The orchard trees are now covered by a TPO and the planting of more mature trees to replace the damaged ones will be considered next meeting.

### **15/2026 LAND OUTSIDE CHOYD**

It was acknowledged by the Clerk and Cllr Spink that this land belonged to IWC, though Sylvia Mence reported that she had been told by the local parking inspector that the land was privately owned. The Clerk was asked to enquire of the Land Registry as to the land's status.

**16/2026 CLERK’S REPORT**

**16/2026.1 NATIONAL COMMUNITY LAND TRUST NETWORK**

It was proposed by Cllr Frehwater, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously to renew the membership for one further year.

**17/2026 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was noted:

- 09-Mar-26 IWC Isle of Wight Council backs Food Waste Action Week urging residents to “make food go further”
- 11-Mar-26 IWC New crisis resilience fund to support Islanders in hardship launches this spring
- IWC Island conference dedicated to improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people
- 27-Mar-26 IWC Homeshare scheme launches on the Isle of Wight to support older residents
- IWC Council delivers 90 new specialist SEND places across former school sites
- IWC Over 1,500 electric vehicle chargepoints to be installed on Isle of Wight
- IWC Wel Medical - Defib and Cabinet providers for Councils.

**18/2026 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Bulb planting by scouts & guides
- Land registration
- School site
- Heroes’ Orchard
- Councillor emails and YTC IT Policy
- CHOYD land

**19/2026 MEETING VENUES**

It was confirmed that the Annual Town Meeting would be held at CHOYD 21/4/26 and the Annual Council followed by the May monthly meeting on 5/5/26, all starting 18:30.

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

**Date.....**