**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,**

**held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Present, Cllrs David Ainslie, Trevor Colbourne Christine Edwards, Lindsay Cooper (7.05), Pat Dalby, Sam Findlay, Mike Fish, Barry Hobbs, Godfrey Jennings, Tom Johnson. Peter Rees, Ron Simpson. Ray Sutton.

The Town Clerk Sharon Coe, Cynthia Ondeng Administration Assistant.

15members of the public

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Cllr Hobbs – Dispensation for council term – Uppingham Homes CLT  Also Items 6 and 11d (CURTAIN UPP) on this agenda  Cllr Colbourne - Dispensation for council term – Uppingham First  Cllr Ainslie - Dispensation for council term - Bloors Land  Cllr Simpson - item 11a (Upp first)  **To receive a presentation from Uppingham School regarding community engagement.**  This item was brought forward as the two prefects (Holly & Freddie) had another engagement that evening.  A full and engaging presentation was delivered where the main focus was to implement and change some negative connotations previously. They wanted to work with and invite members of the community to share various activities such as the Art exhibition (12th January 24), plans for the arboretum to be a nature reserve, cricket, sport, and the theatre. Questions were posed and answered, and they were invited back to a future council meeting. They were thanked for their presentation.  **An opportunity for the public to speak, in accordance with Standing Orders 3.6 – 3.11**  A statement was made regarding democracy and perceptions.  A question was raised on the dog poo bins which was clarified.  **To confirm the minutes of the full council meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 2023**  An addition was requested that the words at times unsatisfactory was added to the statement regarding the LRALC training.  The Clerk confirmed she had looked into the hearing loop as had been previously referred to .  Proposed, seconded, and resolved.  **(12 for 1 Abs)**  **To receive a presentation from Leighfield School regarding the previously awarded Grant Aid.**  The Chair explained that this would now take place in the January meeting as it would give more time for all the papers to be presented to Council for consideration, this would enable a more balanced approach.  **To consider the update from the Clerk regarding the possible acquisition of Baines/Dairy corner and the proposal from Rutland County Council. (RCC)**  The Clerk updated council on the meetings held with the CEO and Leader of RCC regarding Baines Corner. RCC were now prepared to transfer the asset to UTC with a payment of £3,500 towards much needed maintenance. Council were pleased as this had long been an ambition and quotes would be obtained by the Clerk’s office.  Resolution: That UTC agree in principle. Future use of Baines corner would be passed to the Amenities committee for all options to be explored. **Proposed, seconded, and** **resolved unanimously.**  **To consider Grant applications from Uppingham Youth Space including a short presentation.** (part 11D) This item was moved up the agenda due to timings for the young person present who was supported by Youth Space leaders.  A short, prepared presentation was presented by Chloe on behalf on the Youth Space, it highlighted in her words, how valuable the club was as a special and social space, there were rules to be followed, but fun and friendship as well as learning new skills and interactions were all experienced. A Youth Council was a part of the youth space, council asked if maybe they would like to return to council in the future, which was welcomed. Chloe was applauded for her presentation.  The Youth Club grant was then discussed, and it was resolved that an amount of £1,532 be awarded to the end of March with an option for them to return in the Council’s new financial year for further funding if required. There were no assurances given, as they would be considered with other groups that might apply for funding in 24-25. **Proposed, seconded, and resolved unanimously.**  **To receive any reports verbal or written from our County Councillors.**  The written report was received from RCC Cllr Wise.  **To receive minutes and recommendations from the Council’s Committees.**  **A)** Finance and general Purposes Committee 15 November 2023  Cllr Findlay proposed that we receive the minutes as circulated. **Proposed, seconded, and resolved unanimously.** Cllr Ainslie proposed that we empower the Clerk as per the minutes/resolutions to transfer £100k to an instant access account to take advantage to an increased interest rate. **Proposed, seconded, and resolved unanimously.**  **B).** Amenities Committee 15th November 2023.  Cllr Fish asked for questions, there were no questions raised, he mentioned that he had let the Clerk have a copy of the meeting that had been held with some allotment holders, this would go to Amenities in the first instance.  The minutes were proposed seconded and **received unanimously.**  **Finance.**  **A To authorise accounts for payment on 10th December.**  Accounts for payment total £35,188.05. **Proposed, seconded (13 for, 1 abs)**  **B.** **To receive the finance report for the months of October and November including income and expenditure to budget, including year to date, reconciliation, and balance sheet and to sign the same.**  Cllr Findlay overviewed the accounts for members for clarification, including a comment on the positive increased Town Hall lettings. A question was raised about phasing the budget this would be tasked to F & G P committee in the future.  Receive the financial reports, Proposed**, seconded, and resolved unanimously.**  **C.** **To discuss the draft budget for 24/25 for Uppingham to assess the direction of travel prior to a sign off and issue of precept request to RCC in January.**  The chair reported that the Clerk had prepared a comprehensive spreadsheet for members using a 9% inflation overall figure, and known increases, it also included items that needed to be built in. F & G P had met to discuss this initial budget and agreed an increase of 11.6% precept increase which equated to roughly £8.00 per house per year increase. Subsequently we had received some invoices (electricity and heritage lighting increases) which means a revisit to the initial figures before signing off to ensure all known facts. There were now a number of options:  Choices would be considered making amendments to the existing well discussed budget in front of members and cutting back on expenditure.  Make an inflated budget to take account of the increased needs.  Use the money from the Bloors site to help the budget precept request.  Council wished that the direction of travel was to try to keep the budget at 11.6%, keeping the projects put forward.  **D.** To consider Grant Aid applications from revised Curtain Upp application.  Questions were proposed, some members felt that there wasn’t a perceived need, but the overall conclusion was to award the £680 grant requested to Curtain Upp with further information being received and distributed by the Clerk.  **Proposed, seconded (9 for, 1 against, 3 abs)**  **To discuss the Rutland Local Plan and consultation requested, with specific emphasis on Uppingham.**  Cllr Simpson gave an overview, and it was felt that the RCC Local Plan and was generally supportive but there were some conflicts. It was felt that the Clerk should write back through the consultation process with the following statement.  UTC welcome the RCC local plan recognising the importance of our Neighbourhood Plan and further urge RCC not to introduce anything in their local plan that could conflict in any way with the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan.  Proposed, seconded, **(12 for 1 against).**  **To receive the clarification note requests from the external examiner, (via RCC) and any actions as appropriate.**  The statements made by the external examiner were felt to be very positive.  The proposal is that we engage our consultant Clive at his normal costs to do the first draft of these answers as they are very technical. The Clerk to apply to RCC for an extension to 20th January 2024 to give our consultant time to look how our plan fits with RCC’s local plan. To engage with NPAG when we have Clive’s responses and arrange a meeting prior to UTC’s next meeting on the 10th, so all can be reviewed.  Proposed, seconded and resolved (12, 1 abs)  **To receive the Clerk’s report and any recommendations within it.**  The Clerk’s report had been tabled to all members prior to the meeting.  The Clerk highlighted the main points and brought members attention to the upcoming meeting dates.  Actions arising:  That the clerk write to the barbers confirming that UTC would pay for any cosmetic damage if the clips were ever removed from their premises.  The Clerk continue to chase open reach Open Reach regarding the wrongly sited telegraph pole on Beast Hill.  Cemetery spaces – the Clerk continuing to progress the issue regarding the gifting of a grave space from a funeral director.  A point of order was raised regarding the identity of the funeral director, it was accepted that the FD was not named at this time due to declarations around the table.  The Clerk brought members attention to the Church Clock and its repair; this will be an agenda item for the January meeting.  Proposed, seconded, **and Resolved unanimously.**  A point was raised regarding the timings of a proposed draft of a letter to the Dr’s surgery.  Thanks were given to the Clerk and a proposal was made to accept the Clerk’s report.  Proposed, seconded, **and Resolved unanimously.**  **To receive the LRALC decision regarding the Standing orders clarification.**  The Chair overviewed the issue and reminded members that we had always accepted LRALCs decision as our final arbiter. Council found the language disappointing, and the answer was thought to be “waffle”. Th Chair pointed out that this item had been debated and therefore could not be redebated at this point as per our rules and timescales in our standing orders.  Proposed, seconded, and resolved (9 for, 4 against)  **To consider the re-appointing of a trustee for the James Thorpe Charity.**  The Chair explained the council had the right to nominate a trustee for a 4-year term, a question was posed to ask whether we wanted a councillor to take that role. Following the discussion it was decided that we agenda the item in the January meeting.  Proposed, seconded, and **resolved unanimously.**  **To authorise the proposed Road Closured for Uppingham Events in 2024/2025**  The list had been distributed for members. The Fatstock show was added.  **Proposed, seconded, (12 for 1 abs)**  **To receive a verbal update on tonight’s planning meeting.**  Cllr Hobbs gave a verbal update on the three applications at the meeting and the minutes will be available in the usual way.  Due to timing the chair intervened to request a 5-minute extension.  **Proposed, seconded, and resolved unanimously.**  The verbal report was received. Proposed, seconded, and resolved unanimously.  **To note correspondence.**  **The correspondence was noted as per the agenda item.**  Proposed, seconded, and **Resolved unanimously.**  The meeting closed at 9.05pm and the chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas.  Signed…………………………………………………………………… Deputy Chair of Council  Dated…………………………………………………………………… |
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