

PRESENT:	Chair:	The Mayor – Councillor Helen Westmancoat
	Councillors:	A Bell, K Davies, M Flood, H Gostlow, K Lacey, M Longhurst, S Oakes, J Pickard and M Walker
	Staff Present:	The Clerk and the Deputy Clerk
	Also Present:	Two residents Four members of the Youth Council + leader Representation from the Press
	Late Arrivals:	None
	Early Departures:	None

The resident also noted that a review of speed limits across Knaresborough would be considered later in the agenda, and asked members to pay particular attention to his concerns about speeding on Boroughbridge Road. He also felt that Beech Road would benefit from some form of traffic-calming measures.

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

Councillor Walker gave brief updates as follows:

- Christmas Trees – these will be provided by NYC for 2026
- Leaf cleaning – this has been taking place throughout the town
- Castle – NYC producing a five year plan to be available end March
- Viaduct Terrace – NYC is working on this
- Potholes – continue to be reported, but some areas in particular require further investigation

Councillor Gostlow explained that in regard to parking principles, NYC has plans for various towns. Knaresborough is to be discussed at Area Committee.

The Clerk asked Councillor Walker to investigate the timeline for the erection of the Christmas trees so that she can plan for the installation of the Christmas lights.

26/268 ITEM 4 - To consider and, if thought fit, **approve** as a correct record, **the Minutes** of the **Council Meeting** held on:

4.1 Monday 15 December 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 December 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26/269 ITEM 5 – Reports/Information from the Clerk

5.1 To note the Mayor Elect for the civic year 2026/2027

It was noted that Councillor Shan Oakes is Mayor Elect and that Councillors Pickard and Lacey will cover the role of Deputy Mayor between them.

5.2 That Knaresborough Town Council considers making a commitment to take over responsibility for the Wednesday Charter Market and further sets out a proposed time frame for this to take place, given the final outstanding matters currently being investigated by North Yorkshire Council.

Note: *That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted re **ITEM 5.2** pertaining to commercially sensitive information, the item be dealt with in private session and, subject to the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended), the meeting be not open to members of the public.*

RESOLVED: To move into confidential session

(Members of the public present left the chamber)

Councillor Pickard updated members on the current position regarding negotiations with NYC concerning KTC taking over the Wednesday charter market. Using a Powerpoint presentation he outlined the up to date facts and figures together with several projected scenarios.

Members discussed and it was proposed that KTC accept to take over the running of the Knaresborough weekly charter market from NYC, subject to receiving the necessary commitments and support from NYC to ensure its sustainability, particularly in relation to business rates and any potential future costs. *(Written assurance will be obtained from NYC of the annual and monthly charges, and that they will not add any extra costs that may affect the viability of KTC running the weekly charter market).*

An amendment was made to the proposal to include 'that the business rates for the market and associated storage should be zero rated'. This amendment was carried.

RESOLVED: That KTC take over the running of the Knaresborough weekly charter market from NYC, subject to receiving the necessary commitments and support from NYC to ensure its sustainability surrounding any future costs and in particular that the business rates for the market and associated storage should be zero rated. *(Written assurance will be obtained from NYC of the annual and monthly charges, and that they will not add any extra costs that may affect the viability of KTC running the weekly charter market).*

RESOLVED: To come out of confidential session

(Members of the public returned to the chamber)

26/270 – ITEM 6 – Correspondence

6.1 To consider the invitation to the next Community Festival and **decide** if KTC want to participate this year? If yes, in what way and for what purpose? (To note: the Town Guides have indicated they would like to attend in their own capacity)

Members discussed and decided that KTC should have a presence at the Community Festival and agreed they would be responsible for organising this. The Clerk stated no member of staff would be present on the day.

6.2 To consider the request for Town Council support for the Town Crier competition in 2026 and the proposal to bring the Loyal Company of Town Criers British Championship to the Town in 2030

RESOLVED: That KTC request NYC waive their fee for the rental of Knaresborough House on 16th August, and if this is not possible then support can be offered from KTC's Small Grants Fund.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That KTC responds to the Town Crier regarding his proposal for Knaresborough to host the Loyal Company of Town Criers British Championship in 2030 and ask him to provide further details.

6.3 To consider working with Network Rail to handle communications around a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order on Frogmire Lane Level Crossing due to the high risk that it poses to the public.

RESOLVED: That KTC allows Network Rail (NR) to include the KTC logo on their communications so that residents understand town council is aware of and is working with NR regarding the issue of the Frogmire Lane Level Crossing.

26/271 - ITEM 7 - Reports from Committees and Working Groups

7.1 To receive and note the minutes of the KTC Planning Committee meetings held on 01 December, 12 January, 02 February and 02 March 2026 (draft). *(Please see website for details).*

RESOLVED: To receive and note

7.2 To receive and note the minutes of the Projects, Community and Environment Committee meeting held on 02 February 2026 (draft)

RESOLVED: To receive and note

7.3 To receive and note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19 January 2026 (draft)

RESOLVED: To receive and note

7.4 To receive and note the minutes of the Staffing Committee meetings held on 12 January 2026 and 09 February (draft)

RESOLVED: To receive and note

7.5 To receive and note the minutes of the Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison Meeting held on Wednesday 25 February 2026 (draft)

RESOLVED: To receive and note

7.6 To receive and note the Tour Guides monthly records for January and February 2026

RESOLVED: To receive and note

26/272 ITEM 8 - Motions from Council Members**8.1 Councillor Hannah Gostlow (2nd Cllr Walker)**

“Councillors Hannah Gostlow and Matt Walker note concerns raised by councillors and residents regarding vehicle speeds on a number of roads across Knaresborough, including Market Flat Lane, Scriven Road, Boroughbridge Road, York Road, High Street, Kirkgate, Hilton Lane, Chapel Street, the A59 between Bond End and Mother Shipton's, Ripley Road, Blands Hill, Eastfield, Blind Lane, Abbey Road, Waterside and many others.

Recognising the extent of these concerns, they believe that a piecemeal approach would be insufficient.

Therefore, Cllr Gostlow and Cllr Walker propose the following motion:

That Knaresborough Town Council resolves to request that North Yorkshire Council undertake a comprehensive review of speed limits across Knaresborough, with particular consideration given to:

- ***Roads serving new housing developments***
- ***Routes near schools and areas of high pedestrian activity***
- ***Residential streets currently subject to 30mph limits***
- ***Known traffic corridors where community concerns have been raised***

The review should assess where reduced speed limits, traffic calming measures, or 20mph zones may be appropriate in order to improve safety for residents, pedestrians and cyclists, and promote sustainable transport choices.”

RESOLVED: That Knaresborough Town Council requests North Yorkshire Council undertakes a comprehensive review of speed limits across Knaresborough, with particular consideration given to:

- Roads serving new housing developments
- Routes near schools and areas of high pedestrian activity
- Residential streets currently subject to 30mph limits
- Known traffic corridors where community concerns have been raised

The review should assess where reduced speed limits, traffic calming measures, or 20mph zones may be appropriate in order to improve safety for residents, pedestrians and cyclists, and promote sustainable transport choices.”

8.2 Councillor Hannah Gostlow (2nd Cllr Walker)

“I propose that Knaresborough Town Council supports Councillors Hannah Gostlow and Matt Walker, in their capacity as elected members of both North Yorkshire Council and Knaresborough Town Council, to pursue the installation of a bus shelter at the York Road bus stop.

This stop serves residents living in the surrounding community as well as those accessing the nearby supermarket and other local amenities. The provision of a shelter would improve accessibility, comfort, and safety for passengers and help encourage greater use of public transport as a sustainable travel option within our community. In line with the Council’s Biodiversity Policy, I also propose that the shelter incorporate a green roof where feasible, contributing positively to local biodiversity while aligning with the Council’s environmental commitments.

I further note that Knaresborough Town Council currently holds approximately £1,415 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding which could be allocated, either in whole or in part, toward the development of this small but meaningful piece of local infrastructure.

MOTION: *That the Council resolves to support the principle of installing a bus shelter at the York Road bus stop, endorse the inclusion of a green roof where practicable, and support Cllr. Gostlow and Cllr. Walker, in engaging with the relevant officers and partners at North Yorkshire Council to explore the feasibility, permissions, and potential use of available CIL funding toward its delivery.”*

RESOLVED: That KTC supports the principle of installing a bus shelter at the York Road bus stop, endorses the inclusion of a green roof where practicable, and supports Cllr. Gostlow and Cllr. Walker, in engaging with the relevant officers and partners at North Yorkshire Council to explore the feasibility, permissions, and potential use of available CIL funding toward its delivery.”

26/273 ITEM 09 - Information Exchange

- Councillor Pickard mentioned that he had been approached by a resident who paints murals regarding possible funding from KTC. He may consider approaching the council in the future.
- Councillor Bell referred to the Great British Spring Clean on 29 March which in Knaresborough starts at the Buttercup Café at 10.00 a.m.

Meeting closed at: 8.55 p.m.

Signed by the Mayor:
Councillor H Westmancoat