

**Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting by Usk Town Council held in Sessions House
on Monday 18th July 2022 at 6.00pm**

Present Cllr_M Howells, Cllr Roderick, Cllr A Ivin, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr K Peacock, Cllr D Harrison, Cllr A Morgan R.F.O Mrs. D. Richards, Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

6.2 To accept apologies for absence.

All members were present

6.3 Public Open Forum

(15 minutes at the discretion of the Mayor.) Members of the public are invited to address the Council in relation to items on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes unless directed by the Chair. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given.

County Councillor Tony Kear raised the following issues

- August Bank Holiday Road closure
- Speed watch related signage
- Heritage / Planning matters
- Chepstow Road resurfacing
- Meetings with Welsh Water and David Davies MP
- Number 49 / Usk / Monmouthshire Café culture / Covid licence extensions

These issues appear on the agenda.

The following on agenda items will be discussed at a later time

- Parking matters opposite Usk School and One Stop.
- Alleged illegal Sewage discharge by Welsh Water Contractor opposite BP Garage
- Carpark hedges tidy up by Usk Museum
- Usk Trail Access Group
- Meeting with Usk Prisoner Governor Rob Denman
- Graffiti in Usk
- Broadway Partners Internet rollout in Usk
- A number of these issues appear on the agenda others will be discussed at a later time.

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

Cllr Harrison expressed an interest in all matters concerning Welsh Water

6.5 To approve the Minutes held on 13th June 2022

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

6.6 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 13th June 2022

There were none

6.7 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th June 2022.

The Minutes had been approved as a true and accurate record and duly signed at June's Full Council meeting

6.8 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated 13th July 202

6.9 To receive the monthly finance report for June 2022

See report dated 13th July 2022

The bank reconciliation for June 2022 showed no erroneous payments or receipts

It was recommended to Full Council the following be purchased

- a) A 'Jabbre' speakerphone to assist with hybrid meetings
- b) A 65" TV & stand to replace the broken projector and enhance facilities within the Sessions House

The total cost being £1190.00

Resolved: It was agreed to purchase the above equipment

7.0 To receive the following Planning Applications.

- a. **DM/2022/00802 32 Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AE**

Kitchen extension at rear of property **Recommend Approval**

7.1 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

UTC had met to discuss the Masterplan.

Resolved: Following discussion it was agreed Cllr Ivin will work on the plan to amalgamate some of the short & long-term objectives, making ideas more manageable

7.2 To approve the Minutes of the special meeting in relation to the August bank Holiday event id Bridge Street

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

- a) **To receive an update on the event**

It was reported that despite UTC agreeing to fund the road closure & traffic management the event is on hold until funding for entertainment can be obtained.

7.3 To receive an update on the Digital Information Board

Resolved: Cllr Harrison has liaised with Pixel solutions. and it is hoped the board will be installed in September

7.4 To receive an update on the markets being held on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC)

Resolved:

- a) The Jubilee markets will now be held on the second & last Saturday of the month
- b) UTC has produced a survey to go out to local businesses on 30th July seeking their views on the markets
- c)

7.5 To receive a report from the Events Committee

The Events Committee met to discuss potential plans for a Christmas Event for the weekend of 3rd/4th Dec 2022

It was agreed to hold Christmas markets with a view to Green Top Events organizing. The following events are being considered

- A 'Festival of Carols'
- Children's lantern workshops
- Lantern parade with possible street entertainers

- Entertainment at the Sessions House

Resolved: All the above to be investigated and discussed further at the next Event's meeting

Up & coming events in aid of the Usk Mayor's Appeal

- Crawfish Pie Band at Sessions House 29th August 2022
- Blaenavon Male Voice Choir Concert at St. Mary's Church 8th October 2022
- Combined UTC/Rotary Concert at the Memorial Hall 29th October
- Flanders & Swann Evening at the Royal British Legion 19th November 2022

UTC has been approached by Broadway Partners who wish to give a presentation on their broadband fibre options and hold a drop in sessions where people can view their project plans and ask questions

Resolved Clerk to contact Broadway Partners

An update on footfall counting units in Usk

Resolved: Cllr Howells to meet with Adam Greenway MCC to walk around Usk and discuss potential location of the units.

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

It was reported Welsh Water is investing £10 million over three years to upgrade & improve wastewater in Usk.

The work will be carried out in three phases

- Phase 1 Work at Usk Sewer Pumping Station
- Phase 2 Work to transfer more waste to the wastewater treatment works
- Phase 3 Building new assets at Usk wastewater treatment plants

As part of their major investment scheme community groups can apply for funding from a £10,000 fund.

The **"Save the River Usk"** continues with its campaign to improve the water quality of the river Usk and is next due to meet on Thursday 21st July at 7pm at Sessions House

7.7 To receive an update on Community Speed watch

County Cllr Tony Kear submitted the attached Speed watch report

7.8 To receive an update on the Memorial Hall car park

The following was reported

- Usk Memorial Hall (UMH) users are still having problems finding spaces in the car park
- HMP Usk are looking to create a further ten spaces behind the prison for parking
- HMP may provide a park and ride facility from Prescoed camp for employees
- UTC still to meet MCC regarding management of the rain gardens

Resolved:

- UTC arrange a meeting with MCC to further discuss management of the rain gardens
- Cllr Howells to liaise with Chair of UMH with a view to issuing polite notices to ask car park users to be consider Memorial Hall users

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

No update

8.0 To notify members that EV chargers are to be installed in Maryport street (north) car park

Resolved: MCC is to install four EV chargers installed in the car park

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

MCC has informed UTC that there is a huge gap between required road works and the repair budget and Chepstow Road is not considered a priority.

Resolved: To discuss further with MCC

8.2 To receive update on Usk school governors

No update

8.3 To receive an update on the Priory Gatehouse

Resolved: It was reported MCC has received a report with reassurance, that movement of the Priory Gatehouse building is historic. It is hoped that once some roof slates have been secured the heras fencing can be removed

8.4 To receive an update on the from Dog Fouling group

The group met recently. The following was reported.

- MCC has submitted the contract to empty the dog waste bins in Monmouthshire to tender
- New "pick up dog waste" signs are in the process of being produced
- Extra signs to discourage littering are being put up in on Usk Island
- Overnight camping has been observed on the Island. MCC to be notified

8.5 To discuss the publication of a new Usk Town Guide

Resolved: Following discussion Cllrs Peacock, Harrison, Ivin and Morgan will form a working group to look to producing an updated town guide.

8.6 To discuss the petition from residents of The Meadows regarding the poor state of the road/pavements

A petition regarding the poor state of the roads/pavements in the Meadows has been received from residents.

Resolved: UTC will submit the petition to MCC

8.7 To receive an update on the amount of pavement space being occupied by 49 Bridge Street opposite the Co-op

Resolved: There has been further discussion with MCC & the café owners about MCC providing a short-term extension and creating a formal licence which would specify the precise area of occupation for a set period of time and be subject to review after completion.

8.8 Correspondence

None

8.9 Matters of information

- There are plans for 20mph to be implemented in Usk before April 2023 subject to the statutory consultation process.
- Pavement parking – Welsh Government is reviewing the proposal (on 27th July 2022) of a change in legislation to allow enforcement officers powers to issue parking tickets to cars parked on pavements
- Members to meet the new PSCO engagement officer on Wed 20th July 2022

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 8.10pm