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

**held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm.**

Present, Cllrs Liz Clarke, David Ainslie, Trevor Colbourne, Lindsay Cooper, 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.

8 members of the public

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| 596/24  597/24  598/24  599/24  600/24  601/24  602/24  603/24  604/24  605/24  606/24  607/24  608/24  609/24  610/24  611/24  612/24  613/24 | |  |  | **Mayor’s opening remarks**  The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished a Happy New Year, a confidential item would be taken first, item 12 would be brought forward after item 5 following some representations.  **To receive apologies for absence**.  It was proposed and seconded that the apologies from Cllrs Edwards (personal) and Shaw (holidays) be accepted. **Proposed, seconded, and** **resolved unanimously.**  **Declarations of members’ interests and applications for dispensations**  Non-pecuniary declarations were declared by:  Cllr Shaw – (not present) Dispensation for council term – Uppingham First, Uppingham Homes CLT and Beeches Resident Association.  Cllr Hobbs – Dispensation for council term – Uppingham Homes CLT  Also on this agenda item 5 Leighfield school (dispensation)  Cllr Colbourne - Dispensation for council term – Uppingham First  Cllr Ainslie - Dispensation for council term - Bloors Land  **To consider the following resolution: “That, in view of the confidential nature of the following agenda item, the press and public be excluded from the meeting, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1.**  (Staffing) (Commercial Sensitivities)  **The public left the chamber.**  Staffing - The chair of staffing overviewed the Clerk’s appraisal document and the processes followed.  **The Post Office. (commercial sensitivities)**   * The Mayor overviewed the situation.   **CONFIDENTIAL TEXT HAS BEEN REMOVED**  Members of the public returned to the meeting at 7.30pm  **To receive a presentation/update from Leighfield School regarding Grant Aid.**  A thorough presentation was received from the Head revisiting the original request and bringing members up to date from that point. A request was made for funding to complete the project. Questions were posed and answered.  **Resolution.**  That Uppingham Town Council award the sum of £16,074 to complete the project from the CIL funding allocations.  Proposed, seconded, and **Resolved unanimously.**  **An opportunity for the public to speak, in accordance with Standing Orders 3.6 – 3.11**  A statement was made regarding democracy, a point of order was raised, and the member of the public was reminded of legalities that surrounded commenting on officers of the council.  A member raised the Cost-of-Living report previously received and asked if we could invite the author to a future council meeting.  A statement was made regarding the soil quality around Uppingham, and if the testing regime used by NPAG for sites was suitable.  **To consider the proposed responses to the external examiner’s points for clarification and update from the NPAG meeting held 8th January.**  The Chair opened up the debate, clarifying that NPAG had considered the responses before Council with minor amends on the evening resulting in document that had been circulated prior to this meeting.  Questions were posed and debated accordingly.  Point of Order – transparency of the council. Point of order – to discuss the document in front of us.  **Resolution**  The Council will ask the SO working party to widen its scope to include protocols for meeting developers and involvement with NPAG.  Proposed, seconded, and **resolved unanimously.**  **Resolution**  That we forward the response document as presented with the two amendments :  a ) Uppingham Town Council have been specifically requested by respondent no 22 Mrs Maureen Thomas, to comment upon her feedback to the Examiner. The Town Council is very happy to do so, and in reply draws the attention of Mrs Thomas and the examiner to our Comprehensive Consultation Statement.  b) The Town Council will forward the ARUP report to the Examiner on the three by-pass options.  **Proposed, seconded (7 for, 6 against)**  **To confirm the minutes of the full council meeting held on Wednesday 6th December.**  To change the word appoint to nominate on minutes 592/23  Proposed, seconded **Resolved unanimously.**  **To receive any reports verbal or written from our County Councillors.**  The Clerk pointed members to the email sent to all councillors.  **To receive minutes and recommendations from the Council’s Committees.**  **A)** Staffing - Cllr Rees requested that he and Cllr Fish wished a meeting with the Chair of Council and Staffing and the Clerk, regarding an item in the minutes.  **Proposed, seconded, and resolved unanimously.**  **B).** Amenities Committee 13th December  Cllr Fish asked for questions.  The minutes were proposed seconded and **received unanimously.**  **C)** Finance and General Purposes verbal minutes in the next item  **D)** Planning. Verbal minutes. Proposed, seconded, **resolved unanimously.**  **Finance.**  **A To authorise accounts for payment on 10th January .**  Accounts for payment total £11,010.15 **Proposed, seconded and resolved unanimously.**  **B.** **To receive the finance report for the month of December 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, no surplus was proposed due to maintenance expenditure.  Receive the financial reports, Proposed**, seconded, and resolved unanimously.**  **C. To discuss the amendments proposed to the draft budget for 24/25 for Uppingham following some late information received prior to a final sign off.**  Cllr Findlay overviewed the history from the December meeting and the proposed amendments following Council’s views. He circulated another summary of the figures which he talked through for clarification addressing all eventualities. F & G P had met the previous evening to bring this pragmatic but needed approach for approval.  **Resolution**  To approve the budget for Uppingham as presented.  Proposed, seconded, and **Resolved unanimously.**    **To issue a precept request to Rutland County Council for 2024/2025**.  To issue a precept request to RCC for £172,838  Proposed, seconded, and **resolved unanimously.**  **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 MPs letter was discussed. A copy of the decision of the Commons Registration Act 1965 was passed to the Clerk regarding Beast Hill. There should have been another step to register the land the Clerk will try to sort this out.  To receive the report as sent.  Proposed, seconded, **and Resolved unanimously.**  **To extend the meeting by 10 minutes to finish the business of the agenda.** Proposed, seconded, and **resolved unanimously.**  **To consider the re-appointing of a trustee for the James Thorpe Charity.**  Council wishes to nominate the existing trustee Richard Baines.  Proposed, seconded, and **resolved unanimously.**  **To consider appointing a councillor representative to the Ashton Charity**  To appoint Cllrs Jennings and Shaw as the councillor representatives.  Proposed, seconded, and **resolved unanimously.**  **To consider what the Council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the area.**  **RESOLUTION.**  The Clerk will bring a policy back to Council for further deliberation and a working party to be formed.  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 9.10 pm  Signed…………………………………………………………………… Chair of Council  Dated…………………………………………………………………… |
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