

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

Uppingham Webcam  Uppingham Hopper

Minutes of a Board Meeting held at 6pm on Thursday March 3rd 2022 in Don Paddy's

In Attendance

Business Directors: Edward Baines (Chair), Trevor Ellis, Kath Gilbert, James Torbell, Ron Simpson BEM and Nick Townsend

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

Special Guest: David Wood, High Sheriff of Rutland.

1. Apologies for Absence

Statutory Sector Director: Lucy Stephenson

Community Liaison: Christine Edwards

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

Edward Baines welcomed everyone to this first quarterly meeting of 2022 and in particular David Wood, the High Sheriff of Rutland. The Chair also briefly welcomed the town's beat officer, Anna Ingram who had been attending another meeting on site and had been invited by her host, James Torbell, to meet the UF board prior to the meeting commencing. Anna agreed to forward recent crime and speed detection statistics for distribution.

3. Declarations of Interest

Board member interests in various businesses, charities and community groups within the town and the county were noted.

4. Minutes of a Board Meeting Held on December 7th 2021

Circulated and approved as a true record

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Secretary/Treasurer Report

- a) **Finance Update** - In accordance with insurance requirements, transactions for the period January 1st to March 3rd were witnessed and signed by an attending director. Current bank balance was £14,151 (Incorporates the Hopper, Rutland Lottery, CLT consultancy, Event and Defibrillator funds). Credit Card balance yet to be cleared was £204.90. A detailed analysis of all 2021 income and expenditure was presented by the Treasurer prior to consideration of the draft 2021 accounts prepared by DA. Following debate on the positive picture presented by the accounts and partnership residual balances, it was agreed that the accounts be signed by the Treasurer and submitted via DA to TA (accountant) for his observations on the issue of CT liability, prior to their submission to Companies House and HMRC
- b) **Meeting with Alicia Kearns MP** – Director JT reported on a visit by Alicia Kerns, the town's MP, to view the Wills and Co factory led by Philipp Wills, and a subsequent very positive meeting with RS representing Uppingham First at The Falcon Hotel. AK had subsequently reported warmly on the meeting in both county newspapers. Issues discussed included the future development of the Station Road Estate and the need for a visit by the Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership, the proposed research on the case for a Skills and Enterprise Zone in the area (to be supported by Leicester University), and the opportunity to press the case for a future joint blue light station being hosted on the A47
- c) **2022 Budget and Work Programme** – The Chair led members of the board through the proposed 2022 budget and work programme on which there was extensive positive debate. Noting in discussion the considerable extent and ambition of the programme, along with the need for succession planning to ensure sustainability, the draft budget and work programme was agreed.
- d) **Significant Correspondence and Meetings** - Highlights since the last meeting included: - A meeting with the CEO of the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce (they now cover Rutland), a meeting with a Cabinet Office Small Business Representative, further dialogue with a major Crematorium company, the reopening of the partnership's free job advertising offer for local business, the updating of the ABC Trail web page and a meeting ref a change of business ownership in the town centre.

7. Social and Economic Forums

- a) **Uppingham Business Forum** - The date of the next meeting was agreed as March 29th 2022 commencing at 6pm in The Falcon Hotel. All businesses to be invited
- b) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum** - Notes of the meeting held on January 20th 2022 were received and the excellent public attendance noted
- c) **Vanguard Board** - Notes of the very positive meeting with landowners, agents and housing developers hoping to help develop the town, held on February 17th 2022, were received and the positive progress made noted.

8. Planning and Economic Development

- a) **Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan** – UF Vice Chair DA updated the board on progress made with the update of the Neighbourhood Plan. This was being drafted by planning consultant Clive Keeble. It was expected that the key policy proposals and agreed new housing numbers would be published by late April. A new roundabout would be part of the plan for Leicester Road together with a strengthening of the protection for shop fronts in the town centre area.
- b) **Rutland Local Plan** – RCC has now published a fresh call for sites and it is understood that the St Georges Barracks site is now to be retained by the MOD. Land is still being sought to create a turn round for articulated lorries in Station Road and it is hoped that an appropriate proposal may come from a local landowner in response to the call for sites. This could then be included in the update of the Neighbourhood Plan. Vice Chair DA undertook to progress this matter with a family contact identified by director KG
- c) **Constituency Boundary Proposals** – It was agreed that links with Leicestershire remained important and that further business opinion be sought at the March 29th meeting of the Business Forum
- d) **Government Levelling Up Agenda** – A paper prepared by the National Association of Local Councils was circulated and the content noted. The recognition afforded to Leicestershire in government thinking suggests it is in the interest of Uppingham to sustain political, social and economic links to the west as well as with Stamford to the east.

9. Transport

- a) **RCC Draft Transport Plan** – Listed in the covering letter circulating to the document as a consultee, it was agreed that UF welcomed the published draft and endorse the concept of an 'enhanced partnership'. Also welcomed was the desire to trial an electric bus, the enhancement of the Uppingham bus interchange, improvements to signage and the move toward electronic ticketing.
- b) **Uppingham Hopper Forward Plan** – Following a short consideration of a brainstorming paper on the long term future of the Uppingham Hopper, its outstanding loan debt of £7.5K, falling passenger numbers and income early and late in the day, rising fuel and repair costs, a generous anonymous gift of £5K from a local resident and the need to plan ahead for the long term it was agreed that;
 - The Hopper's hours be reduced to 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday
 - £2.5k be immediately paid to RCC to reduce the loan debt balance on the Hopper to £5K
 - That the remaining £5K be paid back to RCC if DA's bid for additional grant was successful
 - That a special meeting on the future of the Hopper be called to consider such matters as electrification and future charitable status

10. Health and Wellbeing

- a) **Rutland Joint Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan** – The Secretary' engagement with this plan was noted along with some remaining community concerns. A community priority is access to medical care (hospitals and surgery) via public transport for those who are unable to drive for whatever reason
- b) **Uppingham Surgery and Health Representative** – Members of the board recorded their thanks to John Leslie, Chair of the Uppingham Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG), for his recent very clear presentations to the Neighbourhood Forum and the Vanguard Board. Given JL's work experience, skill set and current role, it was agreed that JL be invited to occupy the health seat on the board
- c) **Defibrillators** – The donation of two extra and nearly new defibrillators to the town from local business PCS was welcomed. One device is now being hosted in a public cabinet on Station Road by Graham Kendrick at his new storage business there. The other (not new but in in a portable case) device is being hosted by Uppingham Football Club with updating supplies funded by the club. Uppingham Cricket Club is to purchase a new device and mount it on an external wall at the club. This will also join the town's network and is likely to receive a donation from Rotary in Uppingham. It was further noted that the Hopper also now carries a defibrillator, that the Town Council will update its defibrillator in April, and that the device in the market place will shortly be removed to enable modernisation of the public toilet block.

11. Housing

- a) **Longhurst Group** – The Secretary reported mounting community concern over the current service provision of the Longhurst group, the county council's major housing partner. Letters of complaint had been sent to the RCC Director of Places by the Secretary and to Alicia Kearns MP by a resident who were following the matters up.

- b) **Uppingham Homes CLT** - It was noted that the town council is considering donating a section of the allotments on Tod's Piece to the CLT to enable the construction of up to 10 dwellings. The partnership continues to provide administrative and consultancy support to the CLT.

12. 2022 Events

- a) **Stilton Cheese Run – April 24th** – 110 cars are registered to date. UTC Town Clerk Sharon Coe has submitted the relevant road closure order to RCC Highways
- b) **International Women's Day – March 8th** - It was agreed that the partnership support two delegates to attend a IWD recognition breakfast event in The Falcon Hotel
- c) **Social Sundays** – Lead directors JT and LS of the Social Sundays working group have now agreed a schedule of 2022 events and road closures with the Town Council.

13. Any Other Business

- a) **RCC Vision for Rutland** – The progress made by RCC in this matter was noted and the final draft circulated to board members for information and possible future action
- b) **CPRE Projects** – Declaring a non pecuniary interest as Chair of CPRE Rutland, director RS advised the board of a number of imminent projects and grant bids that might lend themselves to partnership working with the Uppingham and the Rutland community. These include a series of renewable energy workshops, and the pilot of a county wide community transport initiative. More details would be circulated once they became available
- c) **Dying Matters** – The opening of the new counselling and meeting rooms above LOROS were noted with pleasure.

14. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed.

Notes distributed: 7.3.2022

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



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

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