

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE
HELD REMOTELY ON MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021
(FROM 5.30 PM – 8.04 PM)**

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

Late Arrivals: Councillor Sid Hawke at 6.06 pm

Early Departures: Councillor Michael Harrison at 7.13 pm
Councillor Margaret Atkinson at 7.46 pm

The Mayor's Chaplain, Canon Michael Gisbourne, led Members in prayer prior to the commencement of the meeting.

105/20 – **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Rebecca Burnett.

106/20 – **URGENT BUSINESS:** There was no urgent business.

107/20 – **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

108/20 – **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** There was no exempt information.

109/20 – **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 March 2021 were submitted.

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

110/20 – **COMMUNICATIONS:**

01. **Former Councillor Keith Rothwell:** The Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Keith Rothwell who passed away on 25 March. Former Councillor Rothwell represented Knaresborough East ward on the Borough Council from 2003 to 2011 and served as Deputy Mayor from 2010 to 2011. Cards and condolences can be sent to his wife Pam.

02. **Thanks:** As this was the last scheduled meeting of the current Council year the Mayor placed on record his thanks and appreciation to colleagues, the Deputy Mayor and officers for their support shown during his two years in office. The Mayor also thanked his Chaplain, Canon Michael Gisbourne, for his help and support, and in particular for assisting with the arrangements for the Holocaust Memorial Day services.

111/20 – **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – PETITIONS:** No petitions had been received.

112/20 – **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS:** No questions had been received under Standing Order 27.

113/20 – **ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** The Mayor advised that no written questions had been received and invited verbal questions of the Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs from other Members of the Council.

Councillor Christine Willoughby referred to the Knaresborough Tourist Information Centre which was closed until June pending the move from the library to the Courthouse and asked what provision was being made for tourists in the meantime. The Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Sport agreed to provide a written response and that he would ask officers to consider suggestions made by Councillor Willoughby for temporary arrangements.

In response to a question from Councillor Robert Windass regarding the technical advice provided by officers in relation to the Motorway Service area planning application, recently approved on appeal by the Planning Inspector, the Cabinet Member for Planning agreed to arrange a meeting to consider the issues raised.

In response to a question from Councillor Pat Marsh the Leader agreed to circulate information to Councillors on senior managers who had recently left the Council and contact details for their replacements.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities agreed to provide Councillor Tom Watson with details of when the new lighting columns would be installed in Summerbridge.

Councillor Chris Aldred asked the Chair of the Human Resources Committee if the information being given to staff who will be required to return to work in Council buildings following the COVID-19 pandemic was adequate. The Chair agreed to provide a written response.

Councillor Pauline McHardy asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities if the Council had purchased any homes on the Choir School site in Ripon for rent as social housing. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response.

114/20 – **MEMORANDA OF REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

COMMISSION: There were no reports.

115/20 – **REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION:** The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a), there was one report back to be considered. The response of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors Chris Aldred and Philip Broadbank in connection with remote meetings was considered under General Purposes Committee minute 47/20, and will be addressed by the Council under Minute 116/20(02) below.

116/20 - **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET:** The Council resolved upon the various non-delegated Minutes of the Committees and Cabinet as follows:

116/20(01) – **CABINET – 31 MARCH 2021:**

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 31 March 2021 be approved and adopted.

(The vote on the Minutes was taken as part of a block vote on the Committee and Cabinet Minutes taken at Minute 116/20(02).)

116/20(02) – **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2021:**

The Mayor invited the Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Samantha Mearns, to move General Purposes Committee Minute 47/20 and to speak to the response of the Committee on the notice of motion in the names of Councillors Chris Aldred and Philip Broadbank regarding remote meetings.

In moving the Minute the Chair referred to the necessity to commence remote meetings and live streaming due to the pandemic and that they had worked well. When the Council had originally considered live streaming there had been concerns over the balance between the cost and the level of public interest. Since then it had become apparent that the public were interested in certain meetings, and internally software and expertise had been developed to deliver the remote meetings. The Committee considered that this should be explored, however rather than setting up a new working group, the ICT Member Working Group be asked to undertake a review of technical aspects of remote meetings.

Councillor Aldred spoke as mover and confirmed his support for the continuation of remote meetings.

Moved by Councillor Samantha Mearns Seconded by Councillor Matt Scott

and **RESOLVED:**

That General Purposes Minute 47/20 be approved and adopted.

It was then

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 18 March 2021 be approved and adopted.

(The vote on the Minutes was taken at this point in the meeting as part of a block vote on the Committee and Cabinet Minutes.)

117/20 – **NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED:** The Mayor advised that there was one Notice of Motion before the Council. The Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors Ed Darling and Mike Chambers would be debated by the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(f).

(1) "This council continues to support Knaresborough and Ripon markets and notes that:

1. No permanent trader is being turned away because they refuse to have a self-erect stall and that no plans exist to change this arrangement.
2. The number of stall holders in Knaresborough is at a high level and growing in Ripon.
3. That the council should use its direct communications channels with traders to refute incorrect and misleading information that is put in the public domain by third parties.
4. Market rents have been held for this financial year.
5. Traders and customers are encouraged to approach the council with any concerns, compliments or suggestions using its official channels.

That this council believes in the importance the markets have on the traditional shopping and economic life in Ripon and Knaresborough. Firmly believing in the principle of devolution, this Council will form a working group of Councillors (with representation from each Council group), to investigate transferring the control and management of the markets to Ripon City and Knaresborough Town Councils respectively.

It will enter into preliminary discussions with Ripon City Council and Knaresborough Town Council to consider whether the transfer of power is desired and possible and report on such a move before a decision is made by the council's successor authority."

Moved by Councillor Ed Darling

Seconded by Councillor Mike Chambers

In accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(f) this motion was debated by the Council.

As an amendment it was

Moved by Councillor Philip Broadbank

Seconded by Councillor Pat Marsh

That the Notice of Motion be amended to read:

That this council continues to support Knaresborough and Ripon markets. This council believes in the importance the markets have on the traditional shopping and economic life in Ripon and Knaresborough. Firmly believing in the principle of devolution, this Council will form a working group of Councillors (with representation from each Council group), to investigate transferring the control and management of the markets to Ripon City and Knaresborough Town Councils respectively.

It will enter into preliminary discussions with Ripon City Council and Knaresborough Town Council to consider whether the transfer of power is desired and possible and report on such a move before a decision is made by the council's successor authority."

The amendment was then debated by the Council.

Upon a vote being taken, the Mayor declared the amendment lost. The Mayor then moved to the vote on the substantive motion.

Upon a vote being taken, the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

118/20 - **ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST OBJECTIVES 2020/21:**

The Mayor invited the Leader to introduce and speak to the performance of the Council over 2020/21. The Leader referred to the difficulties of the previous year with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting projects and targets. The Leader and Cabinet Members then responded to questions from Members.

In response to a question from Councillor Pat Marsh the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Sport provided an update on progress with the new Ripon Pool and advised it was hoped it could be opened by the end of the year.

119/20 - **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.