

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at
The Sessions House, Usk, on Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Prior to the meeting Ian Cameron addressed Full Council about Dementia Friendly Towns.

Present: Cllr G Roderick, Cllr A Leathwood, Cllr C Wilkinson, Cllr Ms. I Brown, Cllr M Evans, Cllr A. Watkins, Cllr R Galletley, Cllr J Jeremiah, Cllr J Richards, Cllr T Kear, Cllr C Williams
RFO - Ms. J Mee, Town Clerk - Mrs. Tracey Huxley

22.0 To accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Strong

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

Cllrs Kear and Evans

22.2 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2018

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

22.3 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2018

❖ **20.3 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism (WVFD)**

Cllr Leathwood reported that the work done by the WVFD has been superb. They have very good contacts and local Usk businesses should become involved.

❖ **20.4 Post Box in Bridge Street**

Following a further request Royal Mail still refuse to reinstate a post box.

Resolved:

Clerk to contact Royal Mail again to ask they reconsider their decision

❖ **Missing stone on Usk Bridge**

This has been missing for sometime

Resolved: Clerk to chase this matter up with Mon CC

❖ **Potholes**

There are a number of potholes around the Town.

Resolved:

Clerk to report these to Mon CC

❖ **Lights around the Clock in Twyn Square**

These have still not been repaired

Resolved: Clerk to contact Mon CC

22.4 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See reported dated 5th March 2018

22.5 To receive the monthly finance report

The reconciliation for February 2018 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

Resolved:

The Annual Internal Audit is due to take place on Tuesday 10th April 2018.

22.6 To receive Planning applications

- a) **DC/2018/00144** The proposal is to alter the pedestrian island in Twyn Square by increasing the stone paved area with new stone paving and adding a plinth with bust of Alfred Russel Wallace and an interpretation board explaining the work of Alfred Russel Wallace and his connection to the area. The proposals are located within the **Usk Conservation Area Twyn Square, Usk NP15 1BH** **Recommend Approval**
- b) **DC/2018/00159** Reduce ground floor window from 4.10m to 2.4m Remove hanging tiles and replace **40 Priory Gardens, Usk NP15 1BB** **Recommend Approval**
- c) **DC/2018/00166** Disabled access ramp to the principal entrance of the North Porch. The ramp has been designed to have a gradient of 1:21 and will be constructed with bath stone kerbs and pennant slabs to the travelling route of the ramp **St Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church Porthycarne Street, Usk NP15 1RZ** **Recommend Approval**

22.7 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee

Resolved:

There will be nothing further to report until the gas works have been completed

22.8 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies

There were none.

22.9 Areas of concern around the Town

There are numerous potholes around the Town

Resolved:

The Clerk will notify Mon CC in order that they be repaired.

23.0 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee

The Community Communications sub-committee has met with Rachel Rawlings Mon CC in order to firm up arrangements for the Community Consultation survey.

Resolved:

The survey will commence on the 9th April 2018

The survey will take the following format.

- ❖ Online survey monkey
- ❖ Paper copies of the survey
- ❖ Mon CC will make iPad available for the survey
- ❖ Two drop-in sessions Saturday 14th April and Thursday 19th April
- ❖ The elderly will be approached directly
- ❖ Residents from outlying areas will be asked to identify this

The sub-committee is due to meet again on Thursday 15th March

New Website

The new website has been well received

There are currently 647 "likes" Facebook 184 followers on Twitter

The chairman thanked Cllr Brown, Williams and Wilkinson for all their hard work on the website

23.1 To receive an update from the Events Committee

The sub-committee are due to meet on Thursday 15th March

❖ **The Busking Festival/Community Picnic** - Plans for this are well underway

❖ **Planned events**

✚ 23rd March Silver screen movie night in aid of the Mayor's Appeal

✚ 24th March UTC/Rotary Musical Evening

❖ **Usk Bike Off**

✚ Cllrs met with Mon CC officers this week.

✚ The aim is to achieve publicity for the town and local businesses

Resolved:

✚ Bikes will be displayed from the 1st May to the 31st August

✚ Bikes from last year will be made available for collection,

✚ Mon CC will assist with more bikes should they be needed.

✚ There will be a "Bike Off" Competition

23.2 To receive an update from Usk in Bloom(UiB)

Cllr Kear reported the following

❖ UiB have taken a decision to enter "World in Bloom"

As a result of this decision Cllr Kear gave a report on issues and initiatives UiB wishes to address and take forward.

❖ Usk will feature in the T.V series "Blooming Marvellous" to be screened on Monday 23rd April. This will be screened at Usk Conservative Club (The Grange)

23.3 To receive an update on the proposed gas works by Wales and West Utilities

Cllr Richards reported that the works are progressing positively.

Issues have been raised over the siting of cones and speeding

Resolved:

❖ "SLOW" signs have been put up where requested

❖ Speed will be monitored in certain areas

❖ The cones indicate a "clearway" which needs to be observed by motorists, failure to do so may result in a fine

23.4 To discuss the renewal of membership to One Voice Wales 2018/19

This was discussed by Cllrs.

Resolved:

It was resolved UTC renew their One Voice Wales membership

23.5 To approve the Minutes of a special Meeting held on the Wednesday 21st February 2018

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

23.6 To receive an update on the Usk Christmas markets

Resolved:

The application for a Block Trader Licence has been submitted to Mon CC.

This will be considered by Mon CC on Tuesday 13th March – Cllr Williams will attend the hearing

23.7 To receive an update on the setting up of a litter picker volunteer scheme with the support of Mon CC.

Cllr Leathwood met with volunteers who demonstrated a good interest.

Resolved:

- ❖ There will be a community litter pick on Saturday 24th April at 10.30am
- ❖ A further meeting of the community group will take place on Thursday 29th March and this will be linked with the "Plastic free Usk" initiative

23.8 To receive an update on the promotion of "no plastic" in Usk

Cllr Williams has taken this initiative forward

Resolved:

- ❖ Cllr Brown has produced a poster and logo.
- ❖ The initiative will be launched on 29th March 2018 – Cllr Richards will do a presentation.
- ❖ Social media will be used to promote the event
- ❖ Community Groups will be notified

23.9 To discuss the requirements of the Welsh language Scheme

This matter was considered by members of UTC

Resolved:

It was resolved that UTC will not be signing up for the scheme

24.0 To discuss booking the Reindeer Event for Sunday 2nd December 2018

The event was discussed by members

Resolved:

It was resolved that UTC will go ahead with the event

24.1 To notify Members of UTC of the new General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") which will take effect from 25th May 2018

Cllrs were informed of the new General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") which will take effect from 25th May 2018

Resolved:

Cllr Richards was appointed as the Data Protection Officer For UTC.

24.2 To discuss the recent correspondence from David Davies MP

This was in relation to speeding traffic in Maryport Street.

Other correspondence had also been received from a resident with similar speeding issues in Mill Street.

Resolved:

- ❖ UTC to contact Mon CC with a move to getting 20MPH introduced throughout Usk.
- ❖ UTC to seek support from David Davies MP with this matter.
- ❖ Cllr Kear to take up Speed watch in Maryport Street

24.3 Correspondence:

From: David Davies MP re: speeding traffic in Maryport Street

From: Renewal of membership to One Voice Wales 2018/19

From: Usk Civic Society re: cost of valuation of Usk Priory

From: Welsh Language Commissioner re: Guidance on forming a Welsh Language scheme

From: Mon CC County Highways A Board Displays & Commercial Activity Guidance

From: Children's Wales Ambulance Charity request for funding

From: Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities

Exclusion of Press and Public

By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the items listed on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Council went into Committee to discuss items 24.4 and 24.5

24.4 To discuss nominations for community awards 2018

The Community Awards evening and presentation of cheques from the Mayor's Appeal will take place on Wed 25th April

24.5 To receive the latest report on the Movement of Prisoners from HMP Usk to HMP Prescoed.

Following discussion Council came out of Committee and returned to the main meeting

24.6 Any other Business *Any other business is at the discretion of and with prior notice to the Chairman*

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 9.05pm