

**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,
held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7.00 pm**

Present, Liz Clarke (Chair), David Ainslie, David Casewell, Daniel Clayton, Lindsay Cooper, Christine Edwards, Barry Hobbs, Sam Findlay, Mike Fish, Tom Johnson, Pete Rees, Richard Reeve, Mark Shaw.

RCCLr Marc Oxley and 14 members of the public.

The Town Clerk Sharon W Coe and the Administration Assistant Cynthia Ondeng were also in attendance.

361/22 **Mayor's opening remarks**

The Mayor Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was fantastic that the members of the public were here once again. The Mayor confirmed the toilets had finally been opened on the Market Square after a full refurbishment. She drew members' attention to the condolence book for our late monarch and invited members to sign if wished.

362/22 **Apologies for absence**

It was proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that the apologies from Cllrs Pallett and Simpson were accepted. **Resolved unanimously.**

363/22 **Declaration of members' interests and applications for dispensation.**

Non-pecuniary Interests were declared by Cllrs Ainslie, Edwards and a dispensation was granted to Cllr Shaw in respect of item 9. Non-pecuniary interests were also declared by Cllr Casewell and Cllr Findlay in respect of item 9. Cllr Hobbs declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14.

364/22 **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 -

An issue was raised about the parking and general traffic issues around Leighfield School. Concerns were raised about the speed of driving up Newtown Road. Staggered start and finish times at the school were perceived to be causing a bottleneck. Irresponsible parking and double/triple parking were adding to the difficulties. The parent had raised these issues with the school and was looking to try to get all parties, school, RCC, UTC, police, invested in these issues to find a solution. Options suggested were electronic signs, lollipop person, signs drawn by the children, road markings. A meeting had been arranged for the 10th October between RCC, Police and the Headteacher. Mode shift stars were an option being pursued.

The Mayor confirmed that UTC were very supportive of the initiatives but had no remit on Highways, she asked that a report could come back to the TC so that we were kept aware of any progress and so we could offer continued support in these endeavours.

A further issue was raised regarding parking around Baines, the double yellow lines were wearing away from the road and pavement. There were two conflicting signs, one “no loading at any time” and the other “no stopping except for loading”. These should be reported to RCC. RCCLlr Marc Oxley was present at the meeting, and he would follow up on the previous two speakers’ issues.

RCCLlr Marc Oxley reported that the parking management plan had been requested from Leighfield and the school had been asked if they were willing to sign up to the mode shift stars scheme, where parents parked further away and then walked as a “school bus”. Cllr Oxley highlighted the Fix my Street application for reporting issues.

He further reported that the County Council is working with local volunteers to create warm spaces, the intention is to open all 4 libraries on days where they would ordinarily be closed to help to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis. RCC were looking for volunteers to help with these hours. Communications would follow.

PCC is asking for people to submit for a share in the £200k fund which is a collaboration between the PCC office and the violence fund network to fund diversionary activities for young people. Grants are available up to £20k per project. Deadline is 24th October.

The Mayor thanked the members of the public for their input and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting if they so wished.

- 365/22 **To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 7th September 2022.**
Proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Johnson, **resolved unanimously**
- 366/22 **To receive minutes and recommendations from the Council’s Committees.**
- a) **Planning Committee.** Proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Reeve. **Resolved unanimously.**
 - b) **Finance & General Purposes Committee.** A proposal was made that the Society continue to opt out of the SAAA procurement of external auditors and continue with the existing arrangement. Proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded by Cllr Shaw. **Resolved unanimously.** A further proposal was made to accept the minute of the F & G P Meeting of 28th September. Proposed By Cllr Findlay, seconded Cllr Ainslie. **Resolved unanimously.**
- 367/22 **Finance - To receive the external auditor’s notice of conclusion of audit 2022 and any recommendations within it.**
Cllr Ainslie proposed that the external auditor’s conclusion of audit is received and also to put on record thanks to the Clerk who had produced the Agar working documents which had resulted in a clean audit for the Town Council.
Proposed Cllr Ainslie, seconded Cllr Findlay – resolved unanimously
- 368/22 **To receive the Clerk’s report and any recommendations/actions therein**
Members had already received the written report, but the Clerk highlighted items for the public present, these included -

Xell at Uppingham School had produced maps, a working party had met to discuss these.

The clerk had obtained the technical assistance grant for the SEA/HRA so no cost would be borne by the Council

Uppingham in Bloom had achieved the gold award once again, a magnificent effort and the Clerk had written to them on behalf of the Council.

The clerk had met with the suppliers of the Outdoor Gym, and that following the meeting she had also met with the Mayor and Chairman of Amenities. The clerk displayed a map showing the proposed placement and explained the rationale behind it. The Clerk had written to the residents of Tod's Terrace to consult with them regarding their opinion. The Clerk confirmed that in her opinion that planning permission is not needed for the siting under the Planning and Land Act 1980. She would also check with RCC prior to any work starting.

The Clerk would undertake the updated training on the new software and was proposing to work from home next week to input the financial information to bring the accounts up to date.

The Clerk updated on the grass cutting on the land behind the Elms estate. The Clerk had consulted the environmental agency to make sure all wildlife was adequately protected when this happens. The ruling is that we may sensitively mow and maintain our own land.

There had been ASB on the Tod's Piece toilets which had been reported to the Police.

The Clerk confirmed that closure of the CCLA would be enacted following several historical resolutions that hadn't been followed.

The Clerk was thanked for her report.

369/22

To consider the grant applications for Ramsey Ross and Uppingham Late Night Shopping Planning Group.

The Clerk overviewed the Ramsey Ross grant application and the objectives. This was essentially to provide a microwave or slow cooker for people in need. The grant requested was £1200.00 to aid this project, with other donations being provided. The Clerk had investigated the grant with the legal officer at LRALC for clarification on certain issues including VAT reclaim on invoices as these would not be addressed to the Council. The Clerk stated that it was a really worthwhile initiative but maybe there would be a better way to distribute the grant, maybe to Root and Branch who operated the community fridge. They were constituted and had accounts, which is one of UTC's requirements for a grant.

A proposal was made that Cllr Fish would work with Ramsey Ross to get this grant application into a workable legal proposal and to defer this item until that time. Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Ainslie (9 for,3 abstentions)

Uppingham Late Night Shopping Planning Group.

A question was asked how much was given in grants in each previous year? The Clerk hadn't got the information to hand. The grant requested was for £2,000 when it had been less in previous years, council also wished to know if the group was properly constituted and had accounts. The Clerk explained that this was a volunteer group that has come together at late notice as the previous administration had closed down, leaving no operating structure. An amount of money had been given to the Town Council in the sum of £84.00 to be used for community affairs. The clerk had asked LRALC if legally the grant amount could be paid to Uppingham First who are offering banking, insurance and safeguarding policies for the group as an umbrella organisation.

A proposal was made that £1,500 should be allocated to this project
Proposed Cllr Reeve, seconded Cllr Rees. (9 for, 3 abstentions)

370/22

To consider appointments to the Council's committees.

Cllr Hobbs will join the Planning Committee.

Cllr Clayton will join the Finance Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded Cllr Edwards. Resolved unanimously.

371/22

To consider whether UTC wishes to make a request to Rutland County Council for a community speedwatch on Stockerston Road.

The Mayor outlined the scheme which would need 12 willing volunteers who would be trained. Council debated the issues around Uppingham. Uppingham Town Council supports RCCllr Lambert in his request to obtain a community speedwatch for the Stockerston Road.

The proposal was made that Cllr RCC Lambert would get the 12 volunteers needed and the endorsement was agreed to ask RCC for the Stockerston Road scheme.

Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded Cllr Reeve. **Resolved Unanimously. RCCllr Oxley would relay this information to RCCllr Lambert.**

372/22

To consider the RCC Interim Housing Position statement which is out for consultation.

Cllr Ainslie overviewed the statement. As the Local Plan is still some way in the future, RCC were trying to give some guidance to developers as an interim position.

They are asking for consultation on proposals.

The following proposal was made: Uppingham Town Council feels very aggrieved and let down by Rutland County Council who have failed to make adequate provisions to maintain a five-year plan of housing supply. This is despite significant efforts by this community in producing and updating its neighbourhood plan. Within our draft updated plan Uppingham has allocated housing sites to address the issues faced by our community and specifically the problem we now face with the lack of adequate provision to maintain the housing supply.

Uppingham Town Council wish to see a much stronger value placed upon our Neighbourhood Plan. We authorise the Town Clerk to make this resolution known to RCC as our official response to the consultation.

Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded Cllr Casewell. **Resolved unanimously.**

373/22

To discuss planning applications.

2022/1036/FUL Proposed single storey extension and raising of roof 800mm Hill Down Glaston Road, Uppingham, Rutland.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Edwards.

Resolved unanimously.

374/22

To consider the following resolution **“that in 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”**

Commercial considerations.

Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded Cllr Casewell. **Resolved unanimously.**

The public gallery left the meeting.

The Mayor introduced the item which was regarding the documents that had been discussed at F & G P regarding the Bowls and Football club.

Cllr Ainslie overviewed the historical ethical/moral dilemma that the council found themselves in. UTC charge the bowls club £1500 rental, but then the bowls club can apply to UTC for a grant to help pay this. In previous years this had been a moveable amount. F & G P was asked by Council to think up a solution which was deemed appropriate, and UTC have commissioned a formal valuation. The commercial valuation on the Bowls Club is £75,000 which we own and is our asset. Cllr Johnson left the meeting at 8.40pm due to a work call and didn't return. One option that was discussed was that UTC sell the bowls club building to the bowls club for £75,000 and we will allow them to pay back at £1,500 per year on an interest free loan and this will take 50 years to pay back. They would get the asset and certainty and UTC could solve its moral dilemma as keepers of the public purse. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had again asked LRALC for technical advice and they were in turn asking their lawyers to provide guidance.

The following proposal was made :

The Town Council listened to some opportunities to resolve a long-standing commercial issue and agreed that the clerk should make more investigations and bring these back to Council following a direction of travel.

Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Reeve (11 for, 1 abstention)

Football club

The football club pay rental of £190 per year and this had again been commercially valued at around £900 per year. The football club lease is due for renewal in 2025.

Cllr Findlay conveyed the thoughts of the F & G P committee that we could as a direction of travel talk to the football club about phasing the increase gradually providing that they give some consideration to the provision of female and young people's football. We would like to see some proposals to this end. A discussion duly ensued. The following proposal was made:

The Town Council as part of its discussions relating to the lease with Uppingham Town Football Club will make known to them the professional valuation view and ask them to engage with the council in providing future plans, widening access to the sport. Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Findlay **Resolved**

unanimously.

Cllr Clarke thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it closed at 8.50PM

