

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT KNARESBOROUGH HOUSE ON THURSDAY 23 MAY 2024**

**PRESENT:** The Town Mayor (H Gostlow) in the Chair

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

**Staff:** The Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and the Community Projects Officer

**AM24/001** **ITEM 1 – ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR 2024/2025**

1.1 The Town Mayor (H Gostlow) asked for nominations for the election of Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Helen Westmancoat proposed, and Councillor David Goode seconded and it was

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Margy Longhurst be elected Town Mayor for the ensuing year 2024/25.

**AM24/002** **ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES FOR INABILITY TO ATTEND THE MEETING**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Davies.

**AM24/003** **ITEM 3 – WELCOME BY THE RETIRING MAYOR – Councillor H Gostlow: REPORT ON THE MAYORAL YEAR 2023/24 and thanks by the retiring Mayor including presentation of awards**

Councillor Hannah Gostlow, the outgoing Mayor, welcomed all present and took the opportunity to thank her town council colleagues for giving her the opportunity to be Mayor.

She went on to recall some memories from her mayoral year. She spoke about the Bed Race and how over the years she had been a spectator, a runner, a marshal and the most special duty – leading the parade as Mayor of the town. She paid tribute to all the volunteers involved in the event, and in particular the Lions, without who the event would not take place.

She went on to mention her visit to Knaresborough's twin town of Bebra where she had felt proud to witness the relationship between the two communities.

The 'final' memory she chose to recall related to celebrating significant ceremonies with the Air Cadets in the town. She explained that she had also worked with the organisation on community events and had found these young people to be a real inspiration.

She concluded by explaining that in May last year, on her appointment as Mayor, she had many plans she wished to accomplish – in particular to champion women. She explained that in the final months of her post, however, she had felt disappointed in not having achieved all she had set out to do, but she then remembered a comment made by a lady she had met soon after her appointment who had remarked how lovely it was to see someone 'just like her' as Mayor. The Mayor had taken away from this that sometimes all that is needed is for women to simply see other women taking up prominent roles.

She ended her report by expressing the hope that the new Mayor enjoys the role of Mayor as much as she had.

**AM24/004 ITEM 4 – Invest the Incoming Mayor**

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Hannah Gostlow, invested Councillor Margy Longhurst with the Chain of Office.

*The new Town Mayor, Councillor Margy Longhurst, took the Chair henceforth.*

**AM24/005 ITEM 5 - Town Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and appointment of Deputy Town Mayor**

**5.1** Councillor Margy Longhurst read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Town Mayor.

**5.2** The Mayor gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor and thanked Members for her appointment.

**5.3** The Mayor announced that her Consort is to be Mr Richard Hassall and the retiring Mayor invested the new Consort with the Chain of Office.

**5.4** The Town Mayor (Councillor Margy Longhurst) proposed and Councillor Kit Lacey seconded and it was

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Andy Bell is Deputy Mayor for the year 2024/2025.

The retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Margy Longhurst, invested Councillor Andy Bell with the chain of office.

**AM24/006** **ITEM 6 – To receive communications from the Town Mayor, including:**

The Mayor's Chaplain for the Civic Year 2024/25 – Reverend Garry Hinchcliffe  
Mayor's Charities for the Civic Year 2024/25 – Knaresborough Museum Association and The Chapel of our Lady of the Crag  
Date of Civic Service – to be advised

**AM24/007** **ITEM 7 - General Council Business** – Appendix B – including appointments to Committees, Working Groups and External Organisations and Schedule of Meetings for 2024/25

**RESOLVED:** That the items referred to in Appendix B, attached to these minutes, and the action taken thereon be noted.

## Appendix B

### Item 7 - General Council Business

- a) The creation, abolition or alteration of committees and approval of their Terms of Reference - *(see Minute no: 24/156 - 29 April 2024).*
- b) Appointment of members of any committees - *(see Minute no: 24/156 - 29 April 2024)*
- c) Appointment of members to serve on outside bodies - *(see Minute no: 24/156 - 29 April 2024).*
- d) The consideration of the Chairman's/Mayor's allowance (if any) - *(agreed by the Town Council at its meeting held 18 December 2023 - Minute 23/136 refers).*
- e) The checking of the inventory and Asset Register of Council property together with appropriate insurance arrangements – *(checked at town council meeting Monday 29 April 2024).*
- f) The receipt of reports from previous representatives on outside bodies - *(the Town Council receives and considers such reports at its meetings throughout the year).*
- g) The fixing of dates of Council meetings for 2024/2025 *(see Minute no: 24/156 - 29 April 2024).*
- h) Review and adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regs *(checked and adopted at town council meeting on Monday 29 April 2024)*
- i) To note all other Council Policies and Procedures reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year.