PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor Stuart Martin, in the Chair. Councillors Chris Aldred, Philip Broadbank, Nick Brown, Rebecca Burnett, Mike Chambers, Trevor Chapman, Jim Clark, Richard Cooper, Ed Darling, John Ennis, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Sid Hawke, Phil Ireland, Steven Jackson, Sue Lumby, Stanley Lumley, John Mann, Pat Marsh, Pauline McHardy, Samantha Mears, Zoe Metcalfe, Nigel Middlemass, Ann Myatt, Tim Myatt, Victoria Oldham, Andy Paraskos, Alex Raubitschek, Matt Scott, Nigel Simms, Graham Swift, Norman Waller, Tom Watson, Christine Willoughby and Robert Windass.

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

47/19 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Margaret Atkinson, Bernard Bateman, Sam Gibbs and Matthew Webber.

48/19 – URGENT BUSINESS: There was no urgent business.

49/19 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

50/19 – EXEMPT INFORMATION:

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the public during the discussion of Minute 61/19 as there will be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Act. The exempt information in question relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

51/19 – MINUTES:

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 October 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

52/19 – COMMUNICATIONS:

01. Remembrance Sunday: The Mayor thanked all those who were able to
support the Remembrance Sunday commemoration held in Harrogate on 10 November and also those other commemorations held across the district on Remembrance Sunday.

02. **Christmas Eve Carol Concert:** The Mayor advised that he would be hosting the Christmas Eve Carol Concert which would again be held in the Royal Hall, Harrogate. Admission was by free ticket in order to ensure compliance with capacity and safety requirements for the use of the Hall and these were available for Members from his secretary. The Harrogate Theatre Box Office was issuing free tickets for members of the public.

03. **Christmas Drinks:** The Mayor invited Members and officers to join him for the traditional Christmas drink in the Minster Room after what he hoped would be a short meeting of the Council.

04. **Harrogate Convention Centre Tour:** The Mayor advised that Members were invited to a tour of HCC on 13 January 2020. Any Member who was unable to attend on that day could contact Paula Lorimer to make alternative arrangements.

53/19 – **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – PETITIONS:** No petitions had been received.

54/19 – **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS:** No questions had been received.

55/19 – **ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**
The Mayor advised that in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) one written question had been received which would, in accordance with the Standing Order, be dealt with as the first question under this item. He would then invite verbal questions of the Executive Members and Committee Chairs from other Members of the Council.

**Question to the Chair of the Human Resources Committee from Councillor Chris Aldred**

Councillor Myatt would you agree to look again at the decision of the Human Resources Committee made on 24th October 2018, to trial incentivised payments to a small number of Staff at Harrogate Convention Centre, its more than a year after Human Resources voted for this, but it has yet to be implemented and it was only ever approved as a two year trial anyway.

**Response:**

Thank you Mr Mayor, and thank you Cllr Aldred for the question.

I have spoken with the Head of Organisational Development and Improvement regarding this issue, and have also received the views of the Director of Harrogate Convention Centre.

The request to trial a Profit Related Pay scheme for sales staff at the HCC was made
before Paula Lorimer took over as Director of Harrogate Convention Centre. Paula has since stated she does not believe an incentivised pay scheme is necessary at this time and therefore a trial will not be proceeding.

Having considered the circumstances, I can confirm I have asked that management bring a report back to HR Committee with a recommendation on whether approval for this Performance Related Pay trial should be withdrawn.

Cabinet Members and the Chair of the General Purposes Committee then responded verbally to questions from Members of the Council. Councillor Philip Broadbank referred to the publication of annual attendance records of Councillors at Committees and asked the Chair of the General Purposes Committee if attendance at seminars and training sessions could also be included in the statistics. The Chair agreed to discuss the request with officers and advised that she would consider Councillor Broadbank’s request that a report on the matter be taken to General Purposes Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities agreed to provide an update to Councillor Tom Watson on the programme for replacing old parish lighting columns with new LEDs.

In response to a question from Councillor Chris Aldred in relation to work on solar panels on Council tenants’ properties not yet being completed, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities advised that he would investigate the matter further.

56/19 – MEMORANDA OF REPORT FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION: There were no such reports.

57/19 – FINANCIAL UPDATE: The Head of Finance presented a financial update, the main focus of which was the headlines of the 2019 Spending Round and the impact on local government funding.

Overall Picture
- Covers 2020/21 only, multi-year spending review next year
- Overall departmental spending to increase by 4.1% in real terms
- Funding increase at least matches inflation for every department (1.8% for 2020)
- Large real-terms increases for police, prisons, justice and DCMS

Local Government Funding
- Spending increase by 12.4% (£1.1bn in 2020/21), mainly social care grants (£1.0bn). Other areas in line with inflation (1.8%).
- Core Spending Power will increase by £2.9bn in 2020/21 (£2.0bn in real terms)
- Council Tax – 2% core plus 2% for Adult Social Care
- Business Rates: 75% pilots not to continue into 2020/21
- Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Reform delayed to 2021/22

Finance Settlement
- Delayed until after the General Election.
- Announcement on 50% business rates pool (submitted bid with NY and WY
Our Own Budget
Key dates in the 2020/21 budget setting process:
- 8 January 2020: Cabinet consider the draft budget
- 20 January 2020: Overview & Scrutiny Commission
- 5 February 2020: Cabinet propose final budget to Council
- 12 February 2020: Budget Council
- 4 March 2020: Council: Council Tax resolution vote

HBC Financial Position
- GF projected overspend at Q2 £22k.

And Finally…
The Annual Audit letter was published by Mazars in September.

58/19 – REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION: The Mayor advised that there were no reports outstanding from the meeting of the Council held on 2 October 2019.

59/19 – MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET: The Council resolved upon the various non-delegated Minutes of the Committees and Cabinet as follows:

59/19(01) – CABINET – 16 OCTOBER 2019:
Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift
and RESOLVED:
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 October 2019 be approved and adopted.

59/19(02) – CABINET – 13 NOVEMBER 2019:
Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift
and RESOLVED:
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 November 2019 be approved and adopted.

59/19(03) – LICENSING COMMITTEE – 6 NOVEMBER 2019:
Moved by Councillor Victoria Oldham Seconded by Councillor John Ennis
and RESOLVED:
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 6 November 2019 be approved and adopted.
Moved by Councillor Samantha Mearns Seconded by Councillor Matt Scott

and RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 14 November 2019 be approved and adopted.

60/19 – NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED: The Mayor advised that there were two notices of motion before the Council. The motion in the names of Councillors Pauline McHardy and Sid Hawke would be debated by the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(f). The remaining motion in the names of Councillors Chris Aldred and Trevor Chapman would, once moved and seconded, stand referred for consideration by the General Purposes Committee.

The Mayor advised that an amendment to the first notice of motion had been proposed by Councillor Richard Cooper and would have been seconded by Councillor Graham Swift. The amendment, shown in italics below, had been accepted in advance of the meeting by the mover and seconder of the original notice of motion and now formed part of the substantive motion.

(1) This council welcomes the opportunity next May for the entire district to show respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Second World War so that we could enjoy 75 years of peace in mainland Europe.

The council commits to working with parish councils, voluntary organisations and the business community across the district, to provide advice and support from our qualified staff to enable local communities across the district to organise safely events that meet either of these two objectives.

Furthermore, in order to ensure well-organised and safe events this Council will give priority to events that have been organised in line with the council’s event planning procedure. This council realises that not to do so risks public safety and will support officers, the police and other public safety groups who express their professional concerns about the way and timescale in which an event is being organised.

Moved by Councillor Pauline McHardy Seconded by Councillor Sid Hawke

The motion was then debated by the Council.

Upon a vote being taken on the notice of motion, the Mayor declared the motion unanimously carried.

(2) That this Council records, in the Council Minutes, all Verbal Questions and Answers that are raised during the "Accountability of the Executive and Committee Chairs" Agenda item. To aid this process, this Council looks at the possibility of 'Live Streaming' Full Council Meetings on the Internet, with a view to instigating such processes, prior to the Annual Meeting in May 2020.
Moved by Councillor Chris Aldred Seconded by Councillor Trevor Chapman

In accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a) the motion stood referred to the General Purposes Committee.

61/19 – HARROGATE CONVENTION CENTRE – BUSINESS STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE: The Chair of the Harrogate Convention Centre Board, Councillor Richard Cooper, submitted the annual report in connection with the Centre’s business strategy and performance, as required by the Council and HCC’s Constitutional arrangements.

The Leader reported on performance for the last year, and advised that the Visit Britain methodology was now being used to calculate Economic Impact (EI) for the district. The number of conferences and exhibitions had remained the same and using the new methodology it was estimated that HCC would drive approximately £35 million of EI for 2019/20.

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and RESOLVED:

That the report be approved.

62/19 - COMMON SEAL:

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and RESOLVED:

That (1) the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Deeds and Documents necessary to carry out the resolutions confirmed and passed this day; and

(2) no deed shall be treated as being conditional upon Council proceeding until completion of a transaction relevant to any deeds.