PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor Stuart Martin, in the Chair. Councillors Chris Aldred, Margaret Atkinson, Bernard Bateman, Philip Broadbank, Nick Brown, Rebecca Burnett, Mike Chambers, Trevor Chapman, 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, Ann Myatt, Tim Myatt, Victoria Oldham, Andy Paraskos, Alex Raubitschek, Matt Scott, Nigel Simms, Graham Swift, Norman Waller, Tom Watson, Matthew Webber and Robert Windass.

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: Councillor Nigel Simms at 6.26 pm  
Councillor Michael Harrison at 7.04 pm

31/19 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Jim Clark, Zoe Metcalfe, Nigel Middlemass and Christine Willoughby.

32/19 – URGENT BUSINESS: There was no urgent business.

33/19 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillor Nick Brown declared an interest in respect of Minute 44/19(04) in relation to the proposed Honorary Alderman Protocol. He remained in the meeting and voted on the item.

34/19 – EXEMPT INFORMATION: There was no exempt information.

35/19 – MINUTES:

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the scheduled meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

36/19 – COMMUNICATIONS:

01. Civic Service: The Mayor thanked all those who were able to attend the Civic
Service at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 1 September.

02. **Remembrance Sunday:** The Mayor advised that the Council would, as usual, be participating in the Remembrance Sunday commemorations which this year would take place on Sunday 10 November. Details of the event would be circulated by the Mayor’s secretary shortly.

03. **Thanks to staff:** On behalf of the Council the Mayor extended his thanks to all those staff involved in implementing the changes to the waste collection rounds over the summer. The Mayor also thanked and congratulated all staff involved in supporting the UCI World Road Race Championships, which had taken place in Harrogate from 21 to 29 September 2019.

04. **Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate:** The Mayor announced that immediately following the Council meeting there would be a reception at which Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate would present his coat of arms to the Council. All Members of the Council were invited to attend.

05. **Charity Concerts:** The Mayor gave details of two concerts which had been arranged for 6 November at St Peter’s Church in Harrogate and 7 November at Ripon Cathedral to pay tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the two great wars and conflicts since. Ripon City Band and Dishforth Military Wives Choir would be performing alongside local school children. Tickets would be on sale soon with proceeds going to the Mayor’s Charity and all Members were invited to attend.

37/19 – **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – PETITIONS:** No petitions had been received.

38/19 – **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS:** No questions had been received.

39/19 – **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 Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities from Councillor Trevor Chapman**

Following the sharp reduction in grant from North Yorkshire County Council for the Homelessness Prevention Service would the Cabinet Member give Members an update on how the Council is progressing in making revised arrangements in order to discharge our duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act?

**Response:**

Thank you for the question. North Yorkshire County Council has ended its support
to the Homeless Network and transferred monies and staff to Harrogate Borough Council to work with the homelessness team. Four people transferred from Horton Housing Association to the Housing Needs Team in the Housing and Property service on the 1 October 2019. This is two fewer than expected as two people chose to take redundancy. The new members of staff are undertaking the corporate induction and welcome process and have commenced training on ICT including the specialist applications used by the service.

Work has commenced to understand how the support activity can most effectively be integrated with the work of the current teams who deal with Housing Options and Temporary Accommodation.

In the first year the grant to Harrogate Homeless Project (HHP) will continue at the previous level of £70k to allow both HHP and the Council time to consider how services to homeless people can best be configured in the future. Discussions will be held with HHP over allocations for the second year.

Any shortfall in funding following the reduction in NYCC grant will be covered by the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant, which the Council received from central government.

In response to a supplementary question the Cabinet Member advised that NYCC had given limited notice of the changes, despite the short notice HBC had taken on the service and the agreement with HHP.

Cabinet Members and the Chair of the General Purposes Committee then responded verbally to questions from Members of the Council. In response to a question from Councillor Pat Marsh on representation on the Climate Change Coalition Group, the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport advised that membership would be considered at his Cabinet Member meeting on Monday.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Tom Watson on timber frames at former mini-recycling sites.

Councillor Chris Aldred referred to the convention whereby not every verbal question asked under the ‘Accountability of the Executive and Committee Chairs’ item at Council was recorded in the minutes and asked whether the Chair of the General Purposes Committee could review this. The Chair advised that submitting a question in writing in advance of Council would ensure its inclusion in the minutes and agreed to provide a further written response on the matter.

Councillor Trevor Chapman referred to the July meeting of Council and advised that he had not yet received a response to his question on actions being taken to support the rural economy. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling apologised and agreed to arrange for a response as soon as possible.

In response to a question from Councillor Matthew Webber on when the West Park Stay would be returned to public use following the recent UCI cycling event the Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling advised that work
was required to fill in the ruts, re-seed the grass and repair the paths. It would take a few weeks and progress would depend on the weather. The Cabinet Member agreed to keep Councillors and groups who used the Stray informed on progress of the works.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport agreed to provide Councillor Chris Aldred with a written response on his question relating to the provision of covered cycle storage facilities for use by Members in wet weather.

Councillor Chris Aldred referred to the August meeting of Cabinet where it had been agreed that consideration would be given to how to include climate change implications in reports to Council, Cabinet and Committees. The Leader advised that such considerations would be included within portfolio objectives in future. In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Aldred on including such considerations in individual committee reports the Leader advised that he was happy to receive any suggestions on the best way it could be done.

40/19 – **MEMORANDA OF REPORT FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION:** There were no such reports.

41/19 – **FINANCIAL UPDATE:** The Head of Finance presented a financial update, the main focus of this update was to provide an overview of the Council’s finances and the outcome of the recent Spending Round.

**Statement of Accounts**
- Audited version signed off by Audit and Governance Committee on 22 July.
- Positive audit report and Value for Money conclusion and Unqualified Audit Opinion.
- Accounts published on 31 July, in line with statutory requirement.

**2019/20 Position**
- First quarter report shows a projected general fund outturn on budget.
- Only one service projecting a significant overspend against their budget, a much improved position compared to the previous year.
- Internal monitoring to date showing improvements, to be reflected in the next Cabinet report in November.

**Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy**
- Services busy working on refining their 2020/21 budget proposals.
- MTFS is here for approval tonight following scrutiny process.

**Spending Round**
- Government has delayed reform of Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review until 2021/22.
- 75% Business Pilots will not continue into 2020/21.
- New Homes Bonus – unclear whether will continue as is, with risk that will only receive legacy payments.
- Council Tax Thresholds – reduced to 2%, but unclear whether £5 Band D increases available for Districts.
- Await Technical Consultation, followed by provisional Finance Settlement in
December.

42/19 – **REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION:** The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a), there was one report to be considered at the meeting.

42/19(01) – **MOVE TO A COMMITTEE SYSTEM:** The Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Richard Cooper, to introduce his report on the Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors Pat Marsh and Philip Broadbank requesting that the Council investigate re-introducing a streamlined Committee System.

The report provided details of a meeting that had taken place between the Leader and Councillors Marsh and Broadbank to discuss the Notice of Motion and listen to their views. At the meeting Councillor Marsh had circulated further information in support of her motion, requesting that a cross party working group be set up to begin the process of considering such a move and an example system was outlined. Councillor Marsh explained that she believed a committee system would be more democratic as more Councillors would be directly involved in decision making and such a system would be more easily understood by residents.

In moving acceptance of the report the Leader advised that he was not convinced of the merit of moving to a Committee system. He would listen to the views expressed by backbenchers and look at how to satisfy the wish of backbenchers to become more involved within the current system.

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That the report of the Leader be accepted.

(Twenty eight Members voted for the motion and seven against)

43/19 – **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET:** The Council resolved upon the various non-delegated Minutes of the Committees and Cabinet as follows:

43/19(01) – **CABINET – 24 JULY 2019:**

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 July 2019 be approved and adopted.

43/19(02) – **CABINET – 18 SEPTEMBER 2019:**

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift
and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 September 2019 be approved and adopted.

43/19(03) – **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2019:**

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Mike Chambers

and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 22 July 2019 be approved and adopted.

43/19(04) – **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019:**

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 12 September 2019 be approved and adopted.

44/19 – **NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED:**  The Mayor advised that there was one Notice of Motion before the Council. That in the names of Councillors Richard Cooper and Samantha Mearns would be debated by the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(f).

(1) That this Council supports the police in their efforts to prevent County Lines drug dealing. Specifically the Council uses its influence with public sector housing providers and private landlords to ensure that they are aware of how County Lines dealers are operating. This should include highlighting the dangers of cuckooing and what to do if they suspect a tenant is a victim of County Lines dealers.

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Samantha Mearns

The motion was then debated by the Council.

As an amendment it was

Moved by Councillor Pat Marsh  
Seconded by Councillor Chris Aldred

That the Notice of Motion be amended to include the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

And the Council will progress the ‘Safer Places’ voluntary scheme as recommended by the O&S Committee in February 2017. This scheme would provide safe and supportive places which are open to the public such as shops, offices or public buildings. These ‘Safe Places’ would help vulnerable people
experiencing difficulties, especially those who are, or have been, a victim of crime such as County Lines. This scheme would be launched through the Council’s Community Safety Team.

The amendment was then debated by the Council.

As an amendment to the amendment it was then

Moved by Councillor Pat Marsh Seconded by Councillor Philip Broadbank

That the words “as recommended by the O&S Committee in February 2017” be deleted.

On a vote being taken the amendment to the amendment fell.

Councillor Marsh as mover of the original amendment then withdrew the amendment, in accordance with Standing Order 13(12), and Councillor Aldred as seconder gave his consent to withdrawal.

Upon a vote being taken on the original Notice of Motion, the Mayor declared the motion unanimously carried.

45/19 – AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19:
The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee submitted a written report setting out the Committee’s work and performance for the year ending 30 April 2019, which was considered good practice.

Moved by Councillor Stephen Jackson Seconded by Councillor Victoria Oldham

and RESOLVED:

That Council receive the report.

46/19 - 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.