

**KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL  
KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE AREA PROJECTS SUB-  
COMMITTEE**

Notes of Meeting held via Zoom at 9.30am on 9 January 2024

**Present:** Cllr John Batt (JB), Cllr Helen Westmancoat (HW), Brian Robinson (BRob), Matt Harvey (MH), Cllr David Goode (DG), Cllr Matt Walker (MW) (joined the meeting at 9.54)

**1. Minutes of 28 November meeting and matters arising**

Minutes are being approved and will be considered at the next meeting since one member had not received them. There were no matters arising.

**2. Apologies**

Kathy Allday (KA)

**3. Reports from Town Council**

The Zoom licence has still not yet been obtained due to the clerks being busy with other work that needed to take priority. It is hoped it will be in place soon but may take longer than a month. DG had again offered the use of his Zoom subscription for which he was thanked.

Visits to Helmsley Castle and Clifford's Tower had been approved at the last full Council meeting and JB had been asked to do a report and costing of it. It will need to go back to the Project and Events Committee who will fund it if agreed. JB will sort out the details and minibus costings and will email members of this group who wish to go. **JB to email members and agree minibus costs**

**4. Task and Finish Group – Enclosures Act Commemoration 13 August 2025**

ML, HW and Shan Oakes (SO) had met at the beginning of December to put together a potential programme for the 2025 event. It should be seen as a commemoration but also looking forward to the acquisition of Knaresborough Forest Park. A meeting of interested parties is to be held at Knaresborough House on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This will include representatives from Knaresborough Forest Park, Renaissance Knaresborough, Knaresborough Civic Society and FEVA amongst others. In future this working group may need to liaise with the T&F to progress this work. **HW agreed to keep this Sub-Committee informed of developments.**

**5. SWOT Tourism analysis – Margy L**

Nothing to report as ML not present, although ML had sent a report to the group following the last meeting. The training of tourism guides is going through the KTC process as a more formal plan is needed and a line has been included in next year's KTC budget for the training.

## 6. Devolution update

JB had met with Cllr Myers and he had been positive about getting the Castle under the control of NYC or another body, i.e. KTC, but due to Cllr Myers workload that may not happen quickly. JB intends to send a copy of this Committee's minutes to Cllr Myers so he knows that things are happening in Knaresborough. **JB to send Committee minutes to Cllr Myers**

DG commented that there had been a "sea change" in how NYC views the Castle and devolution in general, and although there would be costs involved KTC should still take the opportunities when they arise to control our own future. A meeting is to be held tomorrow (January 10) on devolution regarding the market and we should raise this with them. We should negotiate with the Duchy in regard to the lease and not necessarily wait for NYC to lead on that. BRob commented that we should also look to invite the King, perhaps for Royal Maundy. We may be dependent on partnerships with other organisations, e.g. Historic England, and also others in the town, e.g. Knaresborough Voice to engage with local people, but this will all take time. Our view is still that if NYC does not want to manage the Castle, we should do it. The car parking charges more than covers what they have to pay back to the Duchy as part of their management agreement so if we were to take it over, these should be included to help with running costs. There is also the legal position to be explored.

MW has spoken to Cllr Myers and they are setting up a working group to look at other buildings in the town including Knaresborough House and Conyngham Hall. The group should start small and JB as Chair of this group should attend, with others as required. **MW to confirm date for a NYC working group meeting**

## 7. Biffa funding – Bill R

BR was not in attendance due to illness. MH had spoken to him about it to help draw up proposals before Christmas but they had not been able to meet. They hope to do so in the next couple of weeks. **MH and BR to meet**

## 8. Castle re-interpretation plans and 2030 planning

Visits to Clifford's Tower and Helmsley Castle will be arranged (see above). MW is contacting Cllr Myers (as above)

## 9. Phase 2 replacement interpretation boards

BRob had no further information on the reinterpretation boards since CW is recovering from illness. He would contact her. **BRob to contact CW**

## 10. Museum update

KA was not able to attend and had not sent a report. KMA are moving into the former PrintZone premises at 12 High Street and there is much work involved in refurbishing the premises. David Rhodes is still suggesting that the Courthouse Museum would be a good location for a town museum, but that would need further discussion, probable structural work, and more money. **JB to check for further documentation on it**

## **11.AOB**

BRob had raised the question of further vandalism at the Castle at the previous meeting. Incidents should still be reported to 101. The Police were taking more interest and had increased patrols. It was also raised at the Police Liaison Committee meeting on 12 December, and regular patrols were now happening. Contractors had been on site and cleared sand etc. Some lights were still not functioning. **BRob to chase up on the lights**  
CCTV should still be installed and we need to press for this. It could be funded from the car park money that the Duchy receives. Historic England may need to be involved since it would need to be attached to an ancient building. It was agreed to put CCTV on future agendas. Also on the agenda should be the weeds and roots that were growing in the lime mortar of the Castle. Volunteers could help with removal, possibly Scouts, but it is a specialist job that English Heritage should be consulted on.  
BRob also suggested that we should include someone from Historic England on the Committee **JB offered to follow up with that and would also talk to Parks about any issues.**

The meeting closed at 10.20.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday February 13 2024 at **10 am** via Zoom

**Please note revised time**