

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

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

RCllr Stephen Lambert/Marc Oxley and 8 members of the public.

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

391/22

**Mayor's opening remarks**

The Mayor Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Mayor informed Council of the various engagements that she had attended in an official capacity, which included:

Remembrance events and a concert held in Uppingham Chapel.

Fire station to witness the licensing of the new chaplain to the Fire service.

Opening of the Beat Office in the Town Hall.

Joining Uppingham in Bloom to start a Mosaic for their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Advent Carol Service.

Fatstock Show lunch.

Uppingham Community College to work with students and Youth Space.

100<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Dennis Wright who is our longstanding war veteran.

Youth Space takes place in the Town Hall every Wednesday afternoon and is a great success interacting with our young people and giving them somewhere to go after school.

392/22

**Apologies for absence**

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

393/22

**Declaration of members' interests and applications for dispensation.**

None

394/22

**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 -

Q. It states in the plan that 30% of new dwellings are to be affordable, can you confirm that its 30% in each development and not across the whole of the town. How will we stop developers using the viability assessment to reduce those numbers as has happened before?

A. Cllr Ainslie explained the 30% requirement comes from NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) that requires us to be in general conformity with the RCC local plan. Our Neighbourhood Plan is as watertight as we can make it but ultimately the Local Planning Authority (RCC) makes the decisions. The legal

position is once the plan is made (adopted) this becomes a planning document and carries planning weight and must be taken into consideration. We have no ability to control the 30% but we will lobby our local councillors to ask them to intercede on behalf of the Town.

Q. What sort of referendum feedback is proposed for the consultation. Will it be a straightforward choice of accepting or rejecting the plan in its entirety or do the community get to choose development sites, housing sites etc, green issues. How do we know planner will take account of what the community has voted in its plan?

A. Cllr Ainslie explained that later in the agenda we are discussing the consultation questionnaire which will be sent with the Regulation 14 document of the refreshed plan and will be posted through every door in Uppingham. There will also be consultation events and online copies. Hard copies will be at the Town Hall and the Library. There will also be a suggestions page. All comments will be looked at and evaluated. The period of consultation is 6 weeks so that the whole community can have their view heard. After that consultation the plan goes to RCC for a Regulation 16 and consultation for a further 6 weeks takes place. Ultimately at referendum stage it will either be a yes/no vote.

RCCllr Oxley stated that there had been an 18% turnout at the last referendum. He confirmed that all sites have to be looked at on their own merits depending on what is proposed, they can negotiate the 30% down, but the Neighbourhood Plan will carry an enormous amount of weight.

He welcomed the Police Beat Office in the Town Hall which will be a massive asset and a great initiative by the Town Council.

Speaking on behalf of Tod's Piece Allotment Society.

Q. Why have we not been invoiced for 22/23?

A new computer system had been brought which in future years will automatically generate invoices. Due to training delays with the software company, the invoices will be generated manually this year and will be sent out prior to Christmas.

Why have we not had the allotments cleared, does this indicate UTC still want to build on it.?

A. The Clerk had explained before that the issue was getting Biffa who would do the clearances to attend site, this had been exacerbated by Covid both to the contractor and then the Clerk. There were no ulterior motives and there were no plans to build on this allotment site. An offer was given by the chair of the Allotment Society to help.

A point was raised that it seemed that UTC wanted to rush ahead with the Regulation 14 consultation of the neighbourhood Plan even though the current government was talking about scrapping housing targets and the markets were in a state of flux. The member of public was hopeful that these considerations be added to the discussions taking place tonight.

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.

395/22 Cllr Oxley and 1 member of the public left at this point  
**To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**  
Proposed by Cllr Rees seconded by Cllr Findlay, **resolved unanimously**

396/22 **To receive the Clerk's report and any recommendations/actions therein.**  
The Clerk gave a verbal report.  
Items covered:  
The Clerk had contacted RCC concerning the additional recharge on the community lighting, she had referenced the figures for the previous three years and it would seem to be in order. She also had written confirmation from RCC to confirm that the recharge had been calculated at 20/21 electricity prices. Council therefore gave permission for the bill to be paid.  
CIL payment received for £4,478.  
The Poor's Charity cheques had been distributed.  
HSSI grant had been paid out following confirmation from Groundwork and Locality that it was ok to do so.  
The Clerk presented information on the cost for printing and delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 document and asked that she be given delegated responsibility to appoint the company/ies to do this. Council agreed that this was a sensible way forward.  
The Clerk gave an update on the informal meeting held with Uppingham School, where the Mayor/Deputy Mayor had been able to exchange information on a wide range of issues including ASB, and relationships with the Town in General. It was a very constructive meeting and the School were looking at positive solutions, including apprenticeships to encourage positive behaviour. The School would like to hold these fact finding meetings once a term (3 per year) and the Town Council were happy to agree with this.  
Chris Merricks had resigned his position as chair of NPAG and the Clerk had written to him on behalf of the Town Council to thank him for the work and time that he had contributed with others to make this important document for the Town.  
There had been some issues with the timings on the Christmas lights, but these had hopefully been sorted.

The Clerk thanked Cynthia (her assistant) for the great work that she had done whilst the Clerk had been on holiday. It was much appreciated.

The mayor thanked the Clerk for her verbal report.

397/22 **To receive the financial reports and reconciliation statements for the month of October and receive an update on the budget preparation.**  
Cllr Findlay gave an overview; we were in a good position.  
It was proposed that the accounts and reconciliation be accepted.  
Cllr Findlay also advised that budget preparations were well underway, and a F & G P meeting was taking place next week to start to finalise some figures before presentation to Full Council in January.  
Proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded Cllr Ainslie **Resolved unanimously.**

398/22

**To agree and sign off the Draft Neighbourhood Plan to Regulation 14 in accordance with the formal requirements of such.**

The Mayor overviewed the document and confirmed that there had been no emails or telephone calls to the office before tonight's meetings. The Mayor asked members to suggest some dates for the consultation period and drop-in sessions, these were agreed at the consultation running from 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> February with drop in events on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January. The Clerk would insert these into the document. Councillors who were happy to get involved with the drop-in sessions were Cllrs Casewell, Hobbs, Fish, Rees, Ainslie, Clarke, Shaw, Simpson. A question was asked regarding the Government's recent announcements concerning advisory targets for housing numbers. It was felt that we should still go to consultation so we can get feedback from the residents, especially given the government's propensity to change its policies. The Mayor asked if anyone had any further comments regarding the plan. A comment was made requesting sight of the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment), this unfortunately would be with us on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk had checked that there were no showstoppers within the SEA, and the Clerk feels positive that this will not impact on our ability to sign off the regulation 14 tonight. Indeed, the comments had been extremely positive. The SEA will be posted and will sit alongside the Regulation 14 document. Cllr Hobbs wished to raise some clarification on certain issues which were addressed within the meeting to Council's satisfaction. Certain points the Clerk will raise with our consultant regarding housing numbers.

It was proposed that Uppingham Town Council approve this document to go forward as its formal Regulation 14.

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

The clerk has delegated responsibility to go forward to print these booklets when the SEA is received.

399/22

**To consider the finalised SEA Report and draft consultation questions.**

The mayor overviewed the consultation questions which had been prepared by Clive Keeble. The questions are tick boxes, but additional comments can be made and will be welcomed.

To accept the consultation questions with some grammatical amendments. Proposed by Cllr Reeve, seconded by Cllr Ainslie. **Resolved unanimously**

400/22

**To discuss planning applications:**

**2022/1314/CAT | T4 - Remove the leaning stem on the western side of the triple stemmed Alder and reduce crown by 5 meters and shape. T5 - neighbouring Chestnut - remove lowest limb over house to main stem to give property clearance. | Spring House 11 Spring Back Way Uppingham Rutland LE15 9TT**  
Council recommends this application for approval.

Proposed Cllr Reeve, seconded Cllr Shaw **Resolved unanimously**

**2022/1339/CAT | Fell 1 No. Walnut tree. | Stonehurst 57 High Street East  
Uppingham Rutland LE15 9PY**

Council recommends this application for approval.

Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Edwards **Resolved unanimously**

**2022/1344/CAT | 1 x Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn), remove to ground level (N.01054), 1 x Malus (Apple Tree), remove to ground level (N.01055) 4 x Prunus (Cherry Tree) cherry multi stem cherry trees, remove to ground level (N.01056 to N.01059) 1 x Fraxinus (Ash tree), remove to ground level (N.01060). Once works have been carried out 3 more appropriately sized trees will be planted. | Constables 21 Leicester Road Uppingham Rutland LE15 9SE**

Council recommends this application but would request that the Ash Tree remains.

Proposed by Cllr Reeve, Seconded by Cllr Rees. (7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention)

**Cllr Clarke thanked everyone for attending the meeting, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and the meeting closed at 8.45 PM**

Signed .....Mayor/Chair

Dated.....