

UPPINGHAM FIRST

Community Partnership

Chair: Edward Baines Vice Chair: Mark Shaw Secretary/Treasurer: Ron Simpson BEM

Uppingham Webcam



Uppingham Hopper

Minutes of a Board Meeting held at 6pm on Thursday April 13th 2023 in Don Paddy's

In Attendance

Business Directors: Edward Baines, Kath Gilbert, Ron Simpson BEM, James Torbell, and Nick Townsend

Community Directors: David Ainslie BEM, Mark Shaw and Janet Thompson BEM

Statutory Sector Directors: Lucy Stephenson (Local Government), John Leslie (Health and Wellbeing)

Guest: Damon Le Geyt

1. Apologies for Absence

Business Director: Trevor Ellis

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

Edward Baines welcomed everyone to this second board meeting of 2023 and in particular guest Damon Le Geyt of Uppingham Fine Foods.

3. Declarations of Interest

Board member interests in various businesses, councils, charities and community groups within the town and the county were noted. RS declared a non pecuniary interest in the joint work with CPRE Rutland as its current Chair (Item 8e) and advised that he now had a non-pecuniary interest in all matters relating to the town's defibrillators, as he had been appointed Chair of the Community Heartbeat Trust.

4. Minutes of a Board Meeting held on February 2nd 2023

Circulated and approved as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

It was noted that the town council had agreed to locate a new defibrillator on the renovated toilet block in the market place. The partnership will now need to fundraise for this.

6. Secretary/Treasurer Report

- a) **Finance Update** - In accordance with insurance requirements, transactions for the period February 1st to April 12th 2023 were witnessed and signed by an attending director. Current bank balance was £15,293.26 (Incorporates the Hopper, UNF, Rutland Lottery, Project, Event and Defibrillator funds). Credit Card balance is £158.87 (Zoom licence and event printing card). A 2023 work programme and budget update incorporating some sponsorship of a new 'entrepreneurs award' with the Biz Club was presented and approved.
- b) **2022 Accounts** - The draft 2022 accounts are now with our volunteer accountant/scrutineer for final preparation and submission to Companies House and HMRC. Community Director David Ainslie BEM provided an analysis of the profit and loss issues pertinent to the year including the surpluses incorporated in the ring fenced accounts.
- c) **Matters Appertaining to UTC** – The Secretary reported on a small number of individuals who were raising matters pertinent to the company at UTC public participation sessions and which were in danger of creating a public liability for the council. The Town Mayor and Town Clerk had acted promptly and appropriately to meet the challenges being presented and a number of individuals had been identified and their comments recorded and witnessed by others present. The Secretary further confirmed that none of the issues being queried had been raised directly with the partnership. The content of some posts on Next Door seeking to damage the reputation of some community representatives was also reviewed. Following lengthy discussion on the alternative responses that might be made, the course of action suggested by the Secretary was unanimously approved
- d) **Significant Correspondence and Meetings** - Highlights since the last meeting included:- i) A meeting with RCC ref Armed Forces Week ii) Further participation in a CAB led study of the voluntary sector in Rutland iii) A meeting with the new CEO of VAR iv) Significant forward planning for a number of events including The Stilton Run, The Feast and LNS 2023 v) A planning meeting regarding a new entrepreneurs awards scheme to be run by the Biz Club.

7. Social and Economic Forums

- a) **Business Forum** – It was agreed that the date of the next meeting, due in May, be fixed in consultation with Forum Chair, Chris Merricks
- b) **Neighbourhood Forum** – It was agreed that the next meeting be delayed until August and be held on a date to be agreed with the Forum Chair Janet Thompson BEM.
- c) **Vanguard Board** – It was noted that the date of the next meeting was Tuesday May 16th 2023. That meeting would concentrate on feedback to developers on the Regulation 14 responses to the Uppingham N Plan. Following discussion, it was agreed that a further meeting be organised in July to address a range of policing, education, health and environmental matters with leaders in those sectors. Director Lucy Stephenson suggested a particular guest from Loughborough be invited. This was agreed
- d) **High Street Update** – It was agreed that Damon Le Geyt be invited to offer a high street update at the July meeting of the partnership

8. Planning, Environment and Economic Development Matters

- a) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan** – The Secretary reported on a very positive NPAG workshop led by the town council's N Planning Consultant, Clive Keeble. A second workshop was planned with the objective of agreeing a post consultation update to the plan text
- b) **Local Plan Update** – It was confirmed that an autumn date was planned for the release of the first draft of a new Local Plan
- c) **Uppingham Fibre Broadband Network** – The Secretary reported on the ongoing dialogue with Gigaclear during the fibre network installation programme. Gigaclear had advised that the network is now over 75% complete. The company is now delivering around 200 Road live connections per month. Further work will begin in May in Queen Street and Leicester Road
- d) **Station Road Signage Contract** – The Secretary updated board members on the steps being taken to design new commercial signage for the top of Station Road. A need for related business signage in the town centre was raised by director James Torbell.
- e) **CPRE Renewable Energy Publication** - This document, prepared by the partnership on behalf of CPRE Rutland, is now ready for distribution.
- f) **Station Road Highway Update** - Director Nick Townsend updated the board on a recent site visit. On a voluntary basis an expert colleague has now agreed to look at what is possible in terms of highway design.

9. Health and Wellbeing

- a) **Surgery Update by UF director and PPG Chair John Leslie** – John presented a further update on developments at the surgery including arrangements for the next round of Covid Vaccinations, operational statistics and the completion of the upgraded waiting room. There was praise for the new Surgery Newsletter and thanks to director Mark Shaw for his help in designing it.

10. Community Transport

- a) **Uppingham Hopper** – Directors David Ainslie BEM and Mark Shaw led members of the board through a debate on the way forward with community transport in the town and the updating of the partnership vehicle. It was agreed that a two vehicle strategy would be best if it could be achieved, perhaps with support from RCC, the National Lottery and the Levelling Up Fund. Prior to a meeting of the partnership's bus working group, three research visits were being undertaken. It was hoped to bring a firm proposal to the next board meeting
- b) **Levelling Up Fund** – RCC was applauded for its success in securing such significant levelling up funding. It was hoped that Uppingham might benefit from the community transport element with particular regard to an electric bus option.

11. Events

- a) **Stilton Run 2023** – Bookings are approaching 160 vehicles. All arrangements now in place and driver routes and certificates printed.
- b) **Uppingham Feast 2023** – Arrangements are well under way led by directors Lucy Stephenson and James Torbell. A small financial surplus for 2022 was noted

- c) **LNS 2023** - A first planning meeting for the 2023 event has been held led by last year's volunteers. A financial surplus for the 2022 event was noted
- d) **Social Sundays 2023** - Led by director James Torbell, the 2023 arrangements are well under way. Music will feature at every Social Sunday this year
- e) **Armed Forces Week** - A joint event with Rutland County Council is planned this year.

12. Community Safety

- a) **Crime Statistics for March 2023** - These are now published online at www.uppinghamonline.co.uk Directors noted with concern a recent attempt to break into the Arnold Wills factory which was captured on CCTV
- b) **Policing Changes** – It was noted that the town was again to lose its neighbourhood beat officer. A replacement had not yet been notified
- c) **Community Emergency Plan Update** – It was noted with regret that, despite encouragement from the Police and Crime Commissioner to apply, the partnership's application for a grant to update the town's community emergency plan had been refused. The work would now have to be funded by the partnership.

13. Any Other Business

- a) **First Aid Training** – It was agreed that a repeat First Aid certification course be organised and advertised
- b) **Education Director Vacancy** – It was agreed that Geoff Thompson be invited to again take up the role of lead board director for Education and Training
- c) **Coronation Representation** – It was noted with pleasure that a director of UF and an Executive member of the Neighbourhood Forum had both received invitations to attend the King's Coronation.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday July 6th 2023 at 6pm in Don Paddy's

Notes distributed: 19.4.2023

Copies to: social and economic partners; local and national government; media



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