

# Yarmouth Town Trust – Report on the year ended 31 Dec 2021

The Town Trust's main priorities over the past year have continued to be: -

The Town Hall

Mill Road Cottages

Recreation Ground/Children's Play Area

Archives/Website

The Common including the Benches

Graveyard Copse – maintained at Trust's expense, then-reimbursed by the Delphie Lakeman Trust.

## **1 – Financial Matters**

A – The 2020/21 annual accounts of the Town Trust were approved the Trustees at their meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The figures have now been sent to our Auditors and, after their acceptance, will be sent to the Charity Commission and eventually appear on the Charity Commission's website.

B - The Town Hall downstairs was hired during the year in line with Government COVID guidelines.

C – The Trustees wish to thank Mark Paterson for his generous donations during 2021.

## **2 – The Town Hall**

We continue to monitor the condition of the War Memorial where some decay is inevitable.

Internal painting has taken place during the year with approved materials. The upper windows are showing signs of rot and will need painting in the spring when the weather improves. This will involve scaffolding. The valley gutter will be checked at the same time.

The Trustees gave permission for the downstairs to be turned into a Santa's Grotto during the Christmas period. This proved a great success with children from all over the area coming to see Father Christmas, many for the first time.



The Trustees are currently in discussions with English Heritage concerning an exhibition of the Trust's historical archives in Yarmouth Castle.

## **3 – Mill Road Cottages**

Given their age and construction the condition of the cottages is much improved after major renovation works over the last two to three years. To be able to budget going forward in terms of future maintenance the Trustees will be obtaining an updated structural survey during the first quarter of 2022 in order to ensure the necessary reserves are put by.

#### **4 – The Recreation Ground/Renewed Children’s Play Area**

- a) **Renewed Children’s Play Area:** After initial feedback one item in the play area (the board rider) was not being used to the degree expected and has been replaced with swings at the Eastern end.
- b) **The Sports Pavilion:** the previous Sports Pavilion became unsafe and a potential safety hazard. This has now been demolished and planning permission obtained for a small, vandal resistant replacement. The Town Trust and Town Council are currently reviewing the best options for this replacement building. The electricity supply has been transferred to the concrete storage building nearby.
- c) **Drainage:** The drainage on the Recreation Ground has been poor for many years. A survey has now taken place and pilot holes have been dug to ascertain the best way to remedy this problem. A report from the Contractor is now awaited.

#### **.5 – Website**

Substantial progress has been made in scanning all the stored achieves that the Trust has in its possession. (We are now up to 1934). Our thanks go out to Colin Wilcox for all his hard work together with Rodney Corbett and Bernie Tucker for their support and assistance. The task of sorting through the scans, deciding which are of enough interest to be displayed and under what category, has still be done and is very time consuming.

#### **6 – The Common**

The physical condition of each memorial bench on the Common continues to be monitored. On-going maintenance work is scheduled to be carried out in the spring. The Trustees have identified a further two spaces for benches that will be available to people on the waiting list and are currently looking at alternatives to wooden benches due to their cost and the difficulty of ensuring they come from sustainable sources.

The beacon tray (4 ft dia.) has rotted through as have the pipes on the weather side (East). The Trust is obtaining two quotes for the work needed to repair it.

The Common drains are being investigated as some, if not all appear to be blocked.

#### **7 – Graveyard Copse**

Two shrubs are scheduled to be replaced. The three curved benches have some rot and have been taped up to prevent usage. New benches are on order but will take 4 to 5 months. The Trust is arranging for a temporary repair in the meantime.

#### **8 – Trustees**

The Trustees at the end of 2021 are: John Caulcutt, Rodney Corbett, Steve Cowley, Mike Dorey, Denise Cronin, Richard Leonard, John May, Bernie Tucker and the undersigned.

Trust meetings have been moved to Thursday evenings at 18.30 hours and now take place both in the Town Hall and via zoom for those unable to attend in person.

During 2022 the Trusts will be discussing the succession process and how best to encourage and hand over to new younger Trustees who will be able to continue our work. Anyone interested please contact the Chairman at [chairman@yarmouthtowntrust.org](mailto:chairman@yarmouthtowntrust.org) or other Trustees.

The 2022 meeting dates are scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Martyn Collinson – Chairman  
January 2022