



The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Yarmouth Town Council held at Thorley Church Tuesday 1st Sep 2026 at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Councillors D McCleary (Mayor), P Spink, A Draper, B Freshwater, P Farrell
IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk, Chairman YTT, 3 members of the public

The Mayor expressed thanks to the Carnival Committee for its amazing job in carnival week which was a real success. She also passed on congratulations from the Deputy Mayor.

70/2026 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Peckham, Cronin, Head, and IW Cllr Conlin

71/2026 PUBLIC FORUM:

i) YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST REPORT

The YTT report was presented by Martyn Collinson and appears under Appendix 1. In response to a question from Cllr Farrell about YTT's housing strategy, Martyn responded it was to try and move from very old buildings to newer houses which would be more affordable for younger families and more suitable as well.

ii) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Cllr Conlin, the Clerk read out her report and that appears below under Appendix 2.

iii) COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS AND LOCAL ISSUES

Cllr Freshwater reported that he had attended a meeting of the YCF (Yarmouth Community Foundation) which was held specifically to talk about the land allocated to Yarmouth Scouts and Guides which they were going to build on but were unable to do so because of its Constitution. However, the Scout Group, a separate organisation, now has the option to decide whether they want to build on it. The Clerk was asked to pursue a revised grant application form from Emily Metcalfe, and to ask her to attend a future YTC meeting.

Cllr Freshwater also alluded to the proposal that the FYT bus could add Thorley to its route, explaining that the bus could pick up from Thorley in the morning, but couldn't carry out the return under the afternoon.

The Scrape: Cllr Freshwater reported that Island Rodas had erected new posts and barriers, but expressed doubts that it was suitably storm-resistant. Close co-operation between Yarmouth and Freshwater councils and IW Councillors was discussed, as it was unclear which body was responsible for approving the design and placing the repair contract with Island Roads. Cllr Spink agreed to organise this group. The Clerk reminded that a structure was already in place in the form of the West Wight Association of Local Councils, although currently inactive.

Premier Stores: No activity has taken place for some 3 months and Cllr Spink suggested YTC send a forthright letter to IWC Planning Enforcement. If that proved to be ineffective, Cllr Farrell further suggested organising a petition and Cllr Spink a press release.

Cllr Spink reported that he had made an objection on the planning website about 3, Coastguard Cottages.

Cllr Draper reported that the nature recovery project in the old Mortuary, Chapel, graveyard is going forward, slowly.

Cllr Farrell asked how to go about getting a signpost erected at the junction of South St and High St indicating the Common, and the Clerk advised that an application would probably have to be made to Island Roads who would then submit it to IWC. He wondered if IWC could consider having a sign added to the street signs at the top of Refuge Lane and he undertook to enquire about this.

The Mayor reported another accident had taken place at the Basketts Lane/Tennyson Road junction. The Clerk explained that this blackspot had been reported to Island Roads on several occasions and is wound up with their periodic review of local parking facilities.

The Mayor also reported complaints about a resident whose property adjoins the south west corner of the Rec who, among other things had threatened another resident. The Clerk was asked to report this to the local police.

iv) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A local resident reported that the sign outside the public toilets in Bridge Road was rusty and needed replacement., and the Clerk was asked to arrange this.

The same resident also complained about parking on Coastguard's Green which YTC maintains on behalf of IWC, who should be controlling parking on this area. The Clerk was asked to email IW Cllr Conlin and ask that this area is included within the parking warden's area of responsibility in future.

It was reported that one of the new flagpoles is not vertical, and the Clerk explained this was probably due to the exceptionally dry conditions and will hopefully revert to its correct aspect if and when wet weather comes. In the meantime it will continue to be monitored.

It was reported that a campervan has been parking along the Common for extended periods of time and discussion centred around whether or not this was illegal. It was

suggested that the van owner has been unsuccessfully seeking a downstairs flat in sheltered accommodation and was using this site as an alternative. It was agreed to monitor this situation.

72/2026 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Farrell declared a new interest as a Harbour Commissioner and Cllr Draper informed that she has withdrawn from the IW Food Partnership Steering Group. There were no other new interests or interests which pertain to matters on the current agenda.

73/2026 MINUTES AND CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Draper and agreed unanimously to take as read and confirm as accurate the minutes of the July monthly meeting held 7/7/26.

74/2026 FINANCE

74/2026.1 Payment of Accounts

It was proposed by Cllr Freshwater, seconded by Cllr Draper and agreed unanimously to authorise the following payment for August and September:

267041	SJP	Carriage new bench	£273.00
267042	IGM	Goronds mainenance Rec Jun/Jul	£582.00
267043	Bembridge PC	Ball nets	£4,000.00
267044	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£728.33
267045	Paravectis	Public toilets mntnce	£70.00
267046	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary July	£1,032.08
267047	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary July	£389.19
267048	Gareth Williams	Internal audit (paid 14/7)	£210.00
267049	West Wight Men in Sheds	Planters and Play Area bench	£204.00
267050	IGF Groundworks	Play Area roundabout	£3,372.00
267051	IGM	Grounds maintenance Rec	£582.00
267052	ICS	Public toilets cleaning	£728.33
267053	Island Roads	Plsy Area bin	£126.00
267054	CHOYD	Broadband	£66.51
267055	B Jacobs	Clerk's salary Aug	£1,032.28
267056	HMRC	PAYE Clerk's salary Aug	£388.99
267057	Gallagher	Insurance	£1,521.34
DD	Everflow	Water services toilets	£227.78
267048	Gareth Williams	Internal audit (paid 14/7)	£210.00

Cllr Freshwater asked about the Play Area furniture and the Clerk reported that one bench had been fixed and the other required replacement.

74/2026.2 Bank Reconciliation

The financial statement for 31/8/26 was noted.

75/2026 PLANNING ISSUES

New Applications:

The Clerk was asked to record the following comments:

26/00977/RVC No objections

26/00615/HOU Concern and disappointment re lack of adherence to dark skies in an ANOB area

26/01013/HOU No objections

26/01067/ADV No objections

26/01072/ADV No objections

It was proposed by The Mayor, seconded by Spink and agreed unanimously to ratify the following comments agreed by email during August in respect of 3, Coastguard Cottages:

Yarmouth Town Council objects because the proposed side brick walls because of their siting and height would be an intrusive addition, resulting in an overbearing nature and potential loss of light to neighbouring properties. The provision of a rooflight is contrary to YTC's dark skies policy.

The following were noted:

Application No	Location	Proposal	YTC Comment
26/00649/FUL	Yarmouth Sailing Club Bridge Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0NL	Proposed siting of shipping container to form changing rooms; alterations to existing storage building	No objection
26/00845/HOU	Rose Villa Ommanney Road Yarmouth Isle Of Wight PO41 0QA	Proposed first floor extension to the rear and side elevations	Not notified
26/00614/RVC	Barnfield Solar Farm, East Of Wilmingham Lane	Variation of pre-commencement conditions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 21 on 22/01793/FUL to facilitate DNO substation foundation works	Objections raised

Street Trading Application

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 4

Application for: Street Trading Consent – PO41 Coffee House Horse Box, Yarmouth Harbour Office Car Park, Quay Street, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight (25 and 26 July 2026).

76/2026 RECREATION GROUND

In the absence of the Rec Committee Chairman, the Clerk read out the following report: *Firstly, it was a very busy summer with the recreation ground and play area being well used.*

There was a very serious problem with a family allowing their young child to ride a motorcycle round and round the ground on several occasions (video sent). The speed at

which it was being ridden was a serious danger to the other users on the ground at the time, reported to the police and hopefully it will now stop.

Play area: *Because of the very dry weather the play area has become very cracked and uneven, and may become a safety hazard if not dealt with in the near future. The benches in the play area are also still a concern, as men in sheds have only repaired one, the other is now in a very poor state and has become loose in the ground because of the drying and cracking of the soil.*

The bearing on the Inclusive Orbiter has been replaced and is now working well, and the drainage from the Orbiter is scheduled to start 2nd September. Quotes are now being received for the renewal of the safety matting around the Orbiter.

Recreation area: *The Stop Nets are in the process of being installed, and the football team are due to start playing in about three weeks.*

Cllrs Spink presented a report about the area of land to the south of the Rec which YTC is seeking to register. He queried Eldridge's assertion that they did not hold the conveyance for this land, when they have quite clearly stamped, signed and dated a copy. He went on to explain the procedure for establishing ownership with the Land Registry, and agreed to undertake the procedure unless and until the task became impractical for him to continue.

It was decided to defer the re-examination of the dog ban until all Councillors were present at the next meeting.

77/2026 TREE WARDEN/WIGHT NATURE REPORT

Steve Cowley reported that there had been many visitors to Mill Copse over the summer period, and some had even tried to start fires, but had been immediately stopped, and notices were to be deployed banning fires.

78/2026 SCHOOL SITE HOUSING AND SCOUTS & GUIDES REFURBISHMENT

It was decided to defer consideration of a grant to the above to assist with pre-development costs for the existing Scout and Guide Hall in Yarmouth until next month when all Councillors should be present and a revised grant application submitted.

The recent email from IWC re the affordable housing was referred to, noting that this development could not now take place. The Clerk was asked to write to IWC for a copy of the report which has led to the cancellation of this development.

The fate of the fire station was also discussed, which is currently used for storing fire appliances. A local resident mentioned a rumour that it could be used for industrial purposes. The Clerk was asked request the IW Ward Councillor to contact the Fire Service for information of any current plans for the site.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for Community Housing Officer John Prickett to address a forthcoming meeting to advise of any potential affordable housing locally, and Cllr Farrell undertook to ask the 2 main housing groups a similar question.

79/2029 COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES

Cllr Freshwater agreed to help Councillors who are having problems in implementing the new addresses.

80/2026 FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Future Priorities Working Party had had no further meetings since the last YTC meeting but were in discussion with Living Streets about a future presentation. However, Cllr Freshwater thought it likely the cost of this would be prohibitive. The Mayor confirmed that she wished to be a member of Yarmouth Community Led Housing Group.

81/2026 VANDALISM OF HEROES ORCHARD

Discussion of this topic was deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Cronin was not present.

82/2026 TOWN MAPS

Cllr Farrell advised that his property is shown on the last map as a shop and is now private, and Cllr Freshwater reminded that he had submitted a list of changes. It was decided to leave the Recreation Ground description as is. The Clerk undertook to circulate the suggested list of amendments one more time.

83/2026 CLERK'S REPORT

83/2026.1 YTC FACEBOOK SITE

It was agreed that Cllr Freshwater and the Clerk would rationalise the Facebook sites to leave just one.

83/2026.2 CREATIVE ISLAND

It was noted that Creative Island are putting on a Town Conversation at CHOYD on 14th September from 6-7:30pm; details were emailed to Councillors on 17/8/26.

83/2026.3 CLERK

It was noted that the April 2026 pay award has been agreed which will increase the Clerk's salary by 3% to £15994 pa, and the Clerk will be on leave 21/9/26 to 29/9/2026

83/2026.4 WEST WIGHT MEN IN SHEDS

It was proposed by Cllr Farrell, seconded by Cllr spink and agreed unanimously to confirm the decision agreed by email in August to pay the above organisation £204 for replanting the bus station planters and £50 for work on one of the benches in the Play Area.

83/2026.5 FUNDING PLANNING COMPLIANCE

The offer made by IWC regarding the above was considered and rejected.

83/2026.6 REMEMBRANCE PARADE

It was agreed to order 3 wreathes.

84/2026 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

85/2026 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Scouts & Guides grant

Affordable housing presentation

Living Streets presentation

Heroes' Orchard

Play Area

86/2026 MEETING VENUES

CHOYD was confirmed as the venue for the October monthly meeting on 6/10/26 starting 18:30.

Appendix 1: YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST INFORMATION UPDATE

1) Town Hall

Bookings Income received for Quarter 1: 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 was slightly up on the previous year. We have had a couple of false alarms with the fire alarm due to batteries needing replacing.

2) Financial:

Year End 31 March 2026 Accounts & Form CC16A have been examined and approved by our Accountant who has signed the Independent Examiner's Report on Accounts

All forms will then be ready to submit to Charities Commission

The Trust banking with Lloyds and has been transferred to a new "set up" for Charities.

Due to our historic Charter, we do not appear to "fit" their new system. After providing them with never ending request for information over 6 months they have given notice that the information is not sufficient for their new criteria and that we must leave by the end of November. A very disappointing reflection on a major British bank.

3) The Common:

The new Scots pine trees have been and are being watered during the recent dry spells. Our thanks once again to Colin for all his efforts.

The Trust has enquired of the IOW Council what actions have been taken on the drains following their survey in June 2025. We await their response.

The IOW Council decided not to use the east end of the Common for work to be carried out to the path going East towards Bouldnor (IOW Council land). They will be using Bouldnor car parking area instead.

4) Mill Terrace Cottages

Having received no interest on the sale of Number 9 due to current market conditions the Trustees have put the property back on the market for rental.

5) Graveyard Copse

The Trust is currently looking at planting some new shrubs.

6) The Recreation Ground

The CCTV Cameras have been a success, greatly improving the dog fouling problem.

The issues with drainage on the East side is on-going and the Town Council can best report when work will start.

The football teams hoping to make use of the rec ground have all fallen through, it was agreed to explore other options that would attract families.

- 7) There will be a presentation to three previous Trustees, Rodney Corbett, John Bay and Steve Cowley, who have given a lot of time to YTT, 8 years and 10 years and 7 years respectively.

Appendix 2: IW Cllr Conlin report

18th July 2026 - St Swithin's Church, Thorley.

I visited St Swithin's Church, Thorley during their special event. I took the opportunity to speak with the congregation and organisers to make them aware of the services and events taking place at The Gouldings Care Home, to encourage stronger links between our churches and our care community.

Policing

22nd July 2026 – Yarmouth Police Station

I attended Yarmouth Police Station for a meeting with PC Matt Rowlands. As residents will be aware, the station itself is locked to the public. When I questioned this, PC Rowlands confirmed that the yellow handset on the wall outside, when lifted, goes directly through to the Control Room 24/7 for Police assistance. We discussed local policing matters, visibility in Freshwater and Yarmouth. I will continue to liaise with the local team.

Environment, Drainage & Southern Water

Following the joint motion that was put in place at the last Full Council meeting by Councillor Bacon and Councillor Kirkby regarding Southern water, the actions that have been carried out so far, the Isle of Wight Council have been instructed to send formal letters to Ofwat, DEFRA, the Environment Agency and Southern Water to push for action.

Locally for our Ward:

After pushing Island Roads, they arranged for a District Steward to meet with me. He and his team have now cleaned and flow-tested the drains in Thorley. The District Steward agreed to raise a job for Wellow as well. I am expecting this work to be carried out within the next 7 working days. A further meeting with the District Steward will take place soon.

Enquiry 16321577 – Fallen Barriers, Yarmouth Cycle Track

I have raised this enquiry regarding fallen barriers on the Yarmouth cycle track. This is an issue I report regularly – my husband regularly uses the track and alerts me to its condition.

Councillor Enquiry 16321423 – Fallen Tree Limbs, Thorley.

I raised a Councillor Enquiry regarding fallen tree limbs in Thorley caused by the wind. The District Steward came out and dealt with this straight away. I would like to thank Island Roads for their prompt response.

Yarmouth Square – Early Morning Noise Complaint – The Bugle Coaching Inn

A tourist who was staying at The Bugle Coaching Inn, cut her stay short due to early morning noise.

I investigated this and found that Biffa were collecting at 0600am, which they are perfectly entitled to do. However, the bin crew were playing loud music and were generally inconsiderate to guests staying in accommodation in Yarmouth Square. I raised the matter with Biffa and they have agreed to be more considerate in future. I have written to the tourist concerned and apologised for all the inconvenience caused. The proprietor of the accommodation was grateful for my intervention.