**Uppingham Town Council**

**DRAFT Minutes** **of Environment, Infrastructure & Amenities Committee – Wednesday 3 July 2024 at 6pm**

Present: Cllrs Liz Clarke (Chair), Trevor Colbourne, Barry Hobbs, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson, David Ainslie (ex officio)

Also in attendance were 2 members of the public and Locum Clerk P Leppard.

1. **Apologies for Absence** None
2. **Declaration of Members’ Interests and Requests for Dispensation** None
3. **An opportunity for the public to speak**

A member of the public commented on the underfoot condition of the children’s play area on Tod’s Piece.

1. **Terms of reference**

This being the first meeting of this new Committee, its Terms of Reference were noted.

1. **Minutes of 11 April meeting of the former Amenities committee**

It was resolved to adopt these as an accurate record of the meeting.

1. **Cllr Hobbs’ report on disabled access to the Town Hall**

It was resolved to obtain quotations for (a) the section of the report entitled ‘Rear entrance – Option 1’ and (b) any upgrade necessary to the back door to make it fully wheelchair-accessible, and to then seek funding from (for example) the National Lottery.  **Action: Clerk**

1. **Fencing repairs, London Rd cemetery**

It was resolved to now recommend to full Council replacement of the fence alongside the A6003 owing to its poor condition, after obtaining the view of the F&GP Committee on affordability of the estimates received.

1. **High St regeneration**

It was resolved to, in respect of possible uses of UKSPF funds, recommend to RCC that these be spent on (a) refurbishment of the tired appearance of the underfoot surfaces and street furniture of Market Place, (b) improved Town Centre signage generally, (c) provision of an ‘electronic noticeboard’ visible from the A6003 to enable town events to be more easily advised to passing traffic, (d) progression of the long-discussed Baines Corner scheme, (e) repair/replacement of those RCC town-centre litterbins which have developed a poor appearance, and (f) a contribution towards creating more satisfactory disabled access to Uppingham Town Hall. **Action: Clerk**

1. **Skate park repairs**

It was resolved to obtain sufficient estimates for a mixture of cladding repair and new landscaped mounds (to cover up existing cladding), and then seek suitable grants from Augean (waste management) and the Police & Crime Commissioner to fund these works. **Action: Clerk**

1. **Tod’s Piece play area**

In respect of vegetation incursion through the play area surface, it was resolved to instigate suitable remedial works after obtaining the view of the F&GP Committee on affordability of the estimates received (claiming against the original warranty if still valid). **Action: Clerk**

1. **Hardstanding for waste bins**

It was noted that new bins currently on order will need to be fixed to renewed hardstanding. It was resolved that, as part of that, two bins currently very close to one particular public seat both need to be moved further away from that seat. It was further resolved that a condition survey of all the Town Council’s bins needs to be undertaken. **Action: Clerk**

1. **Baines Corner**

It was noted that the Clerk had recently raised with RCC’s Director for Places the need to identify what the next step is towards implementing the proposed Baines Corner licence for UTC.

1. **Public benches**

It was noted that the previous 2 benches ordered have inadvertently become useful outside the Town Hall, so 2 more have now been ordered so as to address the originally-intended purpose of the former.

1. **Town Hall bar area**

It was resolved that the damaged wall-surface in this area will be repaired in the near future.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Town Hall CCTV system**

This was noted to be currently functioning adequately.

1. **Biodiversity**

It was noted that there exists a proposed Biodiversity policy for this Council, and it was resolved to now recommend this to full Council for formal adoption, after which some community engagement should be the next step.

1. **Uppingham Library refurbishment**

It was noted that, although RCC has been asked for details of how they propose a temporary Library might operate in the Town Hall, these have yet to be forthcoming, so next steps remain unclear.

1. **Xmas lights renewal**

It was noted that estimates are currently being obtained, and that the Council has an earmarked reserve available towards the cost. It was resolved that Cllr Simpson will consider how best to consult shopkeepers as to possible adoption of a different design. **Action: RS**

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed ……………………..……………………. Dated ……………….