

**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,  
held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm.**

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

The Town Clerk Sharon Coe, Cynthia Ondeng Administration Assistant.

19 members of the public (RCC Cllrs, Lucy Stephenson and Stephen Lambert) were also in attendance.

438/23

**Mayor's opening remarks**

The Mayor (Cllr Clarke) welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated members and the public on the following. The Mayor asked the public gallery if they had seen the new Gym on Tod's Piece, which had been received very well in the community. The election for the Town Council had been uncontested with 13 members being elected for the following four-year term, there was therefore two vacant positions which could be considered by co-option. The Mayor thanked all that had contributed to the life of the council in the past. Special mentions were given to Dick Reeve and Dave Casewell who had been long standing councillors. Thanks, were also given to Marc Oxley as he had been a Town Council member and latterly a County Council member for Uppingham. The Clerk will write a letter of thanks to the people concerned for their service.

439/23

**To receive apologies for absence.**

It was proposed by Cllr Edwards and seconded by Cllr Shaw that the apologies from Cllrs Johnson and Pallet were accepted. Cllr Ainslie may be late as he was attending a family funeral. Resolved unanimously.

440/23

**Declarations of members' interests and applications for dispensations**

There were none declared.

441/23

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

Q. Thanks were given from the public to Dick, Charlie, and Dave for their work at Council. When did the Council's only advisory committee turn itself into a working party? Why were the public excluded, and why were the meetings being held in the Falcon.

A. This would be picked up in the following report, but the Town hall was fully booked on that evening, so the venue had to be changed.

Q. A question was posed regarding the Uppingham Vanguard board and their minutes. Has the observer made any reports to UTC? Does UTC consider it appropriate for housing developers to engage through the Vanguard.?

A. The Mayor once again reiterated that Vanguard is different to the Town Council and questions should be addressed to Vanguard directly.

She also confirmed that developers do present to Full Council at private sessions, so that all Councillors may ask questions directly. These happen prior to Council meetings.

Q. UIB – Thanks for confirming the grant for which they are grateful. There will be additional tree planting this year. Vandalism had been experienced on Tod's Piece, Could additional lighting be considered? A. This will be added to the Amenity's agenda.

Q. There was concern that item 11 on the agenda was up for discussion. Why was it necessary to create more allotments on Leicester Road, was it because there was an appetite to build on Tod's Piece. The allotments wanted clarity on tenure. A. The Mayor

confirmed that security of tenure was confirmed by the contracts and there were no plans to build on Tod's Piece.

Q. A statement was read that there was concern about Councillors involved in various groups and their conflicts of interest.

A. The Mayor made it quite clear that all Councillors fill in a declaration of interests form at the start of their tenure and can also ask for dispensations throughout the council term.

For clarification the law is defined below.

**“Councillors’ conduct in relation to interests, including general registration of them, is regulated in England by the Localism Act 2011 and by local codes of conduct. In England, a member may not participate or participate further in any discussion of a matter at a meeting or participate in any vote, or further vote at the meeting, if he or she is aware that he or she has a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter. (Localism Act, s.31). But either or both of these restrictions may be lifted if the member applies in writing to his or her council under s33 and the council grants that dispensation.”**

The retiring High Sheriff wished to thank all the people he had seen in his role who had given significant time to the interests of their community. He thanked all Councillors present and possible reasons including Social Media amongst others in people not stepping forward. Democracy is important and views and differences should be debated in the correct places. He highlighted the fabulous town we have and the work that local councillors do.

442/23

**To confirm the minutes of the full council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

Proposed by Cllr Fish, seconded By Cllr Hobbs. **Resolved unanimously with a minor amendment.**

443/23

**To receive the update form the working party of NPAG held on 21<sup>st</sup> March.**

Cllr Simpson gave an overview as acting chairman. (The Clerk had distributed the working notes to all members of the Council prior to this meeting) The working party meeting had been called as the consultant wished to ask a series of questions to help formulate some of the questions in the draft plan. Usually, such meetings would involve the Clerk/Mayor/Deputy Mayor but in the true spirit of transparency a decision was made to involve the whole of NPAG who would be representative of the community by virtue of the community groups they represented. By the end of the meeting a position was reached where the consultant felt with the answers, he had received that he could now complete the draft in time for the second meeting. The draft would then be presented to a public meeting of NPAG and ultimately with the new Council which will have the final decision.

A meeting was subsequently held with Roger Ransom RCC at the request of the consultant to update them on our progress. One of the concerns coming out of the responses was the number of homes proposed. RCC are working with the figures that they have and the current councillors. As the elections are imminent, we may get a different message from RCC as to the numbers required following the new council being in place and possible new steers regarding the new local plan.

He mentioned that RCC will not be doing site assessments for Uppingham, instead they will rely on the site assessments already completed by NPAG. Uppingham is behind on numbers from previous plans and therefore they will honour the higher numbers. The external examiner might still propose changes in numbers. A discussion also took place regarding should we pause/stop our plan around the information that was coming out

from the government, (Gove statement). The advice was very clear that we should proceed with the guidance as it is at the moment which RCC are doing with the Local Plan. We were urged to proceed as rapidly as we can. Questions were posed and answered regarding numbers and phasing.

A slight amendment was made on the percentage response to 7.1%.

To receive as amended. Proposed Cllr Simpson, Seconded Cllr Ainslie. **Resolved unanimously.**

Cllr Casewell requested that he may be allowed to stay on the NPAG even though he could not be a Council representative following the elections as he would be standing down from the Town Council. The Town Council can appoint an individual to the group if it is believed that said person will add value to the committee. (Standing order 1.12.6) It was proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Edwards that Dave Casewell continue on NPAG following the elections. Resolved unanimously.

444/23

**To receive the Clerk's report and any recommendation /actions therein.**

The Clerk reported the following:

- Allotments – Everyone on the waiting list had been contacted. Following this, allotments had been offered on both Tod's Piece (TP) and Leicester Road. There is now 1 person waiting for a half plot at TP. The Clerk would be setting up an allotment inspection working party to ensure that allotments were being used as per the rules and regulations in conjunction with both allotment associations.
- Town Meeting - This would be called on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 6- 8pm in the Town Hall, presentations would be made by Root and Branch (Community Fridge) and we were awaiting a reply from the Drs surgery.
- Outdoor Gym. This had been installed and was being well utilised. The Clerk had updated the insurance policy to include this new equipment.
- Hogs Hill Railings - The Clerk's office was obtaining quotes for the repair.
- Keyholding - The Clerk advised that she was trying to fill this role due to the previous holder relinquishing the position. She gave thanks to Cynthia and Councillors who had stepped in to help.
- Town Hall hire. – The Clerk was pleased to report that this was going well with new bookings being taken and this looked very healthy.
- Wicksteed Leisure had completed the annual safety inspection of the TP equipment and the report had been received with recommendations. The Clerk was working through this.

The report was proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded Cllr Shaw. **Resolved unanimously.**

445/23

**To receive the financial accounts and reconciliation statements to end of March 2023.**

Proposed Cllr Rees, seconded Cllr Shaw. (9 for, 2 abstentions)

The Clerk also confirmed that she had still not received an acknowledgement from Barclays regarding the complaint she had lodged as per previous meeting minutes.

446/23

**To consider funding of a commemorative bench in respect of the Coronation of HM King Charles III. (deferred from last month due to quotations not being received)**

The Clerk had received the quotation, and this was approved.

Proposed Cllr Ainslie, Seconded Cllr Edwards. (10 for, 1 against)

447/23 **To consider the following queries and give feedback/views to the Parking Services Manager at Rutland County Council.**

Council felt that the requested items needed more explanation from the Parking Manager and requested the Clerk to formally invite him to a future council meeting before any decisions were made.

Proposed Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Rees. **Resolved unanimously.**

448/23 **To consider extending the allotment plots within the Leicester Road Allotment site to meet resident demand.**

Due to the updated allotment report from the Clerk, this item is now not needed.

449/23 **To consider the following planning applications.**

**2023/0299/FUL.** Replacement of windows (like for like) – 29 North Street West, Uppingham, Rutland. LE15 9SF.

Council recommends approval. Proposed Cllr Shaw, seconded Cllr Edwards. **Resolved unanimously.**

450/23 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”**

**Confidential Text has been removed**

The meeting finished at 8.35pm.