



**Minutes of a meeting of Usk Town Council held remotely on Zoom.
on Monday 8th March 2021 at 6pm**

Present

Cllr C. Wilkinson, Cllr A. Watkins, Cllr A. Leathwood, Cllr Roderick, Cllr M Howells, C. Cllr Strong, Cllr Galletley, Cllr H Graz, Cllr P. McGowan, Cllr A Ivin, Cllr M. Evans, Cllr S Williams, RFO Mrs. D. Richards, Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

20.1 To accept apologies for absence.

All Members were present.

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

Cllr Evans disclosed an interest in Item 21.4 recent flooding of the Olway Brook and surrounding area.

20.3 To approve the Minutes held on 8th February 2021.

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

20.4 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 8th February 2021.

19.3 Matters relating to HM Land Registry

Cllr Ivin established the property (Cottage) immediately behind the Sessions House is owned by UTC.

However, it appears further land, behind that (as shown on the Map Search) is unregistered and there are no details held at the Land Registry.

Resolved: Cllr Roderick will contact One Voice Wales for their advice on this matter

20.5 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee (SHMC)

See report dated 4th March 2021.

Cllr Ivin joined the meeting at this point.

Having been approached by Usk Civic Society, SHMC proposes the installation of a Hearing Loop in the Library and Hall.

Resolved: This has been recommended to the Finance Committee

20.6 To receive the monthly finance report for February 2021.

The reconciliation for February 2021 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

The Hearing Loop was recommended to Full Council.

Resolved: There were no objections to the installation of the hearing loop

The following was reported.

- **Bollards outside Usk Primary School** - these have now been installed and UTC will contribute £3000 towards the cost.



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- **Post Office** – it had been agreed UTC would contribute £4000 towards the running costs of the Post Office for the first 12 months. This payment has been made.

Resolved: This payment will be reviewed following examination of the Post Office's financial status

20.7 To receive the following Planning Applications.

- a) **DM/2021/00126** Her Majesty's Prison, Maryport Street, Usk. Listed Building Consent Heritage Fixed, maintenance access route to B Wing roof void. **Recommend Approval**
- b) **DM/2021/00123**. Conversion of redundant domestic store (former Coach House) to ancillary residential accommodation for the benefit of the existing dwelling. Including raising internal floor level, construction of external steps, replacement joinery, alteration of existing aperture and formation of two new apertures, internal dry-lining, and insulation. 27A Newmarket Street, Usk, NP15 1AU **Recommend Approval.**
- c) **DM/2021/00124** Listed Building Consent. 27A Wellesley Coach |House, New Market Street, Usk NP15 1AU Conversion of redundant domestic store (former Coach House) to ancillary residential accommodation for the benefit of the existing dwelling. **Recommend Approval**
- d) **DM/2021/00095** Proposed single storey rear kitchen extension and partial side extension 26 Mill Street, Usk NP15 1AW **Recommend Approval.**
- e) **DM/2021/00122** Proposed two storey extension and alterations 60 Mill street Usk NP15 1AW **Recommend Approval.**
- f) **DM/2021/00070** Harleys Hog Roast. Rear Of 37A Bridge Street, Usk, NP15 1B Construction of a first-floor apartment, including 1 1/2 storeyside extension in place of existing single storey extension.
Resolved: Following discussion Usk Town Council is unable to make a recommendation as they require more information on the following
- Materials to be used
 - Details on access for both pedestrians and vehicles
 - Details on parking facilities for the new residents as there is none identified on the plans

Clerk to contact Planning at MCC for more information and planning sub-committee to discuss further.

Cllr Watkins joined the meeting at this point.

Cllr McGowan left the meeting at this point.



20.8 Areas of concern around the Town

Dog Fouling

Cllr Howells suggested setting up a Facebook group that will allow residents to report a dog fouling incident, this would help to see if there is a pattern of time and location.

Resolved:

- Cllr Howells will attend the forthcoming Mon CC Dog Fouling Group meeting on 18th March 2021 & discuss the idea with members of the group.
- Cllr Roderick will also attend the meeting, along with Cllr Leathwood and the Clerk
- A reminder of the Dog Fouling Action Day scheduled in Usk for 22nd April 2021.

20.9 To receive an update on the proposed markets on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC) – No update

a) To discuss the use of the site as a recreational area for older children

This matter was discussed by Full Council.

Resolved: The enclosed/walled area was considered too small and not suitable in both its location and structure for a skateboard park. However, UTC is open to suggestions and will wait on the response from MCC regarding the area's usage as a market. It is hoped that the area could have a number of uses.

21.0 To receive an update on

- Memorial Hall car park - No update**
- Monmouthshire Councils Review of Parking in Usk – No update**

21.1 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk.

No update.

MCC had informed UTC the allocated Welsh Government funding could possibly be used for the installation of a digital noticeboard in Usk.

Resolved: Cllr Williams has researched this proposal and a presentation outlining the benefits to the town has been submitted to MCC

21.2 To receive an update on the traffic light system in Bridge Street, Usk

No update

21.3 To receive an update 20mph speed limit in & around Usk.

Although 20mph is well established on Bridge Street and MCC acknowledge UTC's and residential support for a town wide 20mph zone, in the absence of funding, other areas within the county have been prioritized. Usk will not be considered further, until 22/23.

Resolved: UTC is extremely disappointed with this decision and will explore the possibility of Usk becoming a "20mph Area" using relevant signage. Cllr Williams will liaise with MCC Officer Graham Kinsella



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21.4 To Discuss recent flooding of the Olway Brook and surrounding area.

Following recent flooding concerns expressed by Usk Athletic Club there has been correspondence between National Resource Wales (NRW) & MCC.

NRW reported, as the source of flooding is from a non-main river it is a matter for the Lead Local Flood Authority, MCC, to investigate further. However, they will work alongside MCC to assess flood risk from main river sources including the Olway Brook and the River Usk.

A resident in Chepstow Road, has identified a blocked drain which he considers may be the cause of the flooding and needs only to be cleared of debris to prevent flooding.

Resolved:

- Clerk to notify MCC & NRW of this
- MCC will discuss directly with the Usk Athletic Club (UAC) and hope NRW as the responsible Authority can provide further information.
- MCC will contact UAC to discuss the matter and any support that may be available.

21.5 To inform Members of the “Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Annual Report 2021 to 2022”

Cllr Leathwood explained the report deals with members allowances and expenses. He reported there had been no significant changes.

Resolved: This was noted by Members.

21.6 To receive a report from a meeting with the Police Community Support Officer

Members met recently with the new PCSO Sara Mason; this had been a very positive meeting. PCSO Mason is very eager to work with UTC and the community.

Resolved: UTC to write to the Police expressing their delight at PCSO Mason’s positive attitude towards community engagement

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 item 21.7 a) & 21.7 b)

21.7 To receive an update on

a) The Whitehouse, Old Market Street, Usk

b) The Priory Gatehouse

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

21.8 To receive the Clerk’s report on the following.

- Mon CC Dog Fouling Group – postponed until 18th March 2021.
- Dog Fouling Action Day in Usk - postponed until 22nd April 2021.



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- Notification has been received; it is hoped the Usk Agricultural Show will take place this year.
- Memorial to Jill Jeremiah, former Councillor and Mayor – Members to decide the plaque inscription.

21.9 Correspondence - None

22.0 Any Other Business

After many years of dedicated practice to Usk, Dr Alan & Susan Jarret are retiring. UTC to send a letter of thanks in recognition of their service to the community.