

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD VIA ZOOM, ON
Monday 11 January 2021

PRESENT: **Chair:** The Mayor – Councillor Christine Willoughby

Councillors: M Clemmitt, E Darling, D Goode, H Gostlow, T Hunter, P Ireland, S Mearns, A Willoughby, M Wood, and A Wright

Staff Present: The Clerk and The Deputy Clerk

Late Arrivals: Mike Wood 7.32 p.m.

Early Departures: None

Also Present: A member of Knaresborough Chamber of Trade

Absent: J Gair

21/341 ITEM 1 – To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting

No apologies received.

21/342 ITEM 2 – Councillors’ Disclosure of an Interest

Councillor C Willoughby	Item 6.2 – pecuniary interest; two items on Schedule of Accounts payable to Councillor Willoughby – Councillor CW will leave the meeting for that item.
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Councillor M Wood joined the meeting at this point 7.32 p.m.

21/343 ITEM 3a - KTC Public Speaking Session

A member of Knaresborough’s Chamber of Trade attended the meeting to answer any questions regarding the grant application from Chamber of Trade. He answered questions and the Mayor moved to take Item **7.1 To consider** the grant application from Knaresborough Chamber of Trade.

RESOLVED: That KTC award the full amount of the grant requested, £1500, to Knaresborough Chamber of Trade.

21/344 ITEM 4 – To consider and if thought fit, approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on:

4.1 Monday 07 December 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council Meeting, held on Monday 07 December 2020, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

21/345 ITEM 5 – Business Remaining

5.1 To decide final 2021/2022 budget and precept request following receipt of ‘Band D’ information – Clerk Report attached.

The Clerk explained the rationale behind the two options contained in her report and referred members to a third option which had been emailed to them earlier that day.

Members discussed the three options, with some favouring increasing the precept by 1.99%, which is likely to be in line with North Yorkshire County Council’s planned budget, and others favouring no precept increase in Knaresborough for the coming year. The mayor asked for a recorded vote:

RESOLVED: That KTC supports an incremental increase of 1.99% on its precept which represents just slightly under 50p per year for Band D households.

This results in a precept monetary request to Harrogate of £147,120.

For:

Councillor C Willoughby
Councillor A Willoughby
Councillor D Goode
Councillor H Gostlow
Councillor M Clemmitt
Councillor M Wood

Against:

Councillor E Darling
Councillor T Hunter
Councillor A Wright
Councillor P Ireland
Councillor S Mearns

Abstention:

No abstentions

5.2 To appoint a council representative to Knaresborough Chamber of Trade following Councillor Mearns’ resignation (*20/338 07/12/2020 refers*)

RESOLVED: That Councillor E Darling will be town council’s representative for Knaresborough Chamber of Trade.

5.3 To appoint a council representative to Knaresborough Walkers Are Welcome steering group (*20/339 07/12/2020 refers*)

RESOLVED: That Councillor A Willoughby will represent town council at Knaresborough Walkers Are Welcome steering group.

21/346 ITEM 6 - Reports from the Clerk**6.1 To receive and note the Mayoral Points as at 01 January 2021**

The Clerk briefly explained that as in effect there had been a very limited mayoral role for the last 12 months, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the mayoral points had been frozen from the previous year, with none added on 1st January 2021 and none deducted from the Lib Dems following Councillor C Willoughby's kind offer to continue in the role of mayor for 2020/21.

It was proposed, but not seconded, that ten points be added to the mayoral points for each serving councillor in recognition of the hard work they had done throughout the year (total 120 points) but that none be deducted relating to the mayoral role for 2020/21. The Clerk explained that to do this would corrupt the methodology of the system as the final points total would not then fall within the permitted limits which allow its formula to work. To correct this, the Clerk would need to deduct points from each councillor to a total of 120, to bring the complicated formula back into play.

RESOLVED: To defer this to a future meeting when there may be a clearer indication whether there will be a mayoral role for 2021/2022.

Councillor Wright, who currently holds the highest number of points, confirmed that he will not take up the mayoralty for 2021/22.

6.2 To approve the Schedule of Accounts for December 2020

Payable to	File Ref No:	Amount excl VAT £'s	VAT	Total Amount £'s	Notes/ Description
Arena Group	73	52.01	10.40	62.41	Photocopies
Select Plan Ltd	74	336.50	67.30	403.80	Castle Lighting annual service
Pitney Bowes	75	62.25	12.45	49.80	Franking machine annual service
D3 Office Group	76	11.45	2.29	13.74	Stationery
Siemens	77	291.81	58.36	350.17	Copier lease rental
LITE	78	1,775.25	355.05	2,130.30	Infrastructure repair payment (year 1 of 3)
C Willoughby (reimbursement)	79	47.17	0.00	47.17	Zoom Oct - Dec
C Willoughby (reimbursement)	80	32.50	0.00	32.50	postage
BT	81	81.70	16.34	98.04	Broadband

HBC	82	57.28	0.00	57.28	Weirside Terrace Annual Rental
Salaries, Tax, NI and Pensions	83 - 86	3,972.40		3,972.40	
Radar Film and Video	87	1,050.00	210.00	1,260.00	Social Media Christmas Video
D3 Office Group	88	4.24	0.85	5.09	Stationery
Total		7,774.56	733.04	8,482.70	

RESOLVED: To approve the schedule of accounts, with the exception of the two items payable to Councillor C Willoughby, in the sum of £8403.03

Councillor Wright asked that his vote against lines 82 and 87 be recorded.

Councillor C Willoughby left the meeting the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Wood, took the chair.

RESOLVED: To approve the two Items in the Schedule of Accounts totalling £79.67 payable to Councillor C Willoughby.

Councillor C Willoughby returned to the meeting.

6.3 To receive the Finance Figures for November 2020

RESOLVED: To receive the Finance Figures for November 2020.

21/347 ITEM 7 – Correspondence

7.1 To consider the **grant application** from Knaresborough Chamber of Trade

See 21/343 above.

7.2 To consider the email from Councillor C Willoughby re “rising bollard” at Manse Farm development.

Members discussed the issue of the rising bollard, with some alternative ideas being put forward; it was proposed and seconded that KTC objects to North Yorkshire County Council’s decision not to install a rising bollard.

RESOLVED: That KTC writes to NYCC Area 6 deploring the intended removal of the "rise and fall" bollard at the end of Eastfield, (Frogmire Dike Crossing) to be replaced with a "No Entry" sign. This is on the grounds of safety of all road users. KTC urges NYCC to go ahead with the original planned "rise and fall" bollard to ensure that only authorised vehicles can cross from Manse Farm into Eastfield.

21/348 ITEM 8 – Committees and Working Groups**8.1 Verbal Update** from the Castle Working Group re Interpretation board.

Councillor C Willoughby gave a verbal update to members on the progress to install an interpretation board at the castle entrance. She explained where the board will be sited, that it will describe the different phases of the castle lights, and she confirmed that funding has been secured from Harrogate Borough Council.

RESOLVED: To Receive and Note

Councillor Wright mentioned to members that he had not called a meeting of the Economic Working Group due to the ongoing pandemic and is not planning to do so until such time as the COVID-19 situation is significantly better.

21/349 ITEM 9 - Information Exchange

- Councillor Goode mentioned Knaresborough Connectors and the fact that they are currently working with 120 volunteers to determine how many are available to support local residents and people in need. He asked that if members knew of anyone currently struggling they point them in the direction of Knaresborough Connectors.
- The Mayor took the opportunity to pay tribute to the office staff and acknowledged the difficulties they are currently working under. She thanked them for all their hard work to keep things going and asked members to be mindful of these difficulties when making requests to the office.
- The Clerk informed members that she is looking to call a meeting for the Trustees of King George V field. This is likely to be on Monday 8th February.

Meeting closed at: 8.30 p.m.

**Signed by the Mayor:
Councillor C Willoughby**