

North Yorkshire Council

Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 June 2025 commencing at 10.00 am at Harrogate Civic Centre.

Present: Councillors Chris Aldred, Philip Broadbank, Sam Gibbs, Hannah Gostlow, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Peter Lacey, Monika Slater, Andrew Timothy, Matt Walker and Robert Windass.

Officers present: Sgt Steve Dougal (North Yorkshire Police), Evie Griffiths (Senior Community Safety Officer), Allan McVeigh (Network Strategy Manager) (virtual), Sgt Pierre Olesqui (North Yorkshire Police), Julia Stack (Community Safety and CCTV Manager), and Suzanne Sweeting (Communities Locality Lead).

Other Attendees: Tom Gordon MP, Councillor Simon Myers, and six members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor John Mann.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

1 Election of Chair

Edward Maxwell (Senior Democratic Services Officer) opened the meeting and sought nominations for the Chair.

Resolved:

That Councillor Peter Lacey be appointed to the Chair of the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

2 Election of Vice-Chair

Nominations were sought for the Vice-Chair.

Resolved:

That Councillor Hannah Gostlow be appointed Vice-Chair for the 2025/26 Municipal Year

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Councillor John Mann were noted.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 March 2025

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Monika Slater and Andrew Timothy declared non-pecuniary interests in

relation to Minute 119, as employees of the office of Tom Gordon MP. Both confirmed that legal advice had been sought and confirmed their eligibility to participate in the item, since it constituted information sharing and no decisions were being taken.

Councillors Hannah Gostlow and Matt Walker declared non-pecuniary interests, as members of Knaresborough Town Council.

Councillor Peter Lacey declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute 122, as the Director of the Knaresborough Community Land Trust.

6 Public Participation

The following statement was submitted to the Committee, and read out by Christopher Dunn:

Lucjan Stefan Wilk, 91 a Killinghall resident died 7th November 2023 as a result of a 'fatal' road accident on 6th November 2023 80m South of Killinghall border ,A61 north bound carriageway, adjacent a bus stop and Knox Mill Lane, also 'Ringway' path.

The location of the accident was in the New Park division of NYC and now also New Park ward of Harrogate town council.

The inquest 24 03 2025 found no fault with any party.

Killinghall council, and NYC local division councillors Slater and Harrison were not consulted nor were the Harrogate local Policing unit, nor any road/PROW user groups!

Seven new road lights, two massive road signs, a bus stop extinguished and a new bus stop were created. NYC contractors within metres of and within 'eyeshot' and 'earshot' of the bereaved , moved the so called 'offending' bus stop on the day of the inquest 24 03 25!

One new road light even now illuminates the bus stop which is no longer there!"

"Why does it take the sacrifice/death on an innocent pedestrian pensioner in order for NYC to 'magic up' many £thousands of questionable civil works whereas this 'lethal' road junction is still as unsafe as it always has been"

The following response was read out from Allan McVeigh (Head of Network Strategy):

All fatal road traffic collisions that occur on the local road network in North Yorkshire are the subject of a fatal collision inspection (FCI), the purpose of which is to understand the collision causation and identify whether improvements to the road or surrounding infrastructure can be made. This is either to reduce the risk of a future similar collision occurring (i.e. to address what is referred to as 'a contributory factor'), or to correct any minor defects observed during the inspection, but which were otherwise unconnected to the collision being investigated (non-contributory factors).

Following the untimely death of Mr Wilk, an FCI was carried out on Monday 13 November 2023, in conjunction with North Yorkshire Police. The Police are involved directly in all fatal collision investigations that are carried out by North Yorkshire Council. An FCI report was published in April 2024, which made four recommendations:

1. Relocate the northbound bus stop with road markings, signage, footway link

and an informal crossing facility (contributory)

2. Carry out a consultation exercise on the removal of the southbound bus stop facility (contributory)
3. Investigate the feasibility of introducing street lighting in the vicinity of Knox Mill Lane junction and the new northbound bus stop. If feasible and financially viable, implement street lighting columns as soon as possible (contributory)
4. Introduce improved permanent signage (larger warning sign or map type advance direction sign) to highlight the Knox Mill Lane junction (non-contributory)

Officers carried out the feasibility, design and consultation on these proposals from April 2024 onwards. Engagement took place with:

1. The family of Mr Wilk and residents of Knox Mill Lane – a local site meeting took place, including with the Environment Corporate Director on 02 April 2024 and the family and residents were emailed the FCI recommendations on 07 May 2024, in order to seek their input and views on the proposals. There was also another site discussion with a local Knox Mill Lane resident later in the year and conversations over the phone, to confirm the improvement proposals. No objections to the recommendations were received
2. Cllr Monika Slater – emailed 30 July 2024, who responded later the same day, in support
3. Cllr Michael Harrison – discussion over the phone shortly after the fatal collision inspection
4. Transdev (Bus Operator) – confirmation of no objections on 12 August 2024
5. North Yorkshire Police – the Police Traffic Management Officer who was part of the FCI team was also kept informed throughout the design process
6. Local landowners – to seek permission for the signage in private land

There was no contact with Killinghall Parish Council as the officer responsible for ordering these works, acting in good faith, believed the whole extent was in the Bilton Ward for which Cllr Monika Slater is the local member, and with whom we had engaged. As the parish boundary runs through the middle of Knox Mill Lane, not contacting Killinghall PC was an error. When I was made aware of the mistake, I sent a personal apology to the Clerk of Killinghall Parish Council, via our public transport team, offering to discuss the matter further if he wished. In addition to officers engaging with the family on the proposed recommendations, I also attended the inquest into the death of Mr Wilk and explained to the Coroner and family when the work to move the bus stop was being carried out.

Street Lighting has been introduced to the south and north of the Knox Mill Lane, to illuminate Knox Mill Lane junction, not a previous bus stop and the advanced sign on the northbound approach was introduced to further highlight the presence of the junction and reduce the risk of shunt type collisions. In addition, prior to the fatal collision, the pre-existing vehicle activated signs (VAS) were also replaced, northbound and southbound, with improved VAS, to further highlight the presence of Knox Mill Lane junction. There are additional columns to the north to illuminate the new northbound bus stop location.

7 Attendance of the MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough

Tom Gordon, MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough, delivered a report covering his activities since his election in July 2024.

The work undertaken during a busy first year was acknowledged, marked by governmental and policy changes. The presentation focused on the three main themes of the election campaign: local health services, the cost of living, and the environment, particularly the issue of sewage in rivers. Regarding health, efforts to secure funding for RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) repairs at Harrogate Hospital were discussed, along with concerns about the future of NHS England, and meetings with dental providers. Economically, the impact of budget changes on local businesses and farmers was addressed, including concerns about employer NICs (National Insurance Contributions), business rates, Agricultural Property Relief, and Business Property Relief. On environmental issues, meetings with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water were detailed, emphasising the need for water companies to reinvest profits into infrastructure and addressing concerns about nationalisation.

Additional campaigns were outlined, including extending disabled bus passes, changes to home to school transport policy, funding for Harrogate College, and improvements to school estates. Furthermore, the MP touched upon winter fuel payments, WASPI women, the infected blood scandal, adult social care, diabetes, the Harrogate Spring Water campaign, the Harrogate Town Taskforce, and efforts to support Knaresborough Town AFC through the Football Foundation.

Resolved:

That the report be noted, and Tom Gordon MP be thanked for attending.

8 Community Safety Annual Report

Sgt Steve Dougal (North Yorkshire Police), Evie Griffiths (Senior Community Safety Officer), Insp Holly Nicholls (North Yorkshire Police), and Julia Stack (Community Safety and CCTV Manager) presented an annual update on the work of the Community Safety & CCTV service in the Harrogate & Knaresborough areas. The presentation will include a focus on Community Safety Hubs, CCTV and the wider strategic Community Safety Partnership.

Key local issues were highlighted, with a focus on anti-social behaviour. The team's commitment to early intervention and understanding local community dynamics was highlighted, along with a proactive use of available tools and powers was noted, such as a recent closure order in the Jennyfields estate. The Street Aid project, community engagement efforts, Project Spotlight in Harrogate town centre, and the knife bin initiative were also discussed. A key focus of the report was domestic abuse as well as the extremism agenda.

Representatives from North Yorkshire Police updated the committee on the Neighbourhood Policing guarantee framework, the commitment for officers to patrol on foot in communities, and the efforts being made to promote communication and dialogue. It was highlighted that there were ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour which were being managed with partner agencies such as the Community Safety hub. A number of projects were ongoing to focus on child exploitation, burglary and retail crime.

Members sought further information on issues relevant to their local areas, including the siting of camper vans on Stray Rain, possible engagement with Harrogate Town Council to support community initiatives, and the use of false shop fronts as covers for fraudulent and criminal activity. In response to a question regarding a specific resident query, it was highlighted that safeguarding issues could be reported through 101. NYP welcomed the

opportunity for dialogue and undertook to engage with members outside of the meeting to progress these discussions and answer specific queries.

Resolved:

That the report be noted, and the attendees thanked for their presentation.

9 Localities Service Update

Suzy Sweeting (Communities Locality Lead) provided an update on the Localities Service, highlighting progress made across Harrogate and Knaresborough during 2024/25. The Communities Team had delivered a range of initiatives focused on prevention, health inequality reduction, financial inclusion, digital access, and social regeneration. Notable achievements included the award of £139,309 through the Inspire Fund to 146 community projects, the continuation of the FEAST programme supporting children during school holidays, and the establishment of 287 digital champions through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Community resilience was strengthened through responses to flooding in Knaresborough and Kirkbymoorside, and the development of Community Anchor Organisations and Partnerships. The Parish Liaison and Local Devolution Team had facilitated improved engagement with over a hundred Parish Councils, supported the review of the Parish Charter, and progressed double devolution proposals, including asset transfers and service delivery by local councils.

The Migrant Programmes Team had integrated refugee and asylum support services, launched the Swift initiative with Lottery funding, and supported the resettlement of Afghan and Ukrainian families. Translation and interpretation services had been expanded, with a pilot AI tool introduced to improve efficiency. In the Harrogate and Knaresborough area, two Community Anchor Organisations had been established, and early discussions on Community Partnerships had commenced. The Starbeck Community Fund had distributed over £9,000 to local causes, and collaboration with health partners had continued through Local Care Partnerships and mental health service transformation.

Resolved:

That the report be noted, and the team thanked for their report.

10 Housing Update

Councillor Simon Myers (Executive Member for Culture, Arts, and Housing) provided an update regarding a forthcoming Executive Member decision regarding five sites, which were previously approved for development by the former Harrogate Borough Council. The sites were former garages or small parcels of open space on existing HRA land, and had planning permission from HBC. The total development costs for these sites following tender were significantly over budget, and did not represent good value for money. The possible options and cost implications for each site were discussed, and recommendations shared with the committee for discussion and feedback.

Members discussed the need to avoid disposing of sites quickly to avoid short-term losses, where they could later be developed by a private developer. The size of the estimates were questioned, and it was agreed that these would be confirmed before a final decision was taken. It was also agreed to engage with Community Land Trusts to see whether additional funding could be sought to make the schemes viable.

Members thanked the Executive Member for proactively consulting with the Area Committee and seeking local knowledge and feedback in advance of the decision being taken.

11 Committee Work Programme

Edward Maxwell (Senior Democratic Services Officer) presented the latest version of the committee's work programme, including items for consideration at future meetings, and an update of informal and working group meetings held since the last meeting.

Resolved: That the Work Programme be approved.

12 Annual Report of the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Committee 2024/25

Edward Maxwell (Senior Democratic Services Officer) presented the committee's annual report for 2024/25, outlining the work undertaken and key achievements over the past year.

The Chair invited the outgoing Chair, Councillor Slater, to comment. The work of the area committee was commended, in particular the work contributed to the implementation of 20mph zones, the spending of seed funding for economic development. Councillor Slater thanked members for their support and contributions over the past year, and officers for attending and providing reports to the committee.

Resolved: That the report be noted, and Councillor Slater be thanked for her efforts as Chair over the past municipal year.

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday 25 September at 10:00am.

The meeting concluded at 1.15 pm.