

**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,
held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 28th June 2022 at 7.00 pm**

Present, Liz Clarke (Chair) David Ainslie, David Casewell, Lindsay Cooper, Christine Edwards, Sam Findlay, Mike Fish, Barry Hobbs, Charlie Pallett, Peter Rees, Richard Reeve, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson.

22 members of the public.

The Town Clerk Sharon W Coe was also in attendance

326/22 **Mayor's opening remarks**
The Mayor Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see the public gallery full of people wishing to engage with the Council. This was an extraordinary meeting called to consider three important agenda items.

327/22 **Apologies for absence**
It was proposed by Cllr Rees, seconded by Cllr Ainslie that the apology from Cllr Johnson was accepted. **Resolved unanimously.**

328/22 **Declaration of members' interests and applications for dispensation.**
Two requests had been received and authorised by the Clerk for Cllr Ainslie and Cllr Simpson, in respect of the Uppingham Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

329/22 **An opportunity for the public to speak, in accordance with standing orders 2.3.4. – 2.3.9**

The members of the public raised the following views

There was concern in the Town over the lease of the Football Club - The Clerk explained that the lease was not due for renewal until December 2025, and no formal discussions had yet taken place.

A question was raised over the ownership of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and the bodies involved in discussions. The Clerk explained that the Town Council is responsible for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Council works with other members of the Community who are interested in or affected by the neighbourhood planning proposals to allow them to play an active role in preparing a neighbourhood plan. There is an active neighbourhood plan advisory group (NPAG) which meets regularly and is a public meeting for complete transparency. Section 102(4) of the local Government Act 1972. Minutes of these meetings can be found on the Town Council's website.

A question was raised over the allotments and the progress of the situation. Cllr Clarke reiterated that there had been no change in the position as the Town Council was still exploring all legal avenues and stressed that no decision had been made, despite the misinformation that seemed to be prevalent in the Town.

- 330/22 a) **To receive the Internal Auditors report 2021/22, the Internal Auditor statement of Independence, and any recommendations made within it.**

It was proposed by Cllr Findlay, seconded by Cllr Ainslie to receive the report and recommendations. **Resolved unanimously**

The Clerk and new Internal Auditor were thanked for their thorough work in this area.

- b) **To consider the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/2022 – section 1 of the Annual return. Cllr Clarke read out the questions on the AGAR.**

Statement 1 - Proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Ainslie.

Statement 2 - Proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded Cllr Edwards

Statement 3 - Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Rees

Statement 4 - Proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded Cllr Casewell

Statement 5 – Proposed Cllr Ainslie, seconded Cllr Edwards

Statement 6 – Proposed Cllr Edwards, seconded Cllr Findlay

Statement 7 – Proposed Cllr Edwards, seconded Cllr Shaw

Statement 8 – proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded Cllr Rees

Statement 9 – proposed Cllr Casewell, seconded Cllr Rees.

The Annual Governance statement was **resolved unanimously**.

- c) **To consider and approve the accounting statements for Uppingham Town Council 2021/2022 – section 2 of the AGAR.**

Cllr Findlay gave an overview of the accounts and the position at the Year End. A question was asked and answered regarding the asset register. The Clerk will also circulate some background information to members for clarity

It was proposed by Cllr Findlay and seconded by Cllr Ainslie to approve the accounting statements. **Resolved Unanimously**.

- 331/22 **To consider and scrutinise the draft Neighbourhood Plan V10.**

Cllr Clarke invited the consultant Clive Keeble to introduce himself and the role he had in the production of Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan (UNP). After introductions Clive explained his expertise and how the plan should be properly constructed and scrutinised. It was noted that RCC carries no 5yr land supply and their new Local Plan will not be adopted until Winter 2025. Uppingham has an existing NP which was one of the first in the Country. The desire was to get this revised plan to Reg 14 which would lead to submission to RCC, consultation with the public and ultimately referendum to protect Uppingham.

Members scrutinised the plan page by page. It was proposed that NPAG be requested to come up with a programme of public events and every household receives a paper copy of the draft plan at Reg 14. Proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Ainslie and **resolved unanimously**

Questions debated included

How many speculative developments had been made? None

Does the plan cover all objectives? Yes

Would green/ecological policies be included? – Yes

What was the status of outside bodies? – Consultees of the wider public, ensuring good communication links.

Where was the data evidence book to be held? – Town Council website

How were the housing numbers calculated? RCC has a number of dwellings that need to be delivered over the life of their Local Plan. This plan was designed to try to control the situation in Uppingham, by developing strategies evidenced by coherent policies which would then carry legal weight after examination.

What was the definition of a windfall site? A site that had not been captured in the initial call for sites and therefore not identified in the Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

Who will develop the Individual Development Plan (IDP) – Town Council.

What was the phasing element of the Plan? To attempt to get deliverable sites completed - The Consultant will consult with RCC.

4 members of the public left at 8.35

Why were there specific references to the Community Homes Land Trust ?

Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are a form of **community-led housing**. The CLT acquires land through purchase (by the community) or a gift and oversees the development of affordable housing to buy or rent. The housing remains affordable in perpetuity – the CLT is a not-for-profit group and acts as a long- term steward of the homes built. Uppingham has its own CLT but is not restricted to working with other CLTs in the area.

Why were the updated maps/emails tabled? This was a matter of time constraints; it had been hoped to have a V11 of the plan available. Following the meeting the consultant would produce a V11 for members to consider.

What was the status of the plot of land adjacent to site B housing on the Leicester Road and a prospective number of houses? This had not currently had a site assessment but had been asked to be included by the Landowners. Due to the hectares; it was envisaged that the number of houses could be in the region of 10

A request was made that the meeting should be extended by 5 minutes in accordance with standing order 2.3.24.

Proposed By Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Edwards – **Resolved unanimously.**

It was confirmed by the consultant, that any land that was considered in the first NP could be carried over to this revised plan.

With another important agenda item to be considered it was suggested that this scrutiny be carried to a further meeting to be held on Monday 25th July at 6.30pm
Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Ainslie – **Resolved unanimously.**

332/22

To consider the following resolution: “**that in the view of the confidential nature of the following agenda item, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1.**

Proposed Cllr Clarke, seconded Cllr Edwards **resolved unanimously.**

The members of the General public left the meeting.

333/22

To receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee held 16th March 2022 and approve the recommendations held therein.

Proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Edwards that the minutes be received.

Resolved (12 for, 1 abstention)

- a) To authorise the Clerk to advertise for a position of Administration Assistant for UTC, the job description as proposed. Proposed Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Shaw.

Resolved unanimously

- b) To authorise the Clerk to advertise for a handy person on a contracted “as and when basis” paid hourly.

Proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded Cllr Clarke. **Resolved unanimously.**

Cllr Clarke thanked all members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 9.05pm.