**Uppingham Town Council: Locum Clerk’s report to full Council meeting, 4 March 2021**

1. The elections on Thursday 6 May (Town Council by-election, plus Police & Crime Commissioner – both items deferred from 2020) will be subject to the following timetable:

* Nominations (to be submitted to RCC, not UTC) open on 25 March
* Nominations close on 8 April at 4pm

UK elections are preceded by a period (in this case 25 March-6 May) called purdah, during which all elected bodies must take care not to do or say anything which might be seen as giving electoral advantage to, or providing any comment on the merits of, any candidate in the election. See <https://local.gov.uk/our-support/purdah>

1. The Market Square toilets project continues to await RCC’s legal department issuing the necessary documentation to our solicitor to progress change of ownership. RCC have produced a draft but have yet to finalise it. I continue to chase.
2. Our Listed Building Consent application for the Market Square memorial project has now led to some questions from RCC’s Conservation Officer, to which I replied last week – so we await his further thoughts.
3. The hedge-cutting at Leicester Rd allotments commenced last week, despite some unresolved issues with those allotment-holders who had encroached on the area close to the hedge - these were probably not going to be resolved by us waiting any longer before carrying out the work. Most people appear to regard the cut hedge as a considerable improvement.
4. The Council has previously resolved to close our interest-bearing CCLA account, because it is not covered by the FSCS £85k guarantee against a bank becoming insolvent. During February, Neil Wedge’s name was removed as being CCLA’s formal Correspondent for this account, with my name substituted instead. Then the £150k in our CCLA account was reduced to £70k, with £80k instead being invested in a new account with the Cambridge Building Society which is in the process of being opened by us at the time of writing this report. Once that transaction is complete, removing the other £70k from CCLA will be addressed.
5. It appears that all children’s activities (including indoors) will be permitted by government no earlier than 12 April. This will allow us to reopen the Town Hall to those hirers who operate children’s dance & movement classes. Classes for adults appear to be permissible no earlier than 17 May, though detailed government guidance on that is still emerging. I intend to firm up on these dates with hirers once we have full clarity from government. The latter’s advice that staff should work from home remains - without a firm end-date, pending further government announcements.
6. At February’s full Council meeting, I was remitted to investigate whether covenants in the 2019 documents transferring the former Bloor Homes land to UTC prevent us from letting it to anyone wishing to build on it. Having checked with our solicitors, Hegarty’s, and also with Bloor Homes, this will not be a constraint in certain circumstances; I will explain further at our 4 March meeting.

PJL, 1-3-21