

**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,  
held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.00 pm**

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

Cllr Stephen Lambert RCC and 21 members of the public.

The Town Clerk Sharon W Coe was also in attendance

348/22            **Mayor's opening remarks**  
The Mayor Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was fantastic that the members of the public were here to witness the proceedings. She had attended various events including the flag raising for the Royal Navy at Oakham Castle. She asked all present if ideas could be suggested regarding warm places as this was going to cause anxiety to our residents as the winter approaches. Uppingham wished to have a cohesive approach. She also reminded members of the newly adopted code of conduct that all needed to follow.

349/22            **Apologies for absence**  
It was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Ainslie, that the apologies from Cllrs Rees and Simpson were accepted. **Resolved unanimously.**

350/22            **Declaration of members' interests and applications for dispensation.**  
Nonpecuniary Interests were declared by Cllrs Clarke, Fish and Pallett in respect of item 11.

351/22            **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 update was given regarding the Youth Project by Ellie Marshall, the group were passionate to provide something for the local teenagers as the space they were using was too small. They had held their first meeting in the Town Hall which had worked well, she outlined that she was asking for a grant of £1,000 to help with the rental of the Town Hall which was the subject of a later agenda item.

Cllr Lambert outlined his request to Uppingham Town Council for a future agenda item regarding a community speedwatch request to Rutland County Council (RCC) along Stockerston Road - this would take place over a seven-day period. This could then be voted on by the full Town Council. There were also well-known issues along the Ayston and London Roads. We would need to find twelve willing volunteers.

Concerns were raised about the lack of work on clearing some of the overgrown allotments by Biffa, and the fence on the Tod's Piece allotments keeps getting vandalised. The allotment markers had also not materialised. A request was

made that the Council consider putting a five-year protection order on the allotments.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had set up three meetings with Biffa and they had all been cancelled due to the staff being called upon to drive the refuse lorries. She had not given up and was chasing this proactively. It would be sorted out. The allotment markers are on the to do list, and she confirmed that there is now a waiting list for both allotment sites of 14 people. The fence was continuing to be a problem, but it was mended each time it was broken. There is little the Town Council can do to stop this happening.

Would the allotment land at Tod's Piece be designated as green space in the newly developing Neighbourhood Plan? The council is minded to do this. Both allotment sites at Tod's Piece and Leicester Road will be designated as green space in the Neighbourhood Plan but it will be for the whole community to comment/vote on this both at Regulation 14 and then ultimately the referendum when the plan is made.

The Mayor brought the meeting back into session and thanked everyone for their participation.

352/22

**To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> July and the extraordinary meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> July.** Proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Findlay, **resolved unanimously**

**To receive minutes and recommendations from the Council's Committees.**

- a) **Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group.** A point was raised that certain issues need to be discussed prior to the Regulation 14 document being distributed. The minutes would therefore be accepted with this codicil that the additional comments submitted, and the green/open space discussions would take place at full council before regulation 14 document was sent out for consultation. **Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Edwards. Resolved unanimously.**
- b) **Planning Committee.** Proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Fish. **Resolved unanimously.**
- c) **Finance & General Purposes Committee.** Proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded by Cllr Ainslie. **Resolved unanimously.**
- d) **Amenities Committee.** Proposed Cllr Pallett, seconded by Cllr Shaw. The clerk also drew members attention to the item regarding the migration of cemetery records to the RBS system, this would require further work from her before this was possible. The quotation for £800.00 was put to Council for consideration and agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Casewell, seconded by Cllr Findlay that the quotation from RBS be approved. **Resolved unanimously.**

353/22

**To consider any vacancies by co-option.**

The Clerk overviewed the procedure that would be taking place, this having previously been sent to the two hopeful applicants. There was one place available on the Town Council. The applicants had already submitted a written statement but would be allowed three minutes to add to their application if

desired. All members of the Town Council would then vote on the prepared slip which would be collated, and the Clerk would announce the result. Both candidates took the opportunity to further their application, the vote was held, and the successful candidate was Daniel Clayton. Cllr Clayton took his seat at the table was welcomed to the Town Council, signed his declaration and received his welcome file.

354/22

**To receive the Clerk's report.**

Members had already received the written report, but the Clerk highlighted items for the public present, these included

The Police taking occupation of the former members' room, which would enhance their facilities and also public access and perception to them.

The completion date for the Market Place toilets.

The frustration of trying to set up a meeting of the Poor's Charity, she had two residents requiring help and was still not able to pin down some members of the committee to enact these decisions.

The Clerk was thanked for her report.

355/22

**To consider the purchase of the purchase ledger system with training from RBS and then migration to a cloud-based solution.**

This had been discussed at the Finance and General Purposes committee and had been seen as a good investment. The cost of the package, training and cloud migration would be £848.00 Proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Findlay. Resolved unanimously.

356/22

**To consider the financial contribution required by RCC for the closing of the disabled bays to allow the refurbishment of the Market Place toilets.**

The Clerk had received a compromise offer from RCC after much lobbying that the original cost of suspension of the spaces for a period of 10 weeks at £26.00 per day be reduced to three weeks costs at £546.00. It was still felt that this was extortionate when the Council already pays a license fee to RCC for operating the market square. The Clerk pointed out that legally RCC is within their rights to apply this charge. Reluctantly it was proposed to accept the offer. Proposed Cllr Reeve, seconded Cllr Shaw. Resolved unanimously.

357/22

**To consider a grant application from the Youth Club.**

The Deputy Mayor Cllr Ainslie took this item as the Mayor Liz Clarke had declared a non-pecuniary interest as noted in minute 350/22. Cllr Ainslie gave an overview; the Youth Club had moved into the Town Hall on a Wednesday afternoon as the existing premises were too small. The Town Hall does charge for room hire and this would become payable per usage. The Grant applied for is £1,000 to help with that rental payment whilst other facilities are sought. Members had already seen the application and accounts to support this request.

Proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded by Cllr Ainslie that the grant be approved. (9 for, 3 abstentions)

358/22

**To formally consider the communications plan for the Regulation 14 consultation for the Town of Uppingham.**

Cllr Ainslie overviewed the document as unfortunately the chair and vice chair of NPAG were not present. The communications document that was being considered was the strategy for the communication rollout to everyone in Uppingham of the Regulation 14 document when this was formally agreed as per the earlier minute. Members had all had sight of the bullet point document, but Cllr Ainslie encouraged all members to give their input if they felt an avenue had been missed. There were three sectors, state/community/business sectors, comprising of 14 outlets which were explained.

Cllr Casewell asked for clarification on the responses that are received. It is RCC that are responsible legally for this consultation, they will collate the responses, which have to be recorded verbatim, these are then sent to the consultant Clive Keble, and all have to be individually addressed to comply with the relevant laws surrounding consultation. All responses carry the same weighting be it an individual or a group of 20 people, the weighting is 1 in both cases. The purpose of this consultation period is to get individuals to pose questions, ask for information, and submit an individual response.

It was proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded by Cllr Ainslie, that the communication plan be approved subject to the amendments made tonight, namely that Uppingham Town Council organise and deliver events to cover both the Business Sector and the general public. **Resolved unanimously**

A brief update was given regarding the maps and that an initial meeting had been held with Uppingham School and a small working party would be initiated to discuss these.

359/22

**To consider the formal response from Uppingham Town Council to the Issues and Options consultation on Rutland's new Local Plan.**

The Mayor explained that Cllr Ainslie had helpfully crafted some draft answers on behalf of the Town Council, which members already had sight of, and gave her thanks for this work. She pointed out that even if agreed tonight this would only count as one response and everyone could still submit a personal response if desired. Cllr Ainslie wished to record his thanks to Cllr Casewell who had read through the document with the draft answers twice. Cllr Casewell stated that in his view the answers were common sense, with a few specifics he suggested to change. He confirmed that the thread through the document was that the answers given must take particular notice of Uppingham's Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk would make the changes suggested and agreed and submit to RCC.

It was proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded by Cllr Liz Clarke. **Resolved unanimously.**

360/22

**To consider the new Tourism Policy rationale that forms part of the revised Neighbourhood Plan.**

An overview was given to the public gallery that, as the Town Council were debating an item that had arisen from one of the scrutiny sessions regarding the Tourism Policy, it was felt by members that the policy wasn't strong enough. It didn't focus adequately on Uppingham and was more Rutland centric. Cllr Casewell was asked to present this item and he guided members and the public that the policy wasn't changing dramatically except for the addition of the words in Uppingham, it was the rationale behind the policy. A discussion was held about changes since the pandemic, with a huge move towards camping. RCC had turned

down one site previously. Cllr Reeve suggested that if Uppingham wanted a camp site then priority should be given to the town and not the surrounding villages who had voted against a proposal. It was felt that this should be a part of the policy, and this will be the subject of future debate. Cllr Clarke suggested there was also a gap on family-based activities that would attract a different demographic to the Town as a destination.

A proposal was made that we have looked through this as a first draft and suggested two key areas to be added before returning to the Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Shaw and **resolved unanimously.**

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

**Signed .....Mayor/Chair of Council**

**Dated.....**