

Uppingham Town Council

Locum Clerk's report to full Council meeting, 10 December 2020

1. Debbie Bettles has been away sick since 26 November. It is currently unknown how long her absence will be; I am covering her role on a part-time basis.
2. In order that my limited time does not become overly taken up with Finance work to the detriment of other tasks, it may be useful to employ a temporary Finance Asst, to deal with updating the Rialtas finance system. Alternatively, I could learn how it works – it cannot be impossible to learn! Council's thoughts would be welcome.
3. I confirm that invoices are currently being paid, as normal, by me through online banking.
4. Debbie's work towards creating the 2021/22 budget was well advanced before she went sick. So I do not anticipate difficulty in driving this through to the necessary timescales.
5. Kellie Sabin has returned to work this week.
6. After Debbie had gone sick, information started to arrive from a company called Vonage, indicating that a new phone system had been set up for us by them. Having then done some digging into how this works, it will divert our office phone to wherever we wish (it can also do other, cleverer things – but we probably have no need of that at present). However, the snag is that this Vonage system cannot work until our office BT line has first been diverted to Vonage – which BT say will take place on 15 December. After that, the phone can get answered in real time when the office is unstaffed. My intention is that it should ring on my mobile, for the foreseeable future.
7. The Town Hall, after national lockdown, reopened to hirers on Wed 2 December, and most of the regular users have returned.
8. The Market Square toilets project is moving forwards, but not rapidly. Finalising the legal agreement with Barclays is proving to be a slow process.
9. UTC's Covid fund for retailers was relaunched last week, and has produced several applicants so far.
10. I have been advised today by Bloor Homes that they will be vacating the land they rent from us (Leicester Rd) within the next 2 months. Council may wish to consider what now to do with this site.
11. The Leicester Rd allotments hedge is on my radar, and the issue will be moved forward once F&GP have considered the matter this month.