

**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,
held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Present, Cllrs Liz Clarke, David Ainslie, Daniel Clayton, Lindsay Cooper, Christine Edwards, Sam Findlay, Mike Fish, Barry Hobbs, Peter Rees, Dick Reeve, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson

The Admin Assistant, Cynthia Ondeng and 5 members of the public (RCC Cllr Stephen Lambert) were also in attendance.

411/23 Mayor's opening remarks

The Mayor (Cllr Clarke) welcomed everyone to the meeting and started off by providing an update on the welfare of the Town Clerk, Sharon Coe who is now getting better. The Mayor also advised that she will be visiting with Sharon on 2nd February 2023 who has requested some bits of work although it will still be some time until she returns to full health. Sharon is duly kept up to date and speaks with Cynthia a couple of times in the week.

The drop-in sessions for the Neighbourhood Plan were successful.

An article in the newspaper incorrectly reported that the refreshed Neighbourhood Plan has so far cost the Council of £1M to produce. This should have said that the financial *benefit* to the Community of the Neighbourhood Plan was £1m.

The RCC Parking Manager, James von der Voelsungen has arranged a meeting with the Town Clerk, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor regarding refreshing of signages, electric car charging and parking areas.

Cllrs Clarke, Clayton, Pallet, and Rees held a meeting on Tod's Piece in relation to the gym equipment to be installed hopefully before Easter holidays and probably before Summer.

Cllr Reeve also mentioned that one of the non-residents remarked that they use Tod's Piece Skateboard Park as it is one of the better ones.

412/23 Apologies for absence.

Cllrs Casewell, Johnson and Pallet.

Proposed by Cllr Ainslie and seconded by Cllr Shaw. **Resolved unanimously.**

413/23 Declarations of members' interests and applications for dispensations

Non-pecuniary interests were declared by Cllr Hobbs in item 8 and by Cllr Simpson in agenda item 9

414/23

An opportunity for the public to speak, in accordance with Standing Orders 2.3.4 – 2.3.9

County Cllr. Lambert gave an update on the Community Speed Watch and advised that there will be a meeting on 22nd 2023 at 14.00hrs at the entrance of Stockerston Road with RCC. Also, there has been no consensus on parking on the green space on Queens Road.

Other members of the public:

Questions arose relating to Uppingham First Partnership in relation to which Councillor is the observer for UTC at meetings, the frequency of meetings and if there are any written or verbal updates.

Crematorium:

Concern about the Crematorium not being mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan and a desire to possibly have this included in future agendas.

Cllr Reeve requested that this item be discussed in the meeting however, the Mayor advised against and explained that this item is not on the agenda and that it will be considered for future discussion when in possession of factual information.

Cllr Findlay advised that it would be a good idea to prepare for this item by inviting people who were familiar with this item for discussion.

The other query was in relation to how the responses to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was being collected and the evaluation of comments.

Removal of graffiti from the skateboard. The Chair advised that it was challenging to get someone to clean up the graffiti however, the process is ongoing.

415/23

To confirm the minutes of the full council meeting held on 11th January 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Shaw and seconded by Cllr Fish. **Resolved unanimously.**

Cllr Hobbs requested an update on uploading draft minutes on the Council website. The Mayor confirmed that the Town Clerk advised that this is not ideal and at present the minutes will be uploaded once ratified by the Council. Cllr Ainslie suggested that it would be appropriate to discuss this issue upon the return of the Town Clerk.

Update on one of the Town Hall hirers was provided including the date of the subsequent meeting.

416/23

To receive and consider a verbal update on the progress with the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Ainslie provided an update which ranged from the number of questionnaires both hard copy and online received so far and the success of the drop in sessions

over the appointed 2 days. He also extended his gratitude to the Councillors who volunteered to assist. The council sponsored drop-in session he attended had some interesting debates and follow up emails from the attendees. There were also meetings with Community Groups, the Neighbourhood Forum, the Residents Association groups and business forums.

On the issue of who will be overseeing this process, Cllr Ainslie advised that this would go through the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group as per the mechanism previously agreed on and their report will be put forward to the Council. Clive Keeble will oversee how the responses are dealt with. The questionnaires will then be recorded, and each given a registration number. At this juncture, Cllr Edwards reminded the public that the questionnaires will not be collected rather it is the resident's responsibility to send them back to the Council.

The Mayor also informed the group that the completed questionnaires will become public documents.

Local Plan:

Cllr Ainslie informed the meeting of the request received from Rutland County Council in relation to call for sites in and around Rutland, requesting the views of the Town Council. There are 14 sites in total and the interactive map is not easy to use. Cllr Ainslie suggested the creation of a working group and present its recommendations as an agenda item for the next meeting. Cllr Simpson expressed concern at the document arguing that it conflicts with neighbourhood plan and requested that assurances be obtained from the Monitoring Officer that Councillors can debate the sites without prejudicing their future rights to vote.

Councillors who volunteered for the working group are as follows: Cllrs Clarke, Ainslie, Shaw, Hobbs, Reeve, Fish, Rees and Simpson.

417/23

To receive a verbal update from FG&P on informal discussions scheduled with Football Club regarding the Lease (item 6 on FG&P Agenda from 28/9/22) Any recommendations to be considered.

Cllr Ainslie informed the meeting that both he and Cllr Findlay have been invited to an informal meeting with the Football Club scheduled to take place on Friday 3rd February 2023. The Town Clerk has given the go ahead for this meeting and a report will be issued to the Council.

Cllr Rees reminded the group that there are old goal posts still lying around on the field which ought to be moved.

418/23

To consider the next steps regarding the lease for the Bowls Club as detailed in minute FG106/22.

Cllr Ainslie discussed the commercial valuation email that was sent to members. The legal advice pertaining to the commercial valuation, initially obtained by the Town Clerk from LRALC, was circulated to all members. Cllr Ainslie further described the history of the relationship of the Bowls Club and the Town Council including the signed lease and agreed rates at the time. The intended outcome is

for the Council to find a way to transfer ownership of the Bowls Club building to the Bowls Club and one way might be by granting a mortgage payable over 50 years with repayments set at the current level of £1500 per annum. The Council would still have a legal mortgage over the building should the Bowls Club default. LRALC advised that further consultation would be beneficial to ensure that what is agreed is in the best interest of all stakeholders.

Cllr Reeve suggested reducing £10,000 from the value of the building. Cllr Findlay suggested that the Council had correctly obtained the market value of the property and had a duty to the parishioners to obtain best value on behalf of everyone.

Cllr Ainslie concluded by suggesting that members empower him and Cllr Findlay to negotiate with the Bowls Club before bringing any final deal back to the Council for formal consideration. Proposed by Cllr Reeve and seconded by Rees. **Resolved.** (11 for 1 abstention)

419/23

To consider the programme of proposed Uppingham Road Closures for 2023 for forwarding to Rutland County Council.

Cllr Simpson advised that previously, the County Council sent a schedule of Road Closures to the Town Clerk who was empowered to put together a list of the schedule for the Council to discuss. The big events would need to reach the Council 2 months in advance to allow for risk assessments. The situation at present is that County Council will now collate all the Road Closures with the advantage being that all the groups involved will now only pay a share of one legal closure. Cllr Simpson requested members to consider having control over road closures in order to keep the total number of road closures as few as possible. The Council is allowed no more than 20 events per annum in the Market Square.

Request put forward to send the list of road closures be sent to County Council as it is. Proposed by Cllr Clarke and seconded by Cllr Edwards. **Resolved unanimously.**

420/23

To consider establishing a scheme to assist in the funding of Uppingham Community Groups wishing to celebrate the Kings Coronation.

The Mayor put forward a question on whether the Council has funds to put towards the Street parties, bunting and food in celebration of the King's Coronation on 6th May 2023. Cllr Findlay suggested a sum of £100 per applicant. Cllr Ainslie suggested funding of £100 - £200.

Cllr Edwards proposed that whoever applies for the funding should be subject to accountability procedures.

Applications for the funding would be invited from the parishioners. The Mayor/Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk would assess all the applications and ask for breakdown of costs and ultimately receipts. These would be brought back to the April meeting.

Cllr Shaw suggested a limit of £1700 for the celebrations.

Proposed by Cllr Simpson and seconded by Cllr Edwards. **Resolved unanimously.**

421/23

To consider any late Planning Applications that have been received at the Town Hall.

There were none.

The Mayor thanked everybody and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.