



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at CHOYD Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 6:30pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: B Jacobs (Town Clerk), Yarmouth Harbour Commissioner, WW Ward Councillor, IWCP, and 7 members of the public

The acting chair, Deputy Mayor Gill Head extended a welcome to the new Ward Councillor Debbie Conlin and Rufus Pickles of the County Press

54/2026 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor and Cllr Farrell

55/2026 PUBLIC FORUM:

i) YARMOUTH HARBOUR QUARTERLY REPORT

The Harbour AGM took place 30/6 and Tim reported that the finances were healthy. Boat visits for May were average at 916.

The concrete benches around the green are being replaced.

This year's rolling breakwater repairs are due to begin imminently and are expected to take approximately six weeks to complete. A total of 16 bays, constructed from railway track and sleepers, are scheduled for repair.

Cllr Freshwater asked about the Yarmouth Coastal defence Working Group and Sylvia Mence explained its history. In response to a question whether a surge had taken place in excess of that on 14/2/14, she replied there had not.

ii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Conlin explained that she was endeavouring to arrange a meeting with the Chair of the Planning Committee to discuss Barnfield Solar Farm, but was unsure whether or not the application would be going to the Committee for discussion but was expecting a decision by 16/7. Cllr Draper referred to Section 73 and explained that review by the Committee would allow the public to put questions to the Developer and the Committee. Cllr Conlin explained that The Developers hadn't been entirely compliant

with the Planning requirements. Cllr Spink suggested that, from his experience, the 16/7 decision would relate to whether or not the Application would be called in by Planning but was aware that the application was to be sent by IWC Officers to the Planning Committee Chair. Cllr Conlin agreed to keep YTC apprised of any decisions taken.

Cllr Conlin suggested that she hold a surgery before each YTC meeting and it was agreed that this would take place from 18:00 to 18:30.

iii) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Draper reported that Thorley Church had a poster about its nature recovery project at the recent biosphere events and that she had met with the Wellbeing Officer.

The Deputy Mayor announced that the Thorley Flower Festival would begin 12/7 and that floral and local history displays would be in Thorley Church.

The Deputy mayor also referred to the campaign for a vote of 'no confidence' in Southern Water currently being led by Freshwater PC and it was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Freshwater and agreed unanimously to join the 'no confidence' vote.

The Deputy Mayor referred to a complaint about the flower bed at the bottom of River Way. The Clerk reported that he had inspected the site, which had recently been tidied up by Brighstone Landscaping, and it was generally satisfactory though it was agreed to consider improvements at the appropriate time of the year. Cllr Cronin also reported that the sleepers around the Common flowerbed needed replacing and suggested that he and the Clerk could seek the services of Island Grounds Maintenance to repair this.

v) LOCAL ISSUES

Renewal of the Yarmouth public maps was discussed and Sylvia Mence said she had given contact details to the Clerk of the person who had originally produced these in 2012.

Cllr Spink gave an update on planning action against the former Yarmouth Deli, which is progressing, albeit slowly.

Cllr Peckham referred to the forthcoming 'Picnic on the Pier' on 19/7 and the annual carnival in August.

Cllr Freshwater reported that a resolution of problems at the Scrape is actively being pursued, and Island Roads has tendered a quote to achieve a temporary solution until the Greenway project can follow up with a permanent one.

vi) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Jill Cowley thanked YTC and Harveys for their support of the recent Biosphere Festival. She reported that Wight Nature Fund is putting together a book and a display celebrating trees of the Isle of Wight, starting with the West Wight, and encouraged tree planting throughout Yarmouth.

In response to a question about the fire station site the Clerk advised that there was no further news, and regarding a question about ownership of the land outside CHOYD he confirmed previous information that it is part is owned by IWC and part by Southern Water.

56/2026 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no new interests or interests pertaining to matters on the current agenda.

57/2026 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

RESOLVED: To take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the June monthly meeting held 2/6/26.

58/2026 FINANCE

58/2026.1 Payment of Accounts

It was proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by Cllr Peckham and agreed unanimously to approve payment of accounts for July:

267029	WWSC	Grant	£9,637.00
267030	Yarmouth Carnival Committee	Picnic on the Pier	£1,500.00
267031	CHOYD	Grant planters	£630.00
267032	P Cronin	Land Registry searches	£42.00
267033	Brighstone L'scaping	Cemetery and green areas	£1,507.44
267034	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£728.33
267035	RoSPA	Playground inspection	£178.80
267036	Wight Digital Solutions	Printer tanks	£477.11
267037	YTT	Rec lease	£180.00
267038	NALC	Seminars	£84.00
267039	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary June	£1,032.28
267040	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary June	£389.29
DEB	Biltmore	Paper	£14.40
DEB	Amazon	Envelopes	£7.71
DD	Everflow	Water services toilets	£581.99
DEB	Cash	Lord Holmes Bounty	£150.00
PAY	PWLB	Loan charges	£1,787.10
DEB	Microsoft	Office365 subs	£2.76
PAY	Account fees		£6.50

The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Freshwater a copy of an Everflow invoice, and also confirmed the cost of ink tanks for the YTC printer, and distribution of the Holmes Bounty.

58/2026.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 30/6/26 was noted and agreed.

59/2026 PLANNING ISSUES

The following were noted:

Tree works:

26/00562/TW: Downs View Thorley Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0SH Various tree works, see Planning site:

<https://publicaccess.iow.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Street Trading Applications

Application for: Street Trading Island Wide Mobile Consent Renewal – Wight Ices L7
WPY - 13 July 2026 to 12 July 2027

60/2026 RECREATION GROUND

There was some discussion about banning dogs from the Rec because of the ongoing problem of owners failing to pick up their pets' excrement. The Deputy Mayor agreed to circulate again her suggestions for a notice to accompany the main one.

Cllr Cronin reported on measures taken, or to be taken, at the Play Area as a result of the recent RoSPA inspection. These include:

- Lining the top of the swings with upward facing cable ties to discourage birds from perching and covering the seats with their excrement.
- Paint has been applied to the rocker spring
- The carousel has been removed for repair to its bearings. When re-installed it will require rubber matting around its perimeter. It was proposed by Cllr Peckham, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and agreed unanimously to meet the £2K cost of this repair.
- The furniture in the Play Area is in urgent need of repair. The WW Men in Sheds had undertaken to do this but have so far not begun. The Clerk reported that a new bench would be around £350-£400. Cllr Freshwater agreed to ask his neighbour if he might be interested in carrying out the repairs, and Cllr Cronin will do the same with IGM.
- The RoSPA inspector suggested that rubber grass interlock mats could be used except within 2 metres of the carousel, enabling removal of the existing rubber surface which is causing problems.
- The existing fence on the south side of the Play Area needs the posts straightened, and the ground cracks dealt with which has been caused by the dry weather.

Cllr Cronin and the Clerk are meeting with the contractors 14/7 to discuss these issues. The IW College has expressed a wish to use the Rec for sports training, as it has lost its previous facilities and is currently using Ventnor Rugby Club. Suggestions were made about a usage fee. Also, the organiser of Yarmouth Youth has indicated he would like to use the Rec on Sunday mornings for matches. As a result, Cllr Cronin suggested purchasing the rest of the stop nets from Bembridge Council at the cost of a further £1500. This was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Freshwater suggested that the pitch could be planted with trees and laid out as a park.

Registration of land between the Rec and the former railway track: this was discussed at some length and Cllr Spink agreed to take possession of the copy of the conveyance available, together with Cllr Cronin's land search, and establish the procedure necessary to register the land.

61/2026 TREE WARDEN/WIGHT NATURE REPORT

Jill Cowley reported on a recent training session for tree wardens put on by Wight Nature Fund at Calbourne Mill run by Tree Council agriculturalist Ben Riches, who emphasised that trees should be left to grow naturally with no cutting or trimming unless there were safety issues.

62/2026 SCHOOL SITE HOUSING AND SCOUTS & GUIDES REFURBISHMENT

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Steve Cowley to explain about the unofficial Yarmouth Community Led Housing Group, composed of various local residents and representatives of local bodies, which is concerned with promoting the proposed on-site affordable housing. He reported that IWC Council and its agents are hoping to get to a pre-planning application shortly. The Group will report to YTC when more details are available from IWC, but the current plan is for 7/8 housing units, and they are intended for people with a local connection. The Group is supported by John Prickett, IWC Community Housing Officer and Gretel Ingham the Rural Housing Enabler based at Community Action. Cllr Freshwater asked how YTC will be involved in developments, to which Steve Cowley responded that it would be up to the bidders though Cllr Freshwater pointed out that there were no bidders for the housing land as IWC had retained this area, and, having spoken to John Prickett and Andrea Jenkins, it was his understanding that bidders Yarmouth Community Foundation had no role to play in this issue. Cllr Spink confirmed that this was also his understanding. Cllr Freshwater thought there was no issue of collective confidentiality, and that would only apply to individuals or commercial bodies. The Deputy Mayor suggested that the issue of representation on and recognition of the Yarmouth Community Led Housing Group should be deferred to the September meeting when the Mayor would be present.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Draper and agreed unanimously that Cllr Spink would be one of the YTC contacts for the YCLHG. Cllr Spink pointed out that any confidential matters could still be reported the YTC, though perhaps in the confidential part of a meeting.

There was considerable confusion about the issue of a grant to Yarmouth Scouts & Guides to assist with pre-development costs of £7000 for new facilities on the former school site, which the YS&G appears to have abandoned in favour of redeveloping its existing premises. Cllr Freshwater suggested that the YS&G wished to retain its existing premises and use the earmarked land on the school site for access to the water. It was felt that clarification was needed and the Clerk was asked to invite Louise Metcalfe to the next meeting to this end.

63/2026 FUTURE PRIORITIES

Cllr Freshwater reported on the recent meeting of the Future Priorities Working Party which focussed on housing in Yarmouth, including Mill Cottages and the Fire Station. He suggested that FPWP reports should be posted on the YTC website. He also stated he had been in touch with Living Streets and was awaiting a quote for an online

seminar. The Deputy Mayor summarised the situation, saying that YTC was represented in the Town Trust and, potentially, the Yarmouth Community Led Housing Group.

64/2026 ANNUAL RISK ANALYSIS

In spite of reservations by Cllr Freshwater, it was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed unanimously to accept the updated risk review as submitted.

65/2026 VANDALISM OF HEROES ORCHARD

It was proposed by Cllr Peckham, seconded by Cllr Draper and agreed unanimously to purchase and mount a trail camera in the Orchard.

66/2026 CLERK'S REPORT

66/2026.1 NEW BENCH CONTRIBUTION

It was proposed by Cllr Spink, seconded by Cllr Freshwater and agreed unanimously to make a donation towards the £273 transport costs of the new bench outside the Church.

66/2026.2 CLERK'S TIMESHEET APRIL-JUNE

The Clerk's timesheet for the above period was noted.

66/2026.3 ENAMEL STREET MAPS

The Clerk reported that he now had details of who produced the last street maps (which were not actually ceramic) in 2012 and he would be contacting the manufacturer to arrange for new ones; he undertook to report back to the next meeting with details.

66/2026.4 PUBLIC TOILETS PRICE INCREASE IMPACT

A comparison of revenue and footfall for the public toilets between 2025 and 2026 year to date is as follows:

	End June:	2025	2026	Inc/dec
Coin		930	1364	
Contactless		605	1428	
Total		1535	2792	82%
Footfall		7675	5584	-27%

67/2026 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was noted:

27-May-26 IWALC	PUBLIC HEALTH - Awareness Raising for KBT
29-May-26 IWALC	Project Keystone Survey - Now Live!
04-Jun-26 OPCC	LATEST on Henry Nowak's death
06-Jun-26 neighbourhoodalert	Fw: Nominate an Outstanding Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer T
15-Jun-26 NALC	NACTSO message for member councils

68/2026 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Town maps

Ratify Debbie on Yarmouth Community Led Housing Group
The Scrape
Yarmouth Scouts & Guides
Heroes' Orchard

69/2026 MEETING VENUES

The venue for the next meeting was confirmed as Thorley Church 1/9/26 starting 18:30.