**REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF KNARESBOROUGH HELD AT KNARESBOROUGH HOUSE, KNARESBOROUGH, MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019 AT 7:30PM**

**PRESENT:** The Town Mayor (Councillor P Ireland) in the Chair

**Town Councillors:** M Clemmitt,E Darling, D Goode, H Gostlow, S Mearns, M Wood,

A Willoughby and C Willoughby

**County Councillors:** Zoe Metcalfe

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

C Reid, S Teggin, J Richards, R Hewitt, C Hewitt, A Grinter, A George

M Woodward,

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

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

Apologies were received from Councillor T Hunter.

**573 Item 2 – To consider and, if thought fit, approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 5 March 2018**

This item was taken following updating reports.

**574 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 thanked them for attending the meeting. He began with thanking the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Tim Hunter and Mrs Jenny Hunter for their support throughout the year and went on to thank the town councillors and the Chairs of committees for all their hard work in working towards delivering the council’s key objectives. He also thanked the town clerks for their support to the council and Reverend Garry Hinchcliffe for acting as Chaplain.

He explained that town council is the most local level of government which has an important role in promoting the town and supporting the work of different groups in the community. He mentioned that town council has awarded £18,900 in grants to support local organisations and events which are all managed by volunteers. In his capacity as Mayor of the town he had met many of these groups and thanked them for all the work they do. He mentioned, in particular, the work of Knaresborough Lions for organising and delivering the Bed Race, along with the Beer Festival and helping out at important events, such as Bright Friday. Rotary Club of Knaresborough, the Friendship and Leisure Centre, Chamber of Trade, Renaissance Knaresborough, FEVA and many more all help to shape the Knaresborough experience.

He spoke about successfully lobbying North Yorkshire County Council to update the heritage street lights within the church grounds and resurfacing the pavement down to the church. He explained that there is to be a phase two to this work which will involve the digging up and resurfacing of Church Lane and relaying the kerbstones at the opposite side of the pavement. He gave credit to ‘Knaresborough stalwart’ Mr Bernard Higgins for his tireless work and tenacity on this project.

He mentioned the new roundabouts at Bond End which have greatly improved traffic flow and which will, in time, have a positive effect on the air quality in that area. He explained that as part of the planned safety audit, NYCC consultants are monitoring the proximity of the crossings to the roundabouts. KTC is supporting Zero Carbon Harrogate in their work on carbon reduction and working with NYCC to support the ‘Park and Stride’ initiative which encourages parents and children to used the newly resurfaced car park at York Place and then walk to King James’s School on foot.

Knaresborough Market is going from strength to strength and has seen both trader and customer numbers increased during the last year.

KTC continues to oppose the alignment of the proposed relief road and will continue to liaise with county colleagues on this matter.

The Mayor went on to mention that KTC has been consistent in opposing planning applications for large developments in the area. Objections had been made on planning grounds, but unfortunately KTC had been unsuccessful in influencing the final decision as the housing requirement in the emerging Local Plan had taken precedence.

The Mayor then asked the Chairs of committees/working groups to give updates from their respective groups.

**Town Team Working Group:**

Councillor Hannah Gostlow spoke about the town team working group and explained that it had received funding from the District Improvement Fund (HBC). Street furniture has been repainted and funding received for cycle racks which are due to be installed very soon. She confirmed that the group continues to work on ‘quick wins’ in the town centre.

**Castle Working Group:**

Councillor Christine Willoughby spoke about the working group, which has membership of cross party councillors and the Civic Society. She explained about various improvements made at the entrance to the grounds including; new signage commissioned and installed by KTC, straightening and painting of the gates, repairs to the cobbled entryway. Many of the bollards had been repainted in black and gold and moss and other debris had been cleared from paved areas around the castle. This work had been carried out by HBC under the District Improvement Scheme.

In November new innovative LED floodlights were installed at the castle. These were paid for by a combination of funding from KTC, a public appeal and match funding from HBC, who were very supportive throughout the project. The scheme has now been entered into a prestigious international lighting competition and the results are awaited with keen anticipation.

The group is continuing to work with HBC on improvements to the castle, taking on board many of the recommendations of the Atkins Plan of 2007, which are still being slowly implemented. The group anticipates working with the Performance Pavilion Working Group and Renaissance Knaresborough to ensure that Knaresborough Castle is maintained in good order, continues to be an asset to the town and appreciated by visitors from near and far.

**Knaresborough Development Plan:**

Councillor David Goode gave an updating report on Knaresborough’s Development Plan. He explained a good deal of analysis now needs to be carried out and confirmed that this would hopefully be brought back to KTC in April, with subsequent presentation to HBC in May. A six week’s consultation would then follow prior to the document being sent to the Planning Inspector; a final vote would then be expected in Autumn/early winter.

He spoke about affordable housing and explained that the Knaresborough Community Land Trust was up and running and had been very successful in winning a significant number of bids from various sources. In terms of economic development he explained that Knaresborough’s Chamber of Trade was in the first phase of analysis to identify Knaresborough as a business improvement district.

**Performance Area Working Group:**

Councillor Andrew Willoughby informed the meeting that, after 20 years, all the required permissions are now in place to allow KTC to progress the building of a performance pavilion in the castle grounds.

**Events Committee:**

Councillor Andrew Willoughby spoke about the work of the Events Committee throughout the year. He mentioned the Bright Friday event, which was principally led by Councillor Hannah Gostlow and explained that each year the Events Committee co-ordinate the Christmas lights throughout the town.

**573 Item 2 – To consider and, if thought fit, approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 5 March 2018**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 5 March 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**Matters Arising**:

None for this meeting

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

No items for this meeting

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

a) A member of the public spoke about a perceived anomaly whereby Wednesday market stall holders do not pay to park their vehicles at the York Place car park, but stall holders from the monthly Saturday Farmers Market do not enjoy this concession. He hoped that council would be able to discuss this at some future point.

b) A member of Knaresborough Lions asked when construction of the pavilion in the castle grounds might commence as there would likely be an impact on Bed Race Day. The Chair of Performance Area Working Group confirmed that construction would not be under way by the time of this year’s Bed Race, but the race would be borne in mind when construction commences.

c) A member of the public expressed disappointment at the Christmas lights on Gracious Street during the 2018/2019 festive period. Some lights had been working and others had not and she asked if the same contractor would be responsible for the lights for 2019/2020. Chair of Events Committee, explained that in order to bring the contract for KTC’s general lighting scheme into line with its current leased lights, the general contract had been renewed for 12 months. A complete review of the Christmas lights contract is being undertaken ready for tender in 12 months time.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm