

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at  
The Sessions House, Usk on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>December 2016 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr T Keenan, Cllr G Roderick, Cllr Mrs. J Jeremiah, Cllrs A Leathwood, R. Galletley, Cllr Mrs. C Wilkinson, C. Cllr B Strong, Cllr Ms. I Brown, Cllr M Evans, Cllr Mrs. C Williams  
Town Clerk – Mrs. Tracey Huxley

Prior to the meeting at 7pm Gavin Jones Community Engagement Officer addressed Full Council about the Living Levels Partnership.

**13.8 To accept Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Watkins, Cllr D Harding, RFO Ms. J. Mee

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

C. Cllr B Strong - All Planning  
Cllr. I Brown - Item 15.6 Shop Close to Home Initiative

**14.0 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

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

**14.1 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

It has been reported that the gutters along the Monmouth Road leading towards Factory Lane have been cleared but weeds still remain.

**Resolved:**

C Cllr Strong will investigate this matter.

**14.2 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management  
Committee**

See report dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

**14.3 To receive the monthly finance report and to discuss the Budget  
2017/18**

The reconciliation for November 2016 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

The proposed Budget for 2017/18 was presented to Full Council for inspection. Acceptance of this was proposed by Cllr Galletley and duly accepted by Full Council.

Cllr Roderick on behalf of UTC thanked Cllr Leathwood and Jenny Mee RFO for all their hard work in preparing the budget.

**14.4 Planning Applications.**

1. **DC/2015/01588** Extend and subdivide to form residence. **The Old Smithy Gallery 34 Maryport Street** **Recommend Refusal**

2. **DC/2013/00322** Construction of unit 6 (being final stage of overall development scheme for the retention of existing builders yard and replacement of existing buildings – DC/2013/00367) Comprising detached single storey unit (12.6m x 11.1m x4m eaves)  
**The Builders Yard Chepstow Road. For Information**
3. **DC/2016/01275** Proposed two storey extension **6 Priors Street**  
**Usk NP15 1BJ Recommend Approval**

#### **14.5 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee**

UTC recently attended the Ben Hamilton-Baille workshop with MCC, the Police and other parties including members of Llanbadoc Community Council to discuss Usk's traffic problems. The workshop had proved to be positive.

##### **Resolved:**

UTC waiting a report and recommendations from the Ben Hamilton-Baille workshop

#### **14.6 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies**

Cllr Williams reported that she attended the Citizen's Advice Bureau's (CAB) Annual Meeting. This had been a very positive meeting with outreach work being extended to farming communities and a number of innovative ideas introduced. CAB can be accessed in Usk on Thursdays 10.30-12.30 at the Community Hub.

#### **14.7 Areas of concern around the Town**

Concerns were expressed about the following

- The state of the Whitehouse, Old Market Street
- A caravan situated in St. Mary's Way.

##### **Resolved:**

Cllr Strong will investigate these matters

#### **14.8 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee**

##### **Resolved:**

- ❖ Facebook

Information and posts are being shared on Facebook.

There are presently 288 "likes".

Cllr Brown presented the results of the UTC questionnaire. This had been put together in graph form by Cllr Wilkinson and Miss Charlotte Wilkinson.

The document will be available on the UTC website and posted on Facebook for people to view.

#### **14.9 To review the recent Winter Festival/Reindeer Parade**

##### **Resolved:**

This had been a successful event. Cllrs thanked the Clerk for co-ordinating the event.

A de- brief meeting has been held by the Events sub- committee. All issues/recommendations have been noted and will be addressed accordingly.

### **15.0 To receive an update from the Events Committee**

#### **Resolved:**

There a number of forthcoming events

A series of "Talks" by

- ❖ Geoff Hughes - 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 at 7.30pm "Behind the Prison Walls"
- ❖ Ian Williams - 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm "The Klondike Gold Rush"
- ❖ Jeremy Bosanquet - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm "Lost Houses of Monmouthshire"
- ❖ The Casino Night 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

### **Celebrate Wales**

A sub- committee will form in the New Year in order to plan the Usk Pageant following the recent successful funding from the Heritage Lottery Funding

### **15.1 To discuss the proposed increase in Business rates announced by the Government for 2017**

Nick Ramsay AM had hosted a public meeting alongside UTC on the 5<sup>th</sup> December to discuss this matter.

#### **Resolved:**

Nick Ramsay AM will return to the Welsh Assembly with the local businesses response to the increase in rates. It is hoped that the Welsh Government will postpone the increase in rates until matters are fully resolved.

### **15.2 To discuss financial support for Usk in Bloom**

#### **Resolved:**

It was proposed and agreed by Full Council that UTC increase their donation to Usk in Bloom from £3000 to £5500

### **15.3 To discuss the Usk Town Guide 2017**

The production of the guide has been on hold until after the festivities

#### **Resolved:**

Funding has been included in the UTC budget but further monies will need to raise through advertising.

### **15.4 To receive an update from the recent Usk Area Cluster Workshop**

Cllr Brown reported that this had been a very positive meeting.

Community and Town Councils are working together as a collective voice.

The following concerns were discussed: -

- ❖ Traffic - the recent Ben Hamilton-Baille workshop
- ❖ Public transport
- ❖ Shop local
- ❖ Shared Business co-working space from rural areas

#### **Resolved:**

MCC will write formally, with a breakdown of the agreement on these issues.

**15.5 To discuss the possibility of acquiring a piano/keyboard for use in the Sessions House**

**Resolved:**

UTC agreed that the acquiring of a piano would be an excellent idea if funding could be obtained.

**15.6 To discuss the Shop Close to Home Initiative**

Cllr Brown stated that the high-street needs to be revived and people need to shop locally in order to try and stop the decline of small towns. As a result, Cllr Brown is putting together a postcode and category searchable business directory and creating an awareness raising campaign to encourage local consumer spending and community sustainability.

**Resolved**

Member of UTC are totally supportive of the initiative.

**15.7 To discuss the Bus Services in Usk**

Councillors fully understand the concerns of the reduced bus service in Usk.

**Resolved**

UTC to contact MCC to enquire about the Grassroute bus service.

**15.8 Correspondence:**

**From:** The Big Lottery Fund Re: Celebrate Wales

**From:** One Voice Wales Re: Monmouth/Newport Area Committee

**From:** MCC Public Transport

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

**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 receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee and to discuss item 15.9

**15.9 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.

**16.0 Any other Business**

**For Information**

Cllr Strong reported that the Waste & Recycling Amenity will not be closing.

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 9.10pm.

