

Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting held at Uppingham Town Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 7th June 2023

Present: Liz Clarke (Chair), David Ainslie, Lindsay Cooper, Pat Dalby, Christine Edwards, Mike Fish, Sam Findlay, Barry Hobbs, Tom Johnson, Godfrey Jennings, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson, Ray Sutton.

Also present: Cynthia Ondeng Admin Asst, County Councillors Lucy Stephenson & Dr Christine Wise, Clive Keeble (Consultant), James von der Voelsungen (Parking Services Manager) and 10 members of the public were also present.

472/23 MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS:

Cllr Clarke extended a warm welcome to all present. She also referred to the Draft (June 2023) copy of the Submission version of the revised Neighbourhood Draft Plan that had been distributed beforehand in print copy to all Councillors. She urged them to read through in preparation for the meeting to be held on 21st June 2023 when it will be discussed. Cllr Clarke further noted that other notable papers to read through are the Consultation Statements Volumes I & II which will also be useful for the newly elected Councillors and interested members of the public who are keen to understand how we got to this stage. She went on to advise that the Consultation Statements will provide you with an overview of all the information regarding all details of every meeting, decision, public meetings, documents submitted to RCC and every part of consultation on how the Neighbourhood Plan has developed to date.

473/23 To receive apologies for absence.

None

474/23 Declaration of members' interests and applications for dispensations.

Non-Pecuniary interests/dispensations were requested by Cllr Ron Simpson on items 5,8,10e,11,13a & d.

475/23 Public Speaking – an opportunity for the public to speak in accordance with Standing Orders 2,3,4 – 2.3.9

Bin removed from Westin that need replacing. More drop kerbs required in the Town and some bollards are too narrow for wheelchair/double buggy access. Ongoing issues on speeding in the town. There will be a Speed Watch in Town from 4th September to 17th September 2023 on Stockerston Road and London Road. Training for this event will be conducted in the Town Hall on 29th August 2023 from 17:30 – 19:00hrs. Volunteers required to adequately cover the routes. Uppingham Feast Grant from the Town Council very much appreciated. Uppingham Feast Day which will be held on 18th June 2023 is open and free for everyone and is also a fantastic opportunity to showcase the Town. Police Commissioner will be visiting the Town on 15th June 2023 from 14:00hrs to 15:00hrs and if Council would like any issues raised with the PC – please forward to County Cllr L Stephenson. Minutes & accounts not easy to find on website, FOI needs updating. Website upgrade to be considered.

476/23 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th May 2023.

Resolution: It was proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Hobbs and **unanimously agreed** to confirm minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th May 2023.

477/23 To receive the Clerk's Report and any recommendations/actions therein.

The Chair advised that any questions in relation to this report should be directed to the Town Clerk upon her return.

478/23 To consider any co-option vacancies following the scheduled elections.

The Chair and Cynthia advised on the voting criteria to be used for the 3 candidates to fill in the 2 vacancies. In the first round, the candidate with the majority (50%) votes will be co-opted and invited

to join in at the table. The other 2 will then return to the ballot for a run-off and the candidate with the most votes at this stage will be co-opted. Both newly co-opted Councillors will be invited to sign the Declaration document before taking a seat at the table. The 3 candidates vying were introduced by the Chair with the exception of Trevor Colbourne who was away on a pre-arranged holiday. Their statements/cv were sent out to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Voting slips were distributed and the voting exercise commenced with Cynthia counting all the votes in the next room. Pat Dalby emerged as the candidate with the majority of votes in the first round and Trevor Colbourne emerged as victor in the 2nd round and will sign the Declaration form upon his return. The Chair welcomed the new Councillors.

479/23 To consider the grant application for Uppingham Feast Day.

Cllr Rees informed the meeting that based upon his past experience the Feast is grateful to have the grant come through the Town Council and recommended that the full grant be issued.

Resolution: It was proposed by Cllr Rees and seconded by Cllr Ainslie. (12 for, 2 abstentions).

480/23 To receive minutes of the Council's Committees and any recommendations to Council. NPAG – 30th May.

Cllr Simpson drew members attention to item 6 (Resolution) and requested that the Council should take a vote separately for the approval of the 2 new members who have been recommended to join NPAG.

Resolution: It was proposed by Cllr Shaw, seconded by Cllr Edwards and **unanimously agreed** to confirm the minutes of the Council's Committees.

Resolution: It was proposed by Cllr Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Johnson and **unanimously agreed** to have Bob Fisher and Cllr Ramsay Ross to join NPAG.

Clive Keeble gave a review of the draft NP and informed the meeting that all documents are in place and that RCC are happy with the approach with the document looking very promising, He also advised that he has just completed the Basic Conditions Statement which is a procedural document required for the referendum.

Mr Keeble was thanked on behalf of both NPAG and Council for all the work he has put into the process and that his expertise has been invaluable. Cllr D Ainslie advised that sometimes the printed quality of Maps was wanting due to the protracted process of transporting the data between various computer programmes. However, going forward the Maps will be much clearer and will be printed to a bigger scale, albeit with minor alterations.

481/23 To consider the following queries and give feedback/views to the Parking Services Manager at RCC.

The Parking Manager informed the meeting that his office seeks a balanced level of enforcement between different stakeholders. He has received various complaints in relation to parking for which he is working through.

a) EV Charging Points – issues

The charging point at Mercers Yard is old technology. BP Pulse have approached us to have them refurbish or replace the charging point at zero cost to the Council. The Clerk has requested the Council's consent so she can go back to BP Pulse and request a full business proposal to bring forward to Council. Although the licence is held by RCC Property Services, RCC will forward all inquiries to Uppingham Town Council. A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of obtaining more Chargers and to identify suitable spots to be considered in conjunction with the number of actual electric cars on our roads.

The meeting was also advised that RCC has successfully bid for funds for commercial operations to provide electric car charging points across the county. The locations are yet to be identified.

A previous plan to have a BP garage in Uppingham did not receive Planning permission.

b) Sign Refreshment – Minor repositioning

Some work has been done on the refreshment of parking signs throughout Uppingham however, there is quite a bit more to do. The parking outside Baines is contradictory and causes confusion to motorists due to the 'No Loading' plate which is at right angles below a directional plate. This meeting was advised that this is acceptable; this could be changed however, the cost threshold might be difficult to obtain. The other issue is parking on the kerb on North Street West. The Parking Manager advised that this is an enforcement issue and made a note of it. Market Place 'no entry' sign needs to be refreshed to deter motorists who drive up the wrong way.

The slip road off High Street East onto North Street East has an arrow indicating one way even though it is currently used as a 2 way. This is however, not in the authority of the Parking Services Manager.

More pointers to the Car Parks needed in the Town. Mutual actions agreed that Council will let the Parking Services Manager know where they would like the signs to go up.

Existing signs will be refreshed as they are although some signs will need to be moved around slightly because they are in the wrong space.

c) Spring back Way – Disabled Bay

The Parking Services Manager advised that there has been some strong correspondence on why there is still an advisory disabled bay on this road. RCC is reluctant to take away the disabled bay without consultation especially if located in a Town Centre area. The Council agreed to turn this bay into a Residents Parking/2 hour waiting bay.

d) Stockerston Road – Resident/shared parking bays

Residents have requested more parking bays on this road however, the only available slot will be near the School theatre. Council resolved that no more residents' bays required on this road. This will be a Highways concern going forward.

e) Norton Street Corner – Informal Measures

The Council is not keen to put more double yellow lines on Norton Street Corner. Instead, an advisory sign has been put up in the corner of the building. Council resolved to let the sign stay in place as it seems to be working.

f) Coach Parking – General Views

No formal Coach Parking in Uppingham and there is no room for one in the Town Centre. Uppingham School does have some facilities for Coach parking. The Parking Services Manager advised that there was an irritation by tour companies over unavailability of Coach Parking behind the Falcon Hotel. RCC contacted the School about 6 months ago to agree a joint working partnership between RCC and the School. No response has been obtained to date. Coach Parking/drop off needs to be as close to the Town Centre as much as possible. Cllr Simpson advised Uppingham Gate, has potential space for Coach Parking and the Hopper could transport passengers into the Town at no cost as part of the final design. A suggestion was made to have the Parking Services Manager explore some alternatives about what we could do and revert to Council. Council agreed that the Parking Services Manager will approach the School again and possibly UCC as well in relation to a possible working partnership with regards to Coach Parking. There was also a suggestion of possibly securing parking off the A47 if the School is unable to assist.

g) Holiday Lets/Visitors Permits

Residents have informed RCC that there are not enough parking spaces for residents and new home owners in the Town Centre have also complained about lack of permits for their Air BnB guests and other visitors. RCC has reasonable set of eligibility tests for residents permit and is seeking views from UTC on providing more permits for visitors. Parking permits are limited because most places are within reasonable distance to a car park or unrestricted area. Everywhere else is a shared 2 hr limited wait

with the exception of Leamington Terrace. No representations have been received from the residents and if the issue is brought up in future, approach the County Councillor or MP.
It was agreed that considering a lack of parking for the residents in Town Centre, the current RCC policy should stay in place.

h) Line Refreshment – Are single yellow lines on High Street East (south kerb) and High Street West (south kerb and north by the School shop to Orange Street) still required or should double yellow lines be considered.

There is a single yellow line on one side of the road where the School Shop is located towards to the entrance of Costa Coffee Shop which, theoretically allows vehicles to park overnight. The Council recommended that this should remain as double yellow lines.

Gainsborough Road

Cllr Johnson informed the meeting that on match days, motor vehicles are parked on both sides of the road making it impossible to get an emergency vehicle through should one be required. Double yellow lines were requested on this road however, Council was advised that this is a Highways concern.

High Street East – from Market Place to Queen Street to the roundabout

Motorists park halfway on the kerb and randomly on both single and double yellow lines after the Enforcement Officer has left. Cllr Ainslie opined that It is also a balancing act between supporting the businesses and compliance. The road is wide enough to let cars through even when vehicles are parked on both sides of the road.

It was agreed that the single yellow lines will be re-marked and double yellow lines will be considered in future.

Market Place Parking – Times for parking to be banned on Market Place

Restrictions are in place because of the Market, and it seems to be working. No complaints have been submitted to the Town Council. The Parking Services Manager has had conversations with Oakham Town Market regarding the possibility of reviewing the restriction time by allowing motorists to park at the time the vendors leave rather than at a later time. Council recommended that the status quo should prevail.

Bus stops – Would UTC support the suggestion in principle by RCC to reduce the hours of restrictions when no bus services are happening?

An idea was raised concerning the capacity issue in terms of Residents parking at night by removing the restrictions from 'at any time' to reflect the actual time use of that particular bay to allow residents to park. This will exclude the bays by the cooperative supermarket. Cllr Simpson suggested that these bays function as a safe drop off to access the supermarket, Town Centre & Tod's Piece. Cllr Dalby made a further suggestion to switch the entry and exit points in the supermarket car park owing to the difficulty of joining the main road when buses are parked in the bays. RCC has in the past commissioned engineers to look at ways to resolve this. The meeting was advised that this switch is not possible due to the right of access for commercial vehicles on supermarket deliveries. This will be an ongoing conversation with Highways otherwise the markings on the road will be refreshed.

It was recommended that the parking restrictions remain as they are.

Dropped kerbs around Town/Market Place

There is a need to look at all the drop kerbs in Town to ensure wheelchairs and buggies can actually get around conveniently. This specifically applies to Baines Corner across the pelican crossing past the lavatories towards the market. On Fridays, the flower stall occupies the position where the drop kerb

is situated. There is also another drop kerb just outside the Post Office and this place is also occupied by a food stall on Friday leaving vulnerable people at risk. It was recommended that another drop kerb is required on the side of the former rug shop which is opposite Scandinavia. This, however, is a Highway issue and funds are available in the form of Access Improvement.

Bollard placement around the Crown

There are 2 bollards that are too narrow for wheelchairs and double buggies. Cllr Jennings will look at the access issue and report back to Council.

Footpath alongside the TP allotments to Ayston Road.

The hedge on one side of the footpath is overgrown and not being maintained and is a trip hazard. The Council recommended to have the footpath upgraded. The Parking Services Manager recommended that the Council consult with Public Right of Way – RCC.

In conclusion, the Parking Services Manager added that the relationship between residents and business is strained.

482/23 To receive an update regarding the invitation made to Uppingham First/Vanguard Board.

The Clerk has received a reply from the Secretary to confirm that this invitation will be discussed at the UF board meeting on 6th July 2023. The Chair advised that questions should be raised by writing directly to Uppingham First/Vanguard. An issue regarding conflict of interest was made however it was clarified that interest has always declared. A portion of the Councillors felt that a meeting date could have been arranged for an earlier date and therefore found this unsatisfactory.

483/23 To consider what priorities and tasks the Town Council wishes to establish/undertake over the next four years and to record these in a formal Vision, Aims, Objectives and Priorities document.

This is a document that the Clerk would like you to consider and will be placed on a future agenda. The Chair urged the Councillors to spare some thoughts for the document and especially the new Councillors to offer any new ideas. Councillors were requested to return the completed forms back to the Town Clerk.

484/23 To consider establishing an investigation by Amenities Committee (or a working group) to look into whether or not the Town Council should seek to take over responsibility for the maintenance of Green Spaces identified in the refreshed Neighbourhood Plan (especially the play area outside Linnet Court)

This is a document that the Clerk would like you to consider, these will be placed on a future agenda.
Resolution: This was proposed by Cllr D Ainslie, seconded by Cllr Mark Shaw and **unanimously agreed** to have this item passed on to Amenities.

485/23 To consider Planning applications below.

a) 2023/0466/FUL | Two storey extension to rear of property | 4A Bramble Close Uppingham Rutland LE15 9PH.

<https://publicaccess.rutland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RU1DQQNNLMU00>

Council recommends approval. Proposed by Cllr Hobbs, seconded by Cllr C Edwards. 3 against, 5 abstentions. Noted and taken into consideration the objections.

- b) **2023/0356/LBA** | Installation of rooftop broadband aerial | Memorial Hall Uppingham School High Street West Uppingham Rutland LE15 9QE
<https://publicaccess.rutland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RSE7GBNNL5E00>
- Council recommends approval. Proposed by Cllr M Shaw, seconded by Cllr D Ainslie. (13 for 1 abstention).
- c) **2023/0357/LBA** | Installation of broadband aerial to flag-post | Uppingham Cricket Pavilion Glaston Road Uppingham Rutland
<https://publicaccess.rutland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RSE7GJNNL5G00>
- Council recommends approval. Proposed by Cllr M Shaw, seconded by Cllr T Johnson. (13 for 1 abstention).
- d) **2023/0523/PTA** | 2 no. Horse Chestnut trees in rear Garden. (T1) The large tree on the Western boundary - Reduce crown by 3 metres and raise crown to approximately 6 metres. (T2) Smaller tree on Eastern boundary - Reduce crown by 3 metres and crown raise to approximately 6 metres. | 22 Bramble Close Uppingham Rutland LE15 9PH
<https://publicaccess.rutland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RV1RHINNLXU00>
- The Chair recommended that additional time be allocated to the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr L Clarke, seconded by Cllr P Rees
- e) Council recommends approval. Proposed by Cllr B Hobbs, seconded by Cllr P Dalby. (10 for, 4 abstentions)
- 2023/0540/FUL** | Single storey rear extension. | 1 Mill Cottage Glaston Road Uppingham Rutland LE15 9EU
<https://publicaccess.rutland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RV5W3FNNLZU00>
- Council recommends approval. Proposed by Cllr M Shaw, seconded by Cllr C Edwards. (13 for, 1 abstention)

486/23 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**”

This was proposed by Cllr C Edwards, seconded by Cllr M Shaw and **unanimously agreed**.
 We have 4 different expressions of interest for Bloors Land. The Chair suggested that this is carried forward to be discussed at the FG&P who will come back to Council with a recommendation.
Resolution: This was proposed by Cllr L Clarke, seconded by Cllr M Shaw and **unanimously agreed**.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending what and closed the meeting at 9.04 p.m.

Signed **Mayor of Uppingham**
 Dated

