

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT KNARESBOROUGH HOUSE
on Monday 19 June 2023

PRESENT: **Chair:** The Mayor - Councillor Hannah Gostlow

Councillors: J Batt, A Bell, K Davies, M Flood, D Goode,
 K Lacey, M Longhurst, S Oakes and
 H Westmancoat

Staff Present: The Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Late Arrivals: None **Early Departures:** None

The Mayor opened the meeting and presented past Mayor, Kathryn Davies, with a past Mayor's badge and a past Consort's badge for Mr Rob Davies.

23/106 ITEM 1 – To receive apologies and consider approval of inability to attend the meeting

RESOLVED: To receive apologies and approve reasons for inability to attend from Councillors Pickard and Walker.

23/107 ITEM 2 – Councillors' Disclosure of an Interest

Councillor H Gostlow	Item 9.1 - is a Board member of Knaresborough Connectors. Will leave the chamber for this item.
Councillor K Lacey	Item 9.1 has a relative who is Chair and board member. Will leave the chamber for this item
Councillor M Longhurst	Item 9.1 – is a member of Knaresborough Connectors
Councillor D Goode	Item 9.1 – is a member of Knaresborough Connectors and will not vote on this item
Councillor H Westmancoat	Item 9.1 – is a member of Knaresborough Connectors and will not vote on this item

The Mayor asked the Clerk to investigate arranging some formal training for Councillors relating to disclosure of interests.

23/108 ITEM 3 - KTC Public Speaking Session

A representative from "People Together Project Knaresborough" attended the meeting and gave members a brief outline of his work and achievements to date and

his aspirations for the future. Members asked questioned and thanked him for attending the meeting.

(The representative from The Hive did not attend the meeting to give the presentation to Council on their work to date).

23/109 ITEM 4 - To consider and, if thought fit, approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on:

4.1 Monday 15 May 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4.2 Monday 25 May 2023 (Annual Meeting of the Town Council)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25 May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23/110 ITEM 5 - Business Remaining - None for this meeting

The Mayor then moved to take Item:

23/114 ITEM 9 - Motions from Members

9.1 Councillor K Davies

For KTC **to consider** the following statement: “In my opinion, the due diligence process regarding the grant for Knaresborough Connectors of £3000 in February this year was not properly carried out according to best governance practice”.
(Seconded Councillor J Batt)

The Mayor, Councillor Hannah Gostlow and Councillor Kit Lacey both left the Chamber for this item and took no part in the debate or voting.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Helen Westmancoat, took the chair for this item.

Councillor Davies explained the rationale behind her motion and why she had brought it forward.

She proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:

“and that Knaresborough Town Council should write to Knaresborough Connectors to request repayment of the grant of £3,000 that was awarded in February this year, as the purpose for which this grant was awarded has been changed”.
(Seconded Councillor J Batt)

Members debated and it was proposed and seconded that this item be deferred, until members have sight of the report which had been referred to during the debate, and Knaresborough Connectors can attend a council meeting.

The Chair moved to the vote and Councillors Batt and Davies asked for votes to be recorded:

Vote 1: To amend the motion from Councillor Davies to add “that Knaresborough Town Council should write to Knaresborough Connectors to request repayment of the grant of £3,000 that was awarded in February this year, as the purpose for which this grant was awarded has been changed”.

For the amendment:

Councillor Davies
Councillor Batt

Against the amendment:

Councillor Bell
Councillor Flood
Councillor Longhurst
Councillor Oakes

Abstention:

Councillor Westmancoat
Councillor Goode

This amendment to the motion failed.

Vote 2 - original motion: “In my opinion, the due diligence process regarding the grant for Knaresborough Connectors of £3000 in February this year was not properly carried out according to best governance practice”.

For the original motion:

Councillor Davies
Councillor Batt

Against the original motion:

Councillor Bell
Councillor Flood
Councillor Longhurst
Councillor Oakes

Abstention:

Councillor Westmancoat
Councillor Goode

This motion failed

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred, until members have sight of the report which had been referred to during the debate, and Knaresborough Connectors can attend a council meeting.

For the proposal:

Councillor Bell
Councillor Flood
Councillor Longhurst
Councillor Oakes

Against the proposal:

Councillor Davies

Abstention:

Councillor Westmancoat
Councillor Goode
Councillor Batt

Councillors Gostlow and Lacey returned to the Chamber.

23/111 ITEM 6 - Reports from the Clerk**6.1 To consider the Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23**

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

6.2 To complete the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 points 1 – 9

RESOLVED: To agree 'yes' in response to statements 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 on the Annual Governance Statement.

In regard to point 3 Councillor Kathryn Davies asked for a recorded vote.

RESOLVED: To agree 'yes' in response to statement 3 on the Annual Governance Statement

For:

Councillor A Bell
Councillor M Flood
Councillor H Gostlow
Councillor D Goode
Councillor K Lacey
Councillor M Longhurst
Councillor S Oakes
Councillor H Westmancoat

Against:

Councillor K Davies

Abstention:

Councillor J Batt

6.3 To consider the Accounting Statements 2022/23

RESOLVED: To approve the Accounting Statements for 2022/23

6.4 To note that the Clerk has received notice that Knaresborough Town Council has received its **Foundation award** as part of the Local Council Award Scheme.

RESOLVED: To note that Knaresborough Town Council has received the Foundation Award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme.

6.5 To consider adopting the **Financial Reserves Policy** as recommended by the internal auditor to demonstrate good governance.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Financial Reserves Policy as presented.

The Clerk was asked to write to North Yorkshire Council requesting information about any future election costs.

23/112 ITEM 7 - Correspondence

7.1 To consider the email from the Rural/Market Town Group re membership

RESOLVED: To plan to be a member of the Rural Market Towns Group again in 2024/25 but not to take further 23/24 service.

Councillor Oakes offered to carry out further research on KTC's membership of this group.

7.2 To consider the email from the YLCA re: consultation on developing local partnerships for onshore wind in England.

RESOLVED: That KTC request a short extension from the YLCA in order for this exercise to be delegated to the Climate Change Emergency sub committee for response in conjunction with the Clerk.

7.3 To consider the email from the Secretary of the Civic Society requesting Town Council's support in contacting North Yorkshire Council re preservation of Knaresborough House.

RESOLVED: That KTC supports the content of the letter from the Civic Society but will send a separate letter.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That KTC will write to North Yorkshire Council requesting action be taken to protect the stained glass windows at Knaresborough House.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That KTC will write to North Yorkshire Council requesting an update regarding CCTV for Knaresborough House.

23/113 ITEM 8 - Reports from Committees and Working Groups

8.1 To receive and note the draft Finance Committee minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5 June 2023 and **to consider** the resolution to be put to full council regarding arrangements for £5K 'green' grant budget.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the draft Finance Committee minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5 June 2023.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Climate Change Emergency sub committee's spending plans for awarding Council's £5K 'green' grant budget be routed through the Community and Environment Committee and copied to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

23/114 ITEM 9 - Motions from Members

9.1 Councillor K Davies

For KTC **to consider** the following statement: "In my opinion, the due diligence process regarding the grant for Knaresborough Connectors of £3000 in February this year was not properly carried out according to best governance practice".

See above

9.2 Councillor M Longhurst (seconded Cllr H Gostlow)

For KTC **to consider** the following: "This Council agrees to support further developments in Knaresborough to Improve facilities for tourists and promote the town as a tourism destination".

Councillor Longhurst explained the rationale behind her motion.

RESOLVED: That KTC agrees to support further developments in Knaresborough to improve facilities for tourists and promote the town as a tourism destination and delegates this matter to the Community Services and Environment Committee for further discussion and next steps.

22/115 ITEM 10 - Information Exchange

- Councillor Good informed members that he had received the Emergency Response Document from North Yorkshire's Emergency Planning Manager – Harrogate Division and at the first meeting of the Emergency Response sub committee they will look to update the response plan.
- Councillor Davies informed members that there is a new police inspector in Knaresborough – Inspector Holly Nicholls. Councillor Davies will keep members informed about future liaison meetings.
- Councillor Westmancoat informed members that there will be a castle sub committee meeting on Friday 23 June at 2.00 p.m. at the castle when a member of North Yorkshire's Destination management team will be present.
- Councillor Gostlow mentioned that St John's Primary School young leaders' group are looking at how a youth council might be set up and would really appreciate feedback from town councillors. They are holding an event

between 9.00 and 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday 12 July and have asked if any councillors are able to attend.

Meeting closed at: 9.10 p.m.

Signed by the Mayor:
Councillor Hannah Gostlow: