

**Minutes of a Hybrid meeting of Usk Town Council held remotely on
Zoom on Monday 11th April 2022 at 6.00pm**

Present Cllr Roderick, Cllr C Wilkinson, Cllr A. Leathwood, Cllr Galletley, Cllr M Howells, Cllr H Graz, Cllr A Ivin, Cllr B Strong, Cllr A Watkins, Cllr M Evans, Cllr A Morgan, R.F.O Mrs. D. Richards, Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

Prior to the meeting Cllr Galletley thanked The Chair, for the reception held as a farewell to retiring members. Cllr Galletley reflected on the years of service and on how it had been a privilege to be on the Council and work with fellow members.

25.7 To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr S. Williams

25.8 To disclose personal and pecuniary interest in items of business listed below:

Cllr Strong – Planning Application

DM/2022/00415 Land Adjacent 21 Four Ash Street And 5 Castle Street, Usk

25.9 To approve the Minutes held on 14th March 2022

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and duly signed

26.0 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 14th March 2022

There were none

26.1 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated 7th April 2022

26.2 To receive the monthly finance report for March 2021

The reconciliation for March 2022 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

It was reported correspondence has been received from the Welsh Audit Office regarding the 2021/22 end of year.

Resolved: To accept the appointment of Mr. John Evans as the Internal Auditor.

The following organizations have requested a donation

- Ty- Hafan Children's Hospice - it was agreed to donate £500 (Local Government Act 1972 s.137)
- Kids Cancer Charity – it was agreed to donate £500 (Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

Council also agreed to continue to sponsor an agricultural class at the Usk Show at a cost of £61.00 (Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

Discussion followed; it was agreed to purchase testing kits for the "Save the River Usk "campaign at a cost of £300. (Power of Wellbeing Local Government Act 2000 s. 2(1)

Resolved: In order to comply with the pre-election period guidance, it was decided to defer payment for the kits until after the May elections.

26.3 To receive the following Planning Applications.

DM/2022/002392 23 Blackburn Lane Usk NP15 1BP

Double storey rear extension

Recommend Approval

a) DM/2022/00419 Little Bank 8 Porthycarne Street Usk NP15 1RY

Proposed extension, external and internal alterations to existing dwelling. Including infill roof over external staircase forming link structure. Construction of amenity space balcony. Replacement timber joinery internally and externally. Positioning of Air Source Heat Pump.

Recommend Approval

DM/2022/00415 Land Adjacent 21 Four Ash Street And 5 Castle Street Usk

Monmouthshire Proposed Residential Development for 7no. new dwellings (3no. dwellings already approved at no. 21 Four Ash Street) 7no. dwellings in total. Extant Planning Permission MCC Approval ref: DC/2015/01210 dated: 13 July 2016 **Recommend Refusal**

Clerk to notify MCC of the UTC's decision

26.4 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

Next meeting scheduled for 25th May 2022

26.5 To receive an update on the Digital Information Board

Resolved: Cllr Williams is working on this

26.6 To receive an update on the proposed markets on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC)

It was reported the markets have been well received.

Green Top Events have expressed concern that in order to make the markets viable they need to increase the number of stalls.

Resolved: Clerk to contact MCC with a request to reconsider holding the markets in the car park spaces adjacent to the former HWRC

26.7 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Cllr Howells reported the following:

- Casino Night is scheduled for 7th May
- Crawfish Pie gig is scheduled for 20th August
- As a memorial to former Cllr Jill Jeremiah, UTC provide pens for Years 3/4 at Usk Primary School (Local Government Act 1972 s.137)

a) To receive an update on the Reindeer Parade

Correspondence has been received from Cairngorm Reindeer informing UTC they have decided to take part in less events in the south of the UK and concentrate efforts in Cairngorm.

Resolved: Members were disappointed with the news but appreciated their decision.

Clerk to respond to Cairngorm

26.8 To receive an update on the planned Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Cllr Howells reported the following

- Plans for the lighting of the Beacon are in place for Thursday 2nd June
- Plans for the Jubilee Picnic are ongoing

26.9 To receive an update on Usk as a Smart Town

Resolved:

- The plan for Usk to become a Smart Town has been put together and will be published after the local elections.
- MCC will conduct a survey on Tuesday 12th April to identify where it is feasible to install Cisco Meraki units for footfall counting

27.0 To receive an update on a Memorial for The Platinum Jubilee.

Resolved:

- Awaiting on the design for the Jubilee Market plaque
- A maple tree is due to be planted near to the school

27.1 To receive an update from NRW Discharge of Sewage into the River Usk

A letter has been received from NRW outlining improvements made to identify the root causes of spills into the River Usk. This has been shared with the "Save the River Group" who will in turn reply to NRW.

Resolved: Although improvements have been made, UTC will reply asking for further reassurance on a longer-term solution

27.2 To receive an update on Community Speed watch

A report from Tony Kear the Community Speed watch Coordinator

- The new speed gun, paperwork and fluorescent jackets have been handed over.
- Contact has been made with volunteers who have been police vetted, including a group within Burrium Gate. All have confirmed they wish to participate.
- A test run of the equipment has shown a big issue of speeding on the Raglan road exit from Usk.
- 80% of vehicles monitored were in excess of 30mph. The maximum speed recorded was 53mph. One motorcycle was in excess of 60mph.
- The aim is to get more volunteers vetted after which monitoring will commence.

Thanks to be extended to Tony for his work with Speed watch

27.3 To receive an update on the Memorial Hall car park

Work continues on the car park

27.4 To receive an update on Monmouthshire Councils Review of Parking in Usk

No update

27.5 To discuss the poor condition of Chepstow Road, Usk.

No Update

Resolved Cllr Strong will follow up with Mark Hand

27.6 To receive an update on the Priory Gatehouse

No acknowledgement has been received regarding correspondence sent to Richard John about the state of the Priory Gatehouse and herras fencing.

Resolved: Clerk to write again to MCC

27.7 Correspondence

From: Big Meadow Search – to raise awareness and interest in grasslands and to record plant species

From: National Resource Wales re: Discharge of sewage into the River Usk

From: Cairngorm Reindeer

27.8 Any Other Business

For information Usk Town Community Awards along with presentation of cheques from the Mayor's Appeal will take place this Thursday 14th April at 7pm

