

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2009
AT KNARESBOROUGH HOUSE, KNARESBOROUGH**

PRESENT Cllr P Godsell (Chair)

Councillors: J Batt, R Hall, B Holbrook, L Powell, A Willoughby and C Willoughby

In attendance: Councillor K Hawkins

Late arrivals: None

Early departures: None

CSC 09/90 ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors L Lever and J Walton.
Mr Terry Maude has also requested that his apologies be given.

CSC 09/91 ITEM 2 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All declarations are personal, unless otherwise stated.

Councillor C Willoughby Member of HBC – will consider any same item at HBC in the
light of any new information

Councillor K Hawkins Member of HBC – will consider any same item at HBC in the
light of any new information

CSC 09/92 ITEM 3 - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held
21 September 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSC 09/93 ITEM 4 – KTC PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION

None received

CSC 09/94 ITEM 5 – PERFORMANCE AREA

It was reported that copies of the Business Plan had now been submitted to Lois Toyne
(Museums, Arts and Strategy Manager, HBC), the HBC Cabinet Member for Cultural
Services, and also to Dr Keith Emerick at English Heritage.

RESOLVED: Receive and note.

CSC 09/95 ITEM 6 - PROGRESS ON OTHER TOWN PROJECTS

a) Waterside Improvements – Weirside Terrace

Councillor A Willoughby reported that he believed the paperwork would now be in the
hands of HBC's Legal Department. He offered to continue to keep in touch with Officers

at Harrogate to monitor progress on entering into a lease for Weirside Terrace.

RESOLVED: To receive and note Councillor Willoughby's report and to continue to keep this matter on future agendas.

b) Farmers' Markets – ref. e-mail dated 30 September 2009 from Chair, Otley Town Partnership asking whether the Town Council would be prepared to consider changing the dates of the Farmers' Markets from the second to the third Sunday in the month with effect from April 2010.

Consideration was given to the above, and also to the proposed operating times of the markets.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That with effect from April 2010 the Council agree to Farmers' Markets in Knaresborough being held on the third Sunday of the month.

(ii) That the above be conveyed to the Chamber, for comment, in time for their meeting to be held 3rd November 2009.

(iii) That the operating hours of the market from April 2010 continue as 9 am – 2 pm. (*unanimous*)

c) Allotments

i) Land Behind Frogmire Road to Railway Line – ref. letter dated 23 October 2009 from Head of Parks and Open Spaces, HBC and notes of meeting held 14 October 2009 with representatives of HBC

Disappointment was expressed at HBC's lack of desire to determine the long-term use of this and other pieces of land throughout the District. Members discussed the present condition of the land, its status as a local eyesore and the fact that in order to carry out its duties to provide allotments for its parishioners, a Town Council can compulsorily purchase land.

RECOMMENDED: – That a letter be sent to the Chief Executive, HBC in response to the above correspondence stating that the Town Council is very unhappy at being kept waiting until an assessment of various sites across the District is undertaken, and asking for speedier action given the fact that the Town Council does ultimately have the option of instigating Compulsory Purchase procedures in order to provide allotments on this piece of land. (*unanimous*)

It was agreed that the Allotments Self-Help Scheme should be kept informed of this.

There was some discussion on the concept of a garden-share scheme which HBC had said they would like to explore further once their Allotments Officer returned from long-term sick leave. At the Public Meeting held by the Town Council on 23 October 2009 quite a few people had expressed an interest in such a scheme although the predominant feeling was that they would prefer to have an allotment.

Whilst it was felt that the idea did have some merits, Members could also foresee potential problems with issues such as water charges and the need for CRB checking. Rather than dismiss the idea altogether it was

RECOMMENDED That the Town Council let HBC know that we look forward to an early reply from the Allotments Officer on his return, with regard to the garden share scheme. (*unanimous*)

ii) Report of Public Meeting held 23 October 2009

Members had before them a report of the above.

Councillor C Willoughby reported that as requested following the meeting she had now created an "Allotments" link on the Town Council's website.

There was some discussion as to what should go on this link including a possible letter to HBC urging them to release the land behind Frogmire Rd. to the railway line, or possibly a petition. It was felt, however, that letters and petitions to HBC were likely to be ignored and it was more important at present to try and identify suitable land and **then** keep members of the public informed as to progress via the website.

With that in mind Councillor A Willoughby offered to speak to Bob Watson about a possible area of land, and other people were identified as possibly having land which might be suitable for allotments.

It was felt that in view of the number of issues involved it would be helpful if an Allotments Working Group could be established, following which it was

- RECOMMENDED:**
- i) That letters be sent to Barry Stephenson (re. land in the vicinity of the old rugby ground), Jean Welch (re. land at Thistle Hill) and Geoff Waite (re. land at Forest Moor Road), and
 - ii) That Council be asked to set up an Allotments Working Group and agree the membership and terms of reference of such a Group.

d) Community Centre and King George V Playing Field

i) Flooding at the Community Centre

Councillor Holbrook felt that the provision of **more** gullies rather than increasing the size of existing gullies could go some way towards solving the problem of run-off from Stockwell Avenue which in turn runs onto the playing field at the Centre. Councillors also felt that the proposed joint project to resurface the car park (KTC) and provide a cycleway (HBC) would help to resolve the problem and it was

- RECOMMENDED:**
- i) That a letter be sent to NYCC asking them to put in a scheme to stop run-off from their roads flooding KTC's field at the Community Centre (the letter to include Councillor Hall's offer to meet NYCC's representatives on site if necessary).
 - ii) That a further letter be sent to Chris McGonigle at HBC asking what progress has been made on the joint car park resurfacing/ cycleway scheme. (*unanimous*)

Councillor Godsell reported briefly that new staff had been assigned to the Community Centre and already there were signs of increased enthusiasm and bookings.

ii) To consider withdrawal of loan offer to Knaresborough Celtic

A 5-year interest-free offer of £20,000 had been made to Knaresborough Celtic JFC in October 2007. Celtic had not taken the offer up and keeping it open was having an affect on the money available to the Council for other projects and grants.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council write to Celtic advising them that as they have not taken the Council up on its offer in the two years since it was made, the offer is now withdrawn.

It was noted that withdrawal of this offer would not preclude Knaresborough Celtic from re-applying.

e) Skate Boarding –

i) Commuted Sums -

The Deputy Clerk reported that the HBC Commuted Sums Officer had advised that the current amount available in respect of King George V Playing Field was £3030.10.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: That a letter be sent to Pat Kilburn pointing out that the Town Council will soon be undertaking various works on the field, including drainage, resurfacing the car park etc., and requesting that the above sum be made available towards the cost of these works.

f) Maundy Celebrations Working Group

The Group's Chair (Councillor Batt) reported that at its last meeting the Group had formed various sub-committees. Celebrations were likely to be in the form of a number of events held over the course of the whole of next year. There was likely to be a pageant in the Castle grounds, children from King James's School were working on designs for a Maundy coin and also for a logo which would be incorporated in letters to be sent seeking sponsorship of events.

He felt that the costs of the Maundy celebrations were likely to exceed the £2,000 already set aside.

RESOLVED - That the report be received and noted.

CSC 09/96 ITEM 7 - CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

CSC 09/97 ITEM 8 – REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

a) Training in road closures/signage

Consideration was given to a flyer outlining brief details of a City & Guilds course in road closures and signage which was felt to be more appropriate to the Council's needs.

More detailed information was available from the UTN website: www.utntraining.co.uk

There was some discussion as to the benefits or otherwise in Councillors undertaking this training, or whether it was preferable for the Council to employ trained operatives when dealing with road closures and signage for Town Council events such as the monthly Farmers' Markets and the annual Carol Service.

- RECOMMENDED:**
- i) That a cost-benefit analysis be undertaken (Councillor Batt offered to do this)
 - ii) Now that we have dates for Farmers' Markets in 2010 (third Sunday of the month) we go back to those companies to whom an initial approach was made when we had only one or two dates in mind and enquire again as to their charges for providing trained operatives to put out and collect road signs and cones etc., but this time seeking a price for all known dates en bloc. (*unanimous*)

CSC 09/98 ITEM 9 – BUDGET FOR 2010/2011

Councillor Hawkins was available to answer any questions relating to the draft budget and Members were asked to consider comments thereon to be passed to Office Services Committee as part of the Council's budget setting process.

RECOMMENDED: That the following comments be passed to Office Services Committee:

- That "Training and Travel" be split into "Councillors' Training and Travel" (£500) and "Staff Training and Travel" (£300).
- That the Nidd Gorge Conservation Group be added to the list of organisations who receive regular grants from the Council.
- That the Performance Area (£5,000) be added to the list of projects which currently have money allocated to them.

(Prior to discussion on the Nidd Gorge Conservation Group, Councillor A Willoughby declared a prejudicial interest and left the Chamber taking no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

CSC 09/99 ITEM 10 – MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

None received.

CSC 09/100 ITEM 11 – INFORMATION EXCHANGE

It was noted that "Information Exchange" should not have been tabled as an item for discussion by a Sub-Committee and Members therefore moved to the next item.

CSC 09/101 ITEM 12 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of this Committee was scheduled for Monday 14 December 2009 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber.

The Meeting closed at 9.40 pm