

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016** (Meeting commenced at 7:30 pm)

**024/16 Attendance Register:**

**Present:** David Ainslie (Chair), David Casewell, Alec Crombie, Christine Edwards, Sam Findlay, Miranda Jones, Peter Rees, Richard Reeve, Stephen Rozak, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson, Ian Salt and Cornelius Vincent-Enright.

**025/16 Apologies for Absence:**

Bill O’Leary advised he was on holiday. Proposed these be accepted by Christine Edwards, seconded by Mark Shaw and unanimously agreed.

**026/16 Declaration of Members Interests:**

None

**027/16 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.** These were formally accepted and duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed by David Casewell, seconded by Cornelius Vincent-Enright and unanimously agreed.

Lindsay Cooper joined the meeting at 7:34pm

**028/16 Town Mayor’s Report:**

The Mayor gave a brief overview from his report which is included in the annual report on pages 4 to 6. These included the delivery of the car parking service level agreement, improvements to Tod’s Piece, making the Neighbourhood Plan by Rutland County Council, involvement of the Uppingham Town Centre and Business Zone Plan and realizing the next phase of plans to refurbish the Town Hall.

The Mayor thanked council members for their support and committee chairs for their hard work during the year.

**029/16 Presentation of the Annual Report:**

The Annual Report was presented to members of the public.

**030/16 Clerk’s Report on Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015:**

The Clerk presented the report and highlighted the key differences year on year. The council remains in a healthy position financially and it would continue to make use of grants to fund community and council orientated projects and initiatives as it had in previous years.

The significant variations year on year which resulted in an intermediate audit were as a result of a number of projects including the skate park, Heritage Trail, Town Hall feasibility plan and the latter stages of the Neighbourhood Plan. All these resulted in a rise in income from grants.

In expenditure terms the significant increase in salary costs was mainly due to the handover period of 3 months by the retiring and incoming clerk.

*A question was posed about allotment costs – two items of clearance were needed in the year for Leicester Road which was not anticipated*

**031/15 Clerk’s Report on estimates for the coming year – 2016/17:**

The Clerk ran through the estimates for the coming year and explained the approach taken to arrive at the approved submission to Rutland County Council in January 2016. The increase budgets had been driven by a number of factors which can be summarized as:

- Pension provision to comply with auto enrolment requirements
- Ongoing training of new clerk

- Provision for an assistant clerk at some point in the new financial year
- Freedom of Uppingham event
- Replacement and overhaul of Christmas lighting phase 1

**032/15 Clerk's Report on Parochial Charities:**

The Clerk explained the current and future approach the charity will be taking on supporting local hardship cases. A number of awards had been made in the year and a rent review of the land at Ashton had taken place resulting in an increase in future income.

*Two or three questions were asked by newer councilors who were not familiar with the role of the Clerk and trustees..*

**Opportunity for members of the public / electorate to speak and ask questions:**

**Q1 From Marc Oxley:** Mr Oxley raised a question about the ceasing of the car park subsidy paid by Uppingham Town Council to Rutland County Council. He was disappointed to see that the payment wouldn't be made even though it was shown in the budgets for 2016/17.

Cllr. David Ainslie responded saying that the budgets were set before the item was discussed, therefore, provision was made but at a later meeting council voted not to pay it in the coming year.

**Q2 From Caroline Crombie:** Mrs Crombie raised a concern about the amount of litter currently in certain parts of town and wondered if there were any initiatives that could address the problem. The churchyard, A47 triangle were mentioned as examples.

The Clerk advised that these were areas hopefully to be addressed through the provision of more litter bins and a reviewed maintenance contract with CORY. Cllr. Ron Simpson indicated that maybe this could be a campaign through a group such as Uppingham in Bloom.

**Q3 From Robin Schlich:** Mr Schlich raised a concern about the development of the site known locally as 'Old Constables'. He gave a brief resume of the history attached to the site and then asked for the Council to engage with the developers to understand fully what works were being undertaken.

A number of attendees offered views on what was happening and it was concluded that the Clerk should make enquiries with the agents for the owners.

Meeting closed at 08:36 pm.