

**Chair: Edward Baines Vice Chair: David Ainslie BEM Secretary/Treasurer: Ron Simpson BEM**

Uppingham Webcam  Uppingham Hopper

### **Minutes of a Board Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2021**

#### **In Attendance**

**Business Directors:** Edward Baines (Chair), Trevor Ellis, Ron Simpson BEM, Nick Townsend

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

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

**Business Directors:** James Torbell and Kath Gilbert.

**Statutory Sector Directors:** Lucy Stephenson, Geoff Thompson

**Community Liaison:** Christine Edwards

#### **2. Chair's Opening Remarks**

Edward Baines welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the partnership's very active community engagement during the ongoing pandemic. Following his sad death, the Chair also led the board in a recognition of the many years of public service by HRH Prince Philip.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Board member interests in various businesses, charities and community groups within the town and the county were noted. Agenda item 8a (Housing development site owned by Uppingham Homes CLT), was acknowledged as a personal and non-pecuniary interest for David Ainslie BEM, Edward Baines, Ron Simpson BEM, Mark Shaw, Janet Thompson and Nick Townsend.

#### **4. Minutes of a Board Meeting Held on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Circulated and approved as a true record

#### **5. Matters Arising**

None

#### **6. Secretary/Treasurer Report**

- a) **Quarterly Finance Update** - In accordance with insurance requirements, transactions for the period February 11<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup> were witnessed in advance of the meeting by attending director Mark Shaw. Current bank balance is £17,106.68 (Incorporates the Hopper, Rutland Lottery, Stilton Cheese Run and Defibrillator funds).
- b) **2020 Accounts** – It was unanimously agreed that, following their examination and adjustment by the company's volunteer accountant, the updated circulated 2020 accounts be approved for submission to HMRC and Companies House.
- c) **Banking Mandates** – Following advice from HSBC stating that their systems cannot handle different payment procedures for cheques and online transactions, it was unanimously agreed that cheque payments be brought into line with the previously approved process and regulations for online and card payments and that any one of the following four directors be authorised to sign cheques: - Edward Baines, David Ainslie BEM, James Torbell and Ron Simpson BEM. Resolved that: an updated mandate be submitted by the Secretary/Treasurer to HSBC.
- d) **Forward Budget** – It was agreed that this be prepared in time for approval at the 2021 AGM
- e) **Draft New Company Articles** – It was agreed that these now be reviewed by director Nick Townsend
- f) **Artisan/ Community Hub Survey** – Following consideration of the survey it was agreed that this proposition be progressed if there is sufficient artisan interest
- g) **Significant Correspondence and Meetings** - Highlights included:- Vanguard Board dialogue with developers, agents and landowners, Liaison and joint working with Uppingham Homes CLT, dialogue and meetings with Locality, Hopper funding and volunteer training correspondence, contractual arrangements with Live and Local, and 2021 events preparation, and finally, a letter from The Friends of Leighfield parent group seeking business support for its litter picking and astro-turf mini pitch initiatives.

#### **7. Social and Economic Forums**

- a) **Business Forum** – Notes of a meeting held on Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup> were circulated and noted

- b) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum** - Notes of a public meeting and election hustings held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 have been posted on the UF website and at [www.uppinghamonline.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamonline.co.uk) A link to an audio recording of the meeting is posted within the notes
- c) **Vanguard Board** – It was agreed that the next meeting of the Uppingham Vanguard Board be held in late May/early June once RCC had declared its position on the next steps with the Rutland Local Plan.

## 8. Planning and Economic Development

- a) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan** – UF Vice Chair David Ainslie BEM further updated the board on recent developments in the UTC NPAG housing sub group including the responses to the UTC call for sites and the development of a local site evaluation process. He confirmed that the closing date for resident responses to the UNP site preferences booklet had been extended to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 because of the expected delay in determining the direction to be taken by RCC on the new Local Plan
- b) **Rutland Local Plan** – The Chair reported that there was no official news yet on the way forward with the Rutland Local Plan following the county council's rejection of the offered housing infra structure funding for St Georges.
- c) **Economic and Skills Development Zone** – The Secretary reported on a very positive meeting between the members of the NPAG town centre development working group, UF board members and employer representatives of the Station Road Industrial Estate. Lack of progress with the upgrading of Station Road (as proposed in the current Neighbourhood Plan) and new government funding for town centre regeneration and job creation were discussed. It was agreed that the support of UTC, RCC, The Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Alicia Kearns MP be sought for bids to i) secure a feasibility study of an upgrade Station Road and adopt it as a public highway ii) submit a bid for government support to create new jobs and economic growth for Uppingham by expanding the Station Road area to the east to form an expanded new economic and skills development zone by creating a new entrance/exit to the east connected to a new relief road to the A6003. It was further agreed that, as the town's principal centre of community learning and development, UCC be invited to join the initiative
- d) **Town Centre Development Working Group** – It was agreed to support the aspirations of this UTC NPAG working group to include a town centre regeneration policy in the updated Neighbourhood Plan and assist a bid to Locality for policy support and grant aid
- e) **Community/Artisan Hub** - Seven expressions of interest have been received so far. Ten or eleven are expected.

## 9. Community Transport

UF Vice Chair David Ainslie BEM updated board members on progress with the Uppingham Hopper and the award of a further grant of £9405 from the National Lottery toward its operating costs. These include the reliability issues emanating from the electric door. It was noted with pleasure that the Hopper is to feature in a Lottery commissioned case study on projects supported by its Community Fund. With the help of RCC, all volunteer drivers have now been offered and accepted Covid -19 vaccinations. Hopper volunteer updating training has been organised for two dates in May.

## 10. Health and Wellbeing

- a) **Covid-19 and the Community Emergency Plan Committee** – The Secretary reported that this committee continues to meet at regular intervals and take action as appropriate. The committee is liaising with RCC through their regular online meetings with voluntary sector. Food, medicine, and emergency help continues to be provided through UppWatch and the Hopper team
- b) **Hospital Reorganisation Update** – Concerns remain around the future role of Oakham hospital and the level of support to be offered within the county. Developments are being monitored by concerned community groups and Healthwatch Rutland
- c) **Mental Health Community Group for Uppingham** – Following an approach from a professional involved in the Oakham based mental health safe place café, it was agreed that the partnership help in establishing a similar group in an Uppingham venue.

## 11. Events Working Group Report

On behalf of the Events Working Group community directors Mark Shaw and David Ainslie BEM, together with the Secretary, updated board members on the progress being made the 2021 programme of events. Social Sundays will now commence on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and probably end one week after the, now arranged, Round Rutland Run on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Businesses and community groups will be contacted about stall placement opportunities in the very near future. The Big Picnic will be led by The Crown with UTC agreement. Children's entertainment for the day has been commissioned by Uppingham First. Community director Janet Thompson reported on a resumption of face-to-face meetings of The Brownies to be held in the Scout Hut.

## 12. Any Other Business

- a) Conflict of Interest – The Secretary reported on a possible occasional new conflict of interest arising from his possible nomination to lead a local charity
- b) High Street changes – The UF Secretary and Busies Forum Chair updated colleagues on business arrivals and movements in the high street
- c) Youth Group Initiative – Janet Thompson updated the board on a youth hub grant bid being prepared by Geoff Thompson with colleagues.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

To be agreed with the MP for around June 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. This will be a real meeting. Venue to be announced.

**Notes distributed:** 5.5.2021

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

**Signed as a True Record** .....

**Name**.....Edward Baines.....

**Role**..... Chairman.....

**Date** 5.5.2021



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

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