

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 February 2nd 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 Director: John Leslie (Health and Wellbeing)

Community Liaison: Christine Edwards

Guest: Damon Le Geyt

1. Apologies for Absence

Business Directors: Trevor Ellis (It was agreed that a letter be sent to Trevor wishing him well while awaiting his operation)

Statutory Sector Director: Lucy Stephenson (Local government)

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

Edward Baines welcomed everyone to the first 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 (Items 10a and 11b). EB, MS, DA, RS and NT declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 13a. MS declared a pecuniary interest in Item 11b.

4. Minutes of a Board Meeting held on December 15th 2022

Circulated and approved as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

Directors JT and NT reported on their investigations into land adjacent to Station Road. A meeting with the relevant landowner is planned.

6. Secretary/Treasurer Report

- a) **Finance Update** - In accordance with insurance requirements, transactions for the period January 1st to January 31st 2023 were witnessed and signed by an attending director. Current bank balance was £11,110.84 (Incorporates the Hopper, Rutland Lottery, Project, Event and Defibrillator funds). Credit Card balance is £535.75 (CPRE workshops and Hopper). Due to the implementation of bank charges on charity accounts it was agreed that an additional ring fenced account heading be maintained for the Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum. It was noted that after some difficulty with website changes at HMRC, the annual VAT return for the partnership had now been submitted in respect of 2022.
- b) **2022 Accounts** - The draft 2022 accounts prepared by the Secretary/Treasurer were noted and approved for forwarding to the partnership's volunteer accountant/scrutineer for final preparation and submission to Companies House and HMRC. Directors acknowledged that all future accounts and VAT returns would now have to be prepared and submitted using HMRC approved accountancy software
- c) **Significant Correspondence and Meetings** - Highlights since the last meeting included:- i) A series of repair meetings regarding the Webcam ii) Participation in a CAB led study of the voluntary sector in Rutland iii) An update regarding the Digital Uppingham project with Gigaclear iv) Forward planning for Social Sundays 2023 v) The featuring by Locality of the town's first Neighbourhood Plan and The Elms development in a national blog. Receipt of the SLCC publication 'The Future of Local Councils' is acknowledged
- d) **Let's Celebrate Towns** – The Uppingham submission to this national competition prepared by the Secretary, the final of which is to be hosted in parliament, was noted

- e) **2023 Budget** - The draft budget for 2023 prepared by the Secretary/Treasurer was received and approved
- f) **Royal Statue** – Following a lively debate on the project with concern being expressed by some that this was not an Uppingham issue (in keeping with the company’s articles) it was resolved (with the casting vote of the Chair) that the sum of £250 be forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant’s Royal Statue fund.

7. Social and Economic Forums

- a) **Business Forum** – The notes of the meeting held on Thursday January 12th 2023 were received. Local business owner and artist Chris Merricks was congratulated on his election as Chair of the Forum for 2023. It was noted that the Xmas Late Night Shopping 2022 event team were to commence work on a proposal for 2023
- b) **Neighbourhood Forum** – The notes of the Executive and Public meetings held on Thursday January 19th 2023 of the Forum were received. The presence of the High Sheriff, Leicestershire Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Uppingham Patient Participation Group Chair John Leslie were noted with pleasure. Directors who were present at the very well attended and lively meeting were full of praise for the charring skills exhibited by Forum Chair Janet Thompson BEM.
- c) **Vanguard Board** - The notes of the very successful meeting of the board held on Thursday January 26th 2023, prepared by director David Ainslie BEM supported by director Nick Townsend, were received and the positive feedback delivered after the meeting noted.

8. Planning, Environment and Economic Development Matters

- a) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan** – The excellent feedback on the partnership’s presentation on the Regulation 14 version of the plan at the January Neighbourhood Forum was noted. The town council’s arrangements around the required statutory consultation period were applauded
- b) **Local Plan Update** – Partnership Chair Edward Baines advised that it was now likely to be the autumn before the first draft of the new Local Plan was published. Housing supply is now at 6 years!
- c) **Local Government Precepts** – The proposed increases in Rutland Council Tax and Uppingham TC Precept for 2023/24 were noted
- d) **Uppingham Fibre Broadband Network** – The Secretary reported on the ongoing dialogue with Gigaclear during the fibre network installation programme and the first of the planned community demonstrations of its capability. Gigaclear had advised that at January 31st 691 homes were able to order their 1Gb service with around 1100 yet to be connected. Work will soon begin in the High Street.
- e) **Signage for Station Road** – The Secretary updated board members on the steps being taken to commission new commercial signage for the top of Station Road
- f) **UF CCTV Network Expansion** – It was noted that the market place webcam was now working. The partnership’s proposal to add further CCTV coverage to High Street East detailed in the work programme for 2023 was approved subject to funding being secured
- g) **Rutland Crematorium** – It was noted that a further update from the proposing company was awaited.

9. Health and Wellbeing

- a) **Surgery update prepared for the UNF by UF director John Leslie (Chair – PPG)** – This well received presentation was further updated for UF board members by JL and a range of questions answered
- b) **Rutland Memorial Hospital** - The announced further development of the RMH and related Levelling Up Funding was welcomed by board members
- c) **Mental Health Issues** - The Secretary reported on his concern about the rising number of mental health related issues being raised with the partnership by local residents
- d) **Market Place Defibrillator** – It was agreed that director David Ainslie BEM seek the agreement of the Town Council to host a replacement defibrillator at the renovated public toilets in the market place.

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 best if it could be achieved, perhaps with support from RCC.

It was noted that Mark was to organise two study tours to evaluate electric minibus options. A forthcoming meeting relating to the RCC bid for transport levelling up funding may also be relevant. Feedback would be provided at the next meeting. It was agreed that John Leslie join a working group to further explore the way forward with the Hopper. The possibility of a one month trial Hopper link to Bisbrooke on market day was reported. The trial would be sponsored by CPRE Rutland.

11. Events

- a) **Stilton Run 2023** – Bookings are approaching 100 vehicles
- b) **Renewable Energy Workshop No 4** – This project is now completed
- c) **Uppingham Feast 2023** – Directors James Torbell and Lucy Stephenson have begun planning for this annual event. It is now an approved item on the partnership's public liability insurance schedule
- d) **Spring Fair** – The impact on the town centre economy will again be measured this year.

12. Community Safety

- a) **Crime Statistics for December** – These are now published online at www.uppinghamonline.co.uk
- b) **PCC 2023 Policing Budget Consultation** – The PCC presentation at the UNF on the financial challenges currently facing Leicestershire Police was welcomed
- c) **Community Emergency Plan Update – Simulated incident** – The Emergency Committee's intention to update the town's Community Emergency Plan and subsequently simulate an incident to validate the changes was welcomed. The PCC invitation to bid for a grant to make the necessary changes was accepted and a bid submitted.

13. Any Other Business

- a) **UHCLT Support** - It was agreed by those able to vote that UHCLT should be invoiced for the administrative support given by the partnership to date
- b) **Thank You Letter** - Edward Baines advised the board that he proposed to publish a letter of thanks to the Badley family for their gift of land for housing

14. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday April 13th 2023 at 6pm in Don Paddy's

Notes delayed but distributed: 11.3.2023

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

**UPPINGHAM
FIRST**

Unless otherwise requested please direct all correspondence to The Secretary, 7 Hawthorn Drive, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TA

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