

**PRESENT:**

<b>Chair:</b>	The Mayor - Councillor Margy Longhurst		
<b>Councillors:</b>	J Batt, A Bell, K Davies, D Goode, H Gostlow, K Lacey, S Oakes, J Pickard, and H Westmancoat		
<b>Staff Present:</b>	The Clerk and the Deputy Clerk		
<b>Also Present:</b>	Several members of the public and a member of the press		
<b>Late Arrivals:</b>	None	<b>Early Departures:</b>	None

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

<b>Councillor H Westmancoat</b>	Items 6.2 and 9.2 as President and Trustee of Rotary
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**3.1** A resident attended the meeting to announce his intention to set up a Friends of Knaresborough House group.

The same resident also mentioned that he would be sharing a Paper with Councillors detailing a project which is looking to support volunteer organisations within the town.

**3.2** A resident briefly addressed Council asking members to give their support to the market and reiterating the importance of its standing in Knaresborough.

**3.2** A second resident addressed the Council concerning the future of the market. He detailed the current issues as he sees them and concluded that North Yorkshire Council's 'harmonisation' plan will not work.

The Mayor moved to take Items 5.1 and 5.2:

**5.1 - To consider** the recommendation from the market working group to proceed with the LCC Consultant led Business Plan to further progress consideration of KTC taking over the operation of Knaresborough market.

**RESOLVED:** That KTC proceeds with the LCC Consultant led Business Plan to further progress consideration of KTC taking over the operation of Knaresborough market.

Councillor Batt asked for a recorded vote on this item, which was **unanimously** Resolved by all Councillors present with no abstentions.

**5.2 To give delegated power to the Clerk** to instigate expressions of interest to better inform the consultant in compiling the business case.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk is given delegated power to instigate expressions of interest to better inform the consultant in compiling the business case.

**3a** North Yorkshire Councillors to give verbal updating report on unitary authority matters.

Councillor Hannah Gostlow gave a brief update on North Yorkshire Council matters as follows:

- 2025/2026 budget has been agreed
- There has been discussion surrounding schools admissions and schools transport policies
- An expression of interest has been submitted by Knaresborough's North Yorkshire Councillors to be included in the community partnerships initiative.
- The Local Plan is still calling for new sites
- Issues have been raised concerning the castle and the leisure centre

**25/206 ITEM 4 - To consider** and, if thought fit, **approve** as a correct record, **the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on:**

#### **4.1 Monday 16 December 2024**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16 December 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **25/207 ITEM 5 - Business Remaining**

**5.1 To consider** the recommendation from the market working group to proceed with the LCC Consultant led Business Plan to further progress consideration of KTC taking over the operation of Knaresborough market (Market working group minutes circulated to all Councillors, - these are confidential due to matters of staffing).

See 25/205 above

**5.2 To give delegated power to the Clerk** to instigate expressions of interest to better inform the consultant in compiling the business case.

See 25/205 above

**25/208 ITEM 6 – Reports/Information from the Clerk**

**6.1 To receive and note** the Mayoral Points position at 01 January and note who will be the town mayor from May 2025

**RESOLVED:** To Receive the Mayoral Points position at 01 January 2025 and note that Councillor Helen Westmancoat is the Mayor Elect with Councillor Andy Bell as the Deputy Mayor Elect.

**6.2 To consider KTC** joining the new Knaresborough Together app (created and managed by Chain Lane, funded by rotary) to advertise volunteering opportunities for KTC / town events.

**RESOLVED:** That KTC joins the new Knaresborough Together app.

**6.3 To consider the Schedule of Meetings for 2025/2026**

The Clerk informed Members of the rationale behind providing two versions of the forward schedule of meetings for the next 12 months. She explained that after two years the office felt the committee system was not working as effectively as had been envisaged, for a variety of reasons, and that a structure which included fewer committees together with reverting to more regular full council meetings would address some of the problems being encountered.

**RESOLVED:** To defer consideration of the Schedule of Meetings for 2025/2026 until the next full council meeting on 12 May 2025.

The Clerk reminded Members to contact the office with any further thoughts/suggestions on this matter well before the day of the council meeting.

**6.4 To receive and note** the completed internal checklist for 2024/25

Council noted that this checklist has not yet been completed for 2024/25 and Councillors Gostlow, Oakes and Goode committed to undertaking the internal review as soon as possible and before the start of the new financial year.

**6.5 To consider** Council's insurance renewal

**RESOLVED:** That KTC follows the recommendation of the Clerk to continue with the present insurer.

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Clerk obtains quotations for additional cyber security protection for the town council.

**6.6 To consider** the Clerk's report re: Donation from Film Company

The Clerk explained the rationale behind the donation from the film company and her idea of directing the funding towards supporting arts projects in the town.

**RESOLVED:** That KTC gives delegated authority to the Clerk to set up and run a project to distribute the £1000 made available by the film company.

**6.7 To consider** erecting bunting throughout the town to commemorate the VE day 80 anniversary and giving the Clerk delegated authority to make arrangements for this with KTC's lighting contractor and a local bunting supplier.

**RESOLVED:** That KTC gives delegated authority to the Clerk to make arrangements to purchase and erect bunting in the town.

**6.8 To receive and note** the Interim Internal Audit Report and note recommendations.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the Interim Internal Audit Report and the recommendations it contains.

**25/209 – ITEM 7 - Correspondence**

**7.1 To consider KTC** taking up voting rights in the Gouthwaite Board of Management and appointing a representative/s to attend the AGM on 23 April

**RESOLVED:** That KTC takes up the voting rights in the Gouthwaite Board of Management and that Councillors Davies and Gostlow are appointed representatives and invited to attend the AGM on 23 April.

**7.2 To consider** the email from a resident re: basketball court for Knaresborough

**RESOLVED:** That KTC forwards the email to North Yorkshire Council highlighting the need to improve the facility at Stockwell and asking for a review of all leisure facilities within Knaresborough with the intention of identifying a location for a full basketball court.

**24/210 - ITEM 8 - Reports from Committees and Working Groups**

**8.1 To Receive and Note** draft minutes of the Projects, Community and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 04 February.

**RESOLVED:** To Receive and Note draft minutes of the Projects, Community and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 04 February.

**8.2 To Receive and Note** the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025.

**RESOLVED:** To Receive and Note the draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025.

**8.3 To Receive and Note** the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 01 and 29 July 2024, 02 September, 07 October, 04 November, 02 December and 13 January 2025. Please see website for details.

**RESOLVED:** To Receive and Note the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 01 and 29 July 2024, 02 September, 07 October, 04 November, 02 December and 13 January 2025.

**8.4 To Receive and Note** the minutes of the Knaresborough Castle Sub Committee meeting held on 26 February 2025

**RESOLVED:** To Receive and Note the minutes of the Knaresborough Castle Sub Committee meeting held on 26 February 2025

## **25/211 ITEM 9 - Motions from Council Members**

### **9.1 Cllr M Longhurst (Seconder – Cllr H Gostlow):**

“That KTC agrees to support the move to apply for Coach Friendly Town Status for Knaresborough, to encourage coaches to come to Knaresborough and to improve the passenger experience on arrival.”

The Mayor, Councillor Longhurst, spoke about the Motion and explained that she was seeking Council’s approval in principle. She explained that the process of applying for coach friendly town status takes approximately two years.

**RESOLVED:** That KTC agrees to support the move to apply for Coach Friendly Town Status for Knaresborough, to encourage coaches to come to Knaresborough and to improve the passenger experience on arrival.”

### **9.2 Cllr H Gostlow (Seconder – Cllr A Bell):**

“KTC agrees to take on the responsibility and ownership of the Knaresborough town boundary signs, which currently feature an image of the castle on a pale blue background.

KTC agrees to undertake a programme of work to repair those signs which need immediate attention and a further programme to replace the remainder of the signs over a period of time.”

**RESOLVED:** That a task and finish working group is set up from Projects Community & Environment Committee members to explore responsibility and ownership of the Knaresborough boundary signs which currently feature an image of the castle on a pale blue background with a view to considering a programme of work to repair those signs which need immediate attention and replace the remainder of the signs over a period of time.

**9.3 Cllr J Batt:**

“KTC agrees to replacing the 3 flags on the flagpoles adjacent to the car park at Knaresborough Castle. This Council agrees to give delegated authority to the Clerk to procure suitable, quality replacement flags to replace those currently flying”

**RESOLVED:** That KTC’s castle working group is requested to identify the costs for replacing the flags including any changes to their size and design that would result in them having a longer life.

**9.4 Cllr M Flood (Seconder – Cllr J Pickard, K Lacey)**

“KTC agree to spend £9600 to enhance the trailer stage based on community feedback and safety concerns around the current stage extension. This will in turn enhance KTC’s community event provision.”

Councillor Pickard explained the rationale behind this motion and referred to the research which Councillor Flood had undertaken.

**RESOLVED:** That KTC supports this motion and gives the Clerk delegated authority to decide which 2024/2025 budget underspends to vire funding from.

**25/212 ITEM 10 - Information Exchange**

- **Cllr Batt** had previously brought forward information regarding Bebra exchange no longer being arranged by King James’s School.  
It was proposed that the Clerk write to the Head of King James’s School expressing disappointment in terms of the decision which has been made and ask if she would be willing to meet with a small delegation from KTC (Councillors Batt and Goode) to discuss the decision with a view to see if there are any alternative arrangements that could be made to continue to develop the relationship that exists between the two schools of Knaresborough and Bebra.
- Councillor Westmancoat informed members that there would be a meeting of the Community Alcohol Partnership on Friday 21 March at 10.00 a.m. on TEAMS.
- The Clerk informed members that past Mayor and Councillor, Andrew Willoughby, had undertaken a massive amount of work clearing the footpaths at Jubilee Allotments, assisted by Councillor Gostlow and 2 members of the Knaresborough Nidd Gorge Conservation Group.

**Meeting closed at: 9.20 p.m.**

**Signed by the Mayor:**

**Councillor M Longhurst**