**MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF KNARESBOROUGH HELD AT KNARESBOROUGH HOUSE, KNARESBOROUGH, MONDAY 5 MARCH 2018 AT 7:30PM**

**PRESENT:** The Town Mayor (Councillor D Goode) in the Chair

**Town Councillors:** R Aspin,J Batt, S Batt, D Bulmer, E Darling, H Gostlow,

L Powell, B Rigby, A Willoughby and C Willoughby

**District Councillors:** P Ireland (Harrogate Borough Council, HBC)

**Present:** Miss A Pulman (Acting Clerk) and Mrs M Richards\* (Deputy Clerk)

B Higgins, J Richards, E Walsh, P Barrett, R Hewitt, S Oakes, M Wood,

A Wright, M Walker, B Allen, S Holden, M Woodward,

\*denotes lives outside of Knaresborough and not entitled to ask questions or vote on any matters.

**567** **Item 1 – To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting**

This item was taken after updating reports.

**568 Item 2 – To consider and, if thought fit, approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2017**

This item was taken after updating reports.

**569 Item 3 – To receive the report of the Town Mayor regarding the Town Council’s work over**

**the past year**

The Mayor welcomed all present and briefly explained the format for the evening, roughly divided into three areas - Town Council project updates, Mayoral Programme, and Knaresborough plc.

He spoke about the town council survey carried out in 2017 which had raised several issues and highlighted a need for better communication with the residents across Knaresborough, although most respondents believe Knaresborough to be a good place to live.

**Mayoral:**

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lynda Powell, for her support and mentioned that between them they had attended well over 100 events, representing and promoting Knaresborough across the district. The Mayor and Mayoress had visited Bebra in October as part of the Town Twinning initiative.

**Town Council** **Project updates:**

Wards Boundary Changes/Precept/Staff update: The Mayor explained about the new electoral wards with effect from May 2018 - now to be four wards with three councillors each, replacing three wards with five councillors.

He thanked the past Clerk for all her hard work over the last 12 years and explained about the staffing of the office following the Clerk’s departure and funding going forward.

Infrastructure: The Mayor commented that in regard to AQMA at Bond End, NYCC’s preferred solution was for two roundabouts but the time line for the work to be done would be lengthy. He informed members about the group which has been set up to look at AQMA’s throughout the District under the leadership of Councillor P Ireland. In terms of the Relief Road, KTC has opposed both the Inner and the Outer relief roads and would continue to drive that view.

Zero Carbon Town: KTC is supporting zero carbon policies and is currently working to detail what this will mean for the town; detail to backup the policy statement.

Markets: The group set up to look into the markets is now starting to consider both the short and longer term business of improving them. HBC has announced some investment in terms of reducing the fees for stall holders.

Games in the Park: Following discussions with HBC, a decision has been made to continue the funding for one more year to keep the games open during the normal working week.

Waterside: KTC has worked with residents to deal with a number of issues on Waterside, including parking restrictions.

Planning Applications: KTC has considered over 130 planning applications so far during the last year.

Local Plan: Residents have until 9 March to submit any comments.

Housing Developments: The Mayor commented that it is disappointing that houses are not being built when planning permission has been given. KTC has been in communication with one of the major developers throughout the last year.

Support Funding: The Mayor informed the meeting that £8310 had been given out in grants to various organisations throughout the town.

**Knaresborough plc:**

Neighbourhood Development Planning (NDP): The Mayor went on to briefly explain the concept of Knaresborough plc and how this had developed from NDP. He said the aim in the coming months/years would be to move forward with some key project areas - aiming to build affordable housing being one important aspect.

Voluntary Sector Workshop: The Mayor had organised a workshop which had been attended by representatives of around 26 separate organisations which had come together to share their skills and knowledge and to discuss common problems. A small steering group has been put in place with the aim of consolidating the efforts of the different groups which will be beneficial on many fronts, not least with funding applications etc.

Community Land Trust/Community Interest companies: The Mayor explained that changes in government legislation has meant that local communities can set up Land Trusts and Community Interest companies to consider buying land, pooling funds and building property. The Mayor was optimistic that this is something that could be moved forward in Knaresborough, bringing together local businesses and local funding for improving Knaresborough.

**Castle Working Group:**

Councillor Christine Willoughby spoke about the working group, which has membership of cross party councillors and the Civic Society. The group has addressed issues at the castle generally, including; winter opening hours, floodlighting the castle in the summer, drawing up plans for permanent lighting, improved signage, anti social behaviour and dog fouling. The group has been awarded £20K match funding by HBC to progress the lighting scheme.

**Town Team Working Group:**

Councillor Hannah Gostlow spoke about the town team working group and explained it had been set up on 10th October 2016. She read out the group’s Mission Statement. The group is made up of residents, local business owners, Town Councillors, Foks and the Chamber of Trade. Since its formation the group has given Recommendations to Council to write to NYCC requesting that the street furniture be repainted, or repainted black, and to apply for funds from the District Improvement Fund (HBC) to provide additional cycle parking in the town. Councillor Gostlow was pleased to report that both proposals have been accepted. She explained that a booklet promoting Christmas events in the town had been well received and funded by Churches Together, Town Council, Chamber of Trade and Lions. The group is looking at electrical car charging points and, based on a further Recommendation from the group, Council has written to NYCC asking them to look at parking/driving issues on various streets throughout the town.

**Events Committee:**

Councillor Andrew Willoughby spoke about the work of the Events Committee throughout the year. Ongoing is the work relating to the Performance Area in the Castle grounds. This is progressing, albeit slowly. He had brought a sample of an ‘Events Board’, which has been produced and advertises forthcoming events in the town. He spoke about the Bright Friday event, when the Christmas tree is officially lit up, and the Christmas lighting scheme throughout the town. He explained that this year many of the Christmas lights were not fit for purpose and had needed to be replaced. For the first time, Town Council has leased lights and would be monitoring whether this would be the preferred way to light the town in years to come. He mentioned the successful Tour de Yorkshire cycling event, and that a beacon had been lit to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday. Forthcoming events involve lighting a beacon on 11th November to commemorate the end of World War 1.

**Knaresborough Development Plan:**

A member of the group responsible for producing the Knaresborough Neighbourhood Development Plan spoke about the Plan and its policies which, when adopted, will shape Knaresborough until 2035. She explained that there had been consultations in 2012, 2014 and 2017, and the group is now writing residents’ comments into the plan following the most recent consultation in 2017. She explained that concerns had been raised about Jacob Smith Park not being mentioned in the document - this is because, although the park is regarded as important by KTC, the park falls under the parish boundary of Scriven. She also spoke about Community Land Trusts and explained that this would provide an opportunity for Knaresborough to start taking control of what is going on within the community.

**567** **Item 1 – To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting**

Apologies were received from Town Councillor E Collins, County Councillor Zoe Metcalfe, and Borough Councillor A Jones.

**568 Item 2 – To consider and, if thought fit, approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2017**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**Matters Arising**:

A member of the public queried Item **566 - Item 6 – to consider any matters raised by the**  **local government electors present at the meeting - c)** concerning green buses stopping on double yellow lines on the High Street and the resulting congestion, and restrictions on the High Street regarding loading and unloading, particularly outside Tesco’s. He asked if there had been any follow up. The Mayor confirmed that KTC had followed up these queries and asked Councillor P Ireland to comment further. Councillor Ireland explained that these particular buses are ‘hail and ride’ and are entitled to stop wherever anyone hails them; government legislation prevents any action being taken. He went on to say that it was his understanding that the deliveries to Tesco were now taking place within the agreed times.

Inconsiderate driving causing difficulties at the High Street traffic lights was considered and mention was made of central government policy which encourages competition.

**Break for Refreshments**

**570 Item 4 – To consider any matters placed before the meeting by the Town Council**

No items for this meeting

**571** **Item 5 – to consider any matters raised by the local government electors present at the meeting**

a) A member of the public spoke about King James’s School and stated that it is the 41st worst funded school in the country and as a result is considering moving towards being an Academy. He proposed that the Town Meeting, through the Council office, write to North Yorkshire County Council and ask that funding for King James’s School be increased to the level of other schools in the county and the country. This item was seconded, and carried by vote.

b) A member of the public spoke about the hard work which had taken place to re-establish the Farmers Market on the third Saturday of the month in addition to the Wednesday market but he expressed concern about the lack of publicity for the Farmers Market. He asked if a banner could be erected across the High Street, or outside Knaresborough House. Councillor Ireland stated that he would include the Saturday Farmers’ Market into the strategy of the general market committee and that it would be discussed at the next meeting.

c) Councillor Rigby expressed his appreciation for the Town Council’s support for the promotion and development of a town lift. The Topographical Study was now complete and he hoped that the momentum would keep going.

d) A member of the public spoke about Bond End and mentioned reservations about NYCC’s preferred plan to introduce two mini roundabouts. He questioned what would happen if the roundabouts do not work and wondered if they could be ‘painted’ on the road as a trial prior to proceeding. He asked if this possibility had been raised with NYCC.

The Mayor confirmed that this question had been asked many times but many factors, mainly of a Health & Safety nature, precluded such a temporary measure. The Mayor also went on to say that NYCC has still to complete a safety audit, the design work, consult utility services, and an additional consultation with the residents, prior to work commencing.

The question was raised as to why the A59 is still running through Knaresborough, and it was suggested that there should be a campaign against this. The Mayor commented that it would be appropriate to write to North Yorkshire County Council, on behalf of the Town Meeting, raising this point and then a response can form the basis of a campaign.

Finally the member of the NDP working group thanked the team at Knaresborough House for all they had done to help the NDP and the Mayor thanked the Town Clerks for their continued hard work.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm