



Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Minutes of a Meeting of Usk Town Council to be held at The Sessions House, Usk, on Monday 12th October 2020 at 7.00pm.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Chris Wilkinson welcomed the newly elected Chair of Usk in Bloom (UiB) Mr. David Williams, who described this year's UiB's achievements and how they intend to move forward. Next year UiB plans to emphasize the benefits of flowers in the town with residents physical and mental wellbeing, being a priority. UiB has a new project for the spring whereby they hope to plant 2021 bulbs in the town's boxes with a display of spring colours.

Present

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

9.0 To accept apologies for absence

Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

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

Cllr Galletley declared an interest in

Item 9.6 a) **DM/2018/01641** Erection of fuel storage building to replace existing storage compound and relocation of 2no.porta cabin office buildings together with parking provision Trostrey Court Farms Barns, Clytha Road Trostrey Common Gwehelog Monmouthshire

9.2 To approve the Minutes held on 14th September 2020

Minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed

9.3 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 14th September 2020

- With reference to Item 8.6 Cllr Watkins informed UTC, Usk Rotary Club is applying for Lottery funding not Welsh Government funding.
- There were no other matters arising.

9.4 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated 8th October 2020

9.5 To receive the monthly finance report for September 2020

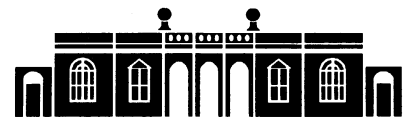
The bank reconciliation for September 2020 showed no erroneous receipts or payments

9.6 To receive Planning Applications

a) To receive an update on Planning application DM/2018/01641 Erection of fuel storage building to replace existing storage compound and relocation of 2no.porta cabin office buildings together with parking provision Trostrey Court Farms Barns, Clytha Road Trostrey Common Gwehelog Monmouthshire

a) To discuss Stop Waste Incineration, Protect the Environment (SWIPE)

SWIPE has asked UTC as supporters, if they wish to contribute financially, to objecting to this planning application. Monies given will be specifically towards the potential costs of a judicial review.



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Resolved:

- Members unanimously agreed to donate £1,000 under the statutory power of the Local Government Act 2000 (ss1-5) (power of well-being) to enable SWIPE to continue their work.
- Cllr Ivin to liaise with the SWIPE team.

9.7 To receive a report from Usk in Bloom

Resolved Cllr Wilkinson & Cllr Leathwood meet with UiB to discuss financial help for the coming year.

9.8 Areas of concern around the Town

No issues were raised

9.9 To receive an update from Usk Twinning Association

The Chair of Usk Twinning Association has written to UTC. There is no update as such. It is hoped Twinning plans will resume in the Spring.

10.0 To receive an update on the Usk Household Recycling Centre - SURF

MCC's Cabinet decision is to close the Usk Household Recycling Centre. Cllrs are very disappointed with the decision and felt the views of not only Usk residents, but those of some of the Select Committee were not taken into account.

Resolved: The SURF team will meet later this week to see how best they can move forward and to prepare a statement for press and social media

10.1 To receive an update on the recent meeting with Inspector Hassall of Gwent Police

The meeting with Inspector Hassall had been very positive and reassurance had been given the Neighbourhood Police Team Sergeant will ensure Usk has an improved service.

Resolved:

- Inspector Hassall will look to have bi-monthly meetings with UTC
- There are presently three PCSO's as one is retiring in near future. Councillors were informed the PCSO's are available during the evening.
- Councillors felt MCC should be contacted about having enforcement officers on duty in the town

10.2 To receive an update on the Memorial Hall car park

- No further update other than MCC will resite two of the charging points
- Cllr Leathwood reported he had contacted Roger Hoggins who says drainage is still an issue. Cllr Leathwood to contact Graham Kinsella regarding the above.

10.3 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

UTC has met with Mon CC. It was resolved Roger Hoggins will submit a report for Usk based on the Masterplan. This will come to Usk TC for viewing, then all being well onto Cabinet
There is a £10,000 research grant available until the end of March 2021.

10.4 To receive an update on the consultation exercise on Active Travel.

- Cllr Howells reported MCC are encouraging people to walk or cycle rather than using cars. The consultation covers both, primary and secondary schools, businesses and residents.
- Cllr Howells will share a map identifying cycling routes in the area.
- It has been suggested the wide grassed area on the approach road to the A449 may be paved for cyclists. Cllr Evans said he would oppose this as it would destroy a green area.



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10.5 To receive an update on the traffic light system in Usk

Cllr Williams updated members on the current situation.

- MCC officers are meeting on a regular basis in Bridge Street
- The cylinders to replace the barriers have not yet arrived. It was considered these may relieve some problems with the area outside Sprokwobbles.
- Cllr Howells presented statistics from the Business Network survey and will publish them on social media
- Following discussion Councillors agreed, although not a perfect solution, the traffic light system was working

10.6 To receive an update on the Pump Track

Cllr Watkins reported the REET and the Rotary Club have withdrawn an application for a Pump Track. This is a complicated issue as the area was formerly a waste tip and as a result the spoil cannot be disturbed.

Cllr Howells suggested looking for another site.

10.7 To receive an update on cleansing of the Park Toilets

Resolved:

- MCC will undertake the toilet cleaning free of charge.
- Two keys will be handed over, one for the operative using the facility and the other for the cleaner on 2nd Nov 2020.
- The Clerk has requested a quote from MCC to clean the toilets during summer opening
- With regard to the facility and this is under the management of MCC assets.

10.8 To discuss proposed winter events in the Town

Resolved: Clerk to arrange for the Events Committee to meet in two weeks to discuss, within Covid regulations some type of Christmas activity

10.9 To discuss the recent closing of Usk Castle to the public

An email has been received from a resident expressing concern about the decision by the owners of Usk Castle to close to the public. The owners will, however, open for events around the town such as Usk Open Gardens.

Resolved: Councillors respect their decision and will encourage residents to join the Castle Friends scheme. £10 per annum single or £18 for family membership.

11.0 To inform Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2021

Cllr Leathwood updated Members on the report, a copy of which is available in the Clerk's office.

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 item 11.1



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11.1 To receive an update on

a) The Whitehouse, Old Market Street, Usk s

b) The Priory Gatehouse

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

11.2 To receive the Clerk's report on the following

- **Mon CC Dog Fouling Group** –The action day has been postponed
- **Usk Litter Action Group** – The group is back in action. Cllr Leathwood requested more litter picking equipment.
- **The Pumping Station** – This has been painted by Dwr Cymru

11.3 Correspondence

Thank You from Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity

11.4 Any Other Business

Cllr Howells will update councillors by e mail on the recent Air Quality meeting and with relevant data at the next month's Full Council meeting.