

**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,
held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 8th June 2022 at 7.00 pm**

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

Cllr Stephen Lambert RCC and 17 members of the public.

The Town Clerk Sharon W Coe was also in attendance

310/22 **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. She congratulated and welcomed our new Town Councillor Barry to the meeting and invited him to say a few words. The Mayor then reflected on the Jubilee celebrations on Tod's Piece and thanked everyone that had helped to make the event such a success, which was enjoyed by the community.

311/22 **Apologies for absence**

It was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Shaw, that the apology from Cllr Rees was accepted. **Resolved unanimously.**

312/22 **Declaration of members' interests and applications for dispensation.**

None

313/22 **An opportunity for the public to speak, in accordance with standing orders 2.3.4. – 2.3.9**

In accordance with standing order 2.3.6, the Chairman allocated an additional 15 minutes to allow all those that wished to speak may do so. Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Ainslie. Resolved unanimously.

The members of the public wished to raise the subject of the allotments on Tod's Piece, the following passionate views and questions were posed

What was the present position on the Allotments? Had the Council heard about the lifting of the covenant?

What were the next steps?

Would the allotment holders have a formal comeback against proposals?

What was the position on the fencing?

What was the current waiting list?

Why had plots not been allocated, and not maintained for further occupation.

Why had correspondence sent not been acknowledged/allotments/hopper bus.

The members of the public raised the following views

They felt passionately that this was not the right thing to do, whilst recognising the need for low-cost housing. Allotments were a valuable commodity and helped with health and wellbeing, they were sustainable and allowed the holders to grow their own food which was not sprayed with chemicals. A view was expressed that

it would be difficult for remaining plot holders should some housing be allowed, with the nuisance value that would probably ensue. Other views expressed were anger that food was being stolen from plots not helped by the broken fencing. Allotments also helped with children's learning and tied into the whole climate change issue.

Cllr Clarke thanked members of the public for their views. She wanted to assure them that this situation had grown out of a question, how did the Council address the fact that the young people of Uppingham could not afford to stay in the Town. Uppingham Town Council does not own much land and therefore its choices were limited. This was a fact-finding mission exploring all legal avenues and stressed that no decision had been made. The Town Council was looking to solve an undisputed problem, and this was one option being explored.

The Clerk addressed the questions posed, she was working to transfer the allotments and all records onto a computer database, which would ensure a smooth operation in the future, this would include plot inspections, and marking out of all plots. Maintenance had lapsed as indeed had some records in the past, this was acknowledged but this was being worked on. She accepted that this was not happening as quickly as was wished but now that she was the only employee of the Council work did have to be prioritised. The fencing had been reported for repair, and she was in conversations to get some allotments brought back to standard. An offer was made by a member of the public to look at an allotment association and this would be welcomed by the Clerk, as there was an association on the allotment site at Leicester Road. The Clerk would try and progress this.

RCC Cllr Stephen Lambert introduced himself to the Council and public, he was happy to join with the other elected members of RCC to reintroduce monthly surgeries with Town Councillors so the public could bring their issues face to face.

Damon Le Geyt introduced himself as someone who may be interested to joining the Town Council and was here to observe proceedings.

The Mayor concluded this item by thanking members of the public once again for their input and invited them to stay if they wished for the remainder of the meeting.

12 members of the public left.

- 314/22 **To confirm the minutes of the full Council meeting held on 4th May 2022.**
It was proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Reeve, to confirm the minutes.
Resolved unanimously
- 315/22 **To receive the Uncontested Election result of 18th May 2022.**
It was proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that the election result be received, and that Cllr Hobbs was welcomed. **Resolved unanimously.**
- 316/22 **To receive an update regarding the HSSI grant recently awarded.**
In accordance with standing order 2.3.5 Chris Merricks Chair of Npag be allowed to give the update. Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Ainslie. **Resolved unanimously.**

An initial meeting with locality had taken place with them favouring the Artisans of Uppingham project. There needed to be proof of concept and the grant could then be used to get them onto the High Street should a suitable location be found. The grant previously applied for and granted was £15,000. This would be used towards rental costs of £12,000 and £3,000 for marketing. There had been modelling of figures for future years when the grant money had been used, and effectively this would satisfy a prospective landlord as they would be able to see a 1st year security. The grant had now been received by the Town Council and would be utilised as soon as a suitable property was found. This would aid the continued vitality of the High Street and linked into our draft updated Neighbourhood Plan.

Chris was thanked for the update

317/22

To consider the reintroduction of Councillor surgeries involving RCC and UTC representatives.

The Clerk outlined the request, it was proposed to be a joint surgery held face to face at the Town Hall. All elected members representing Uppingham at RCC and Town Councillors (on a rota) being present. Dates and time to be confirmed. It was proposed by Cllr Reeve and seconded by Cllr Casewell. **Resolved unanimously**

318/22

To consider a request to be made to RCC to put yellow lines on the northwest corner of Norton Street, and to request a schedule of works about proposed highway works in Uppingham.

Following a debate Council instructed the clerk to write to RCC to request that

- yellow lines be put on the northwest corner of Norton Street
- request the schedule of works
- request that yellow lines be put from Uppingham Theatre – Johnson’s house along the Stockerston Road.
- request that white lines are added to our online street parking to remark the bays.

319/22

Future proposals would be put on a future agenda.

Proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded by Cllr Edwards and **resolved unanimously**

To consider any vacancies by co-option.

This item was deferred as the clerk had not received the promised documentation from RCC.

320/22

It was proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Reeve, and **resolved unanimously.**

**To receive reports and consider recommendations for UTC committees.
Planning Committee 18th May 2022**

It was proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Edwards that the minutes be received. **Resolved unanimously**

NPAG 26th May 2022.

An overview was given by Cllr Simpson as to the work within Npag to bring this to Council this evening. He highlighted the two recommendations.

That council approve the nomination of Chris Merricks to continue as Chairman of NPAG, proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Casewell. **Resolved unanimously.**

That Council approve the draft Neighbourhood Plan (v9) as amended. Proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Casewell and **resolved unanimously.**

321/22 It was the intention to bring (V10) back to Council on the 28th June after the Npag meeting on the 14th June 2022.

To receive the Clerk's Report.

The report had been previously sent to Councillors. The Clerk briefly overviewed the report, arising from this authority was given to the Mayor and deputy to conduct a fact finding mission with Uppingham School regarding the sports facility. That Cllr Ainslie follows up on the informal offer to discuss medical provisions in the Town and report back to the Clerk. The clerk was thanked for her full and informative report.

322/22 **To receive an update on the Market Place toilets including the request for Council to approve the updated expenditure requirements due to the ongoing global climate and cost increases.**

The Clerk gave an overview of the requested expenditure requested to clarify the documents already circulated to members. Members requested a schematic of what was now proposed. It was proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded by Cllr Casewell and **resolved unanimously** to approve the additional expenditure.

323/22 **To agree the date of the extraordinary meeting to receive the AGAR and the revised Neighbourhood Plan – Tuesday 28th June at 7pm**

It was proposed by Cllr Findlay and seconded by Cllr Ainslie and **resolved unanimously**

324/22 **To consider adopting the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct 2020, updated May 2021.**

The Clerk would check that this was the same code adopted by RCC recently. Uppingham Town Council would also like to set a gold standard approach and appoint two independent persons as suggested in best practice 7. Also, to invoke best practice 9 regarding consultation with an independent person as to whether there should be a formal investigation on an allegation.

It was proposed by Cllr Simpson, seconded by Cllr Pallett and **resolved unanimously.**

325/22 **Correspondence**

Copy of the letter to RCC regarding the licensing hours of the Royal Oak, Queen Street. – **Noted**

Membership of the Rural Market Town Group – **Noted**

RSN Seminar – Rural Affordable Housing Wednesday 29th June – **Cllr Ainslie to attend**

RCC Tourism – Supporting businesses to be sustainable. – **Cllr Simpson to circulate**

The Mayor thanked members and the general public for attending and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

