

**Minutes of a Meeting of Usk Town Council held at The Sessions House,  
Usk on Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr D Harding, Cllr T Keenan, Cllr Mrs. C Wilkinson  
Cllrs A Leathwood, R. Galletley, Cllrs M Evans,  
Mrs. C. Williams, Cllr. P Phillips, G Roderick, T Watkins, Cllr B Strong  
Ms. J Mee - Sessions House Manager/Responsible Finance Officer

**19.4 To accept Apologies for Absence**

Cllr.Mrs Jeremiah

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

C. Cllr B Strong – All Planning  
Cllrs Galletley and Evans – Allotments

**19.6 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

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

**19.7 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

There were none.

**19.8 To Approve and sign the Minutes of a special meeting held on  
18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were approved as an accurate record.

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

See report dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016

**20.0 To receive the financial statement of accounts for January 2016  
and to agree the budget for the next financial year 2016/17**

Councillors received the list of receipts and payments.

The reconciliation for January 2015 showed no erroneous receipts or payments  
The Treasurer's proposed budget was noted. He explained that having examined  
the figures Usk Town Council (UTC) is in a position to take on, from Mon CC, the  
financial responsibility of both the manual road sweeping and the public toilets in  
Usk.

**Resolved:**

- UTC to submit its budget to MCC
- Advise Mon CC that UTC have agreed to take on the financial responsibility of both the manual road sweeping and the public toilets in Usk.

**20.1 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 discuss 20.1 Movement of Prisoners from HMP Usk to HMP Prescoed and also to discuss items 20.2, 20.3, 20.4 and 20.5 (see below)

**20.2 To receive an update on the proposed skate park/Borstal Field**

Discussed in Committee

**20.3 To receive an update on the state of the Priory in St. Mary's Way**

Discussed in Committee

**20.4 To discuss Community Awards in Usk for 2015/16**

Discussed in Committee

**20.5 To receive a report on Staff Appraisal**

Discussed in Committee

**20.6 To receive an update on Usk Post Office proposed move to new premises & branch modernization**

**Resolved:**

- UTC has received a letter from the P.O. explaining they consider the new branch is suitably located and will be proceeding with the proposed move.
- The new branch will open on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**20.7 Planning Applications.**

1. **DC/2015/01588** The Old Smithy Gallery, Maryport Street. To convert existing shop into two dwellings **Recommend Refusal**
2. **DC/2015/01529** Baron Street, Usk. Ground floor rear kitchen extension and raising roof level **Recommend Approval**
3. **DC/2015/00263** Wharncliffe 10 Abergavenny Road, Usk\_Excavation of car parking area to front of house - removal of wall and earth and construction of retaining wall/car port area **Application Noted**
4. **DC/2015/01592** Advertisement Consent. Freestanding signs at various locations along the A472.  
Multiple sites along the A472 Nr Usk. **Recommend Refusal**

**20.8 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee**

No further information to report

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

### Usk in Bloom

Cllr Mrs. Williams reported the following

- Usk in Bloom is moving forward with this year's planning and planting.
- Usk will feature in the Large Village category.
- The first "Clean for the Queen" has taken place.
- There is to be a Dog Walking fundraising event on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April

## **21.0 To receive an update on the "Give Dog Fouling the Red Card" pilot scheme**

- "The Give Dog Fouling the Red Card" leaflets are in the process of being delivered by Terry Smith and Cllrs.
- An extra dog poop bin is to be placed on the Conigar Walk

There has been a request from U in B to move the existing dog poop bin on the Monmouth Road some 15ft next to the refuse bin adjacent to the bus shelter.

### **Resolved:**

Following discussion it was felt that moving the bin will not make a significant impact, however, it was agreed that U in B may move the bin should they wish at their own responsibility.

## **21.1 To receive an update on Community defibrillators in Usk**

### **Resolved:**

- HMP Usk is in the process of donating two defibrillators to the Town. UTC waiting for a date.
- Usk Primary School is purchasing two defibrillators one of which will be kept in the school the other will be donated to the Town and be placed in the Three Salmons Hotel.
- A letter has been sent to Callum Phillips thanking him for his original offer to fundraise for a defibrillator in the Town.

## **21.2 To receive a report from the Allotments at Factory Lane**

See report dated

Usk Allotment sub – committee to meet with Factory Lane Allotment Association on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

## **21.3 To receive a report from Cllrs attending the Chamber of Commerce meetings and to discuss attendance at the Next Chamber of Commerce meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

### **Resolved:**

Cllrs Williams and Roderick will attend the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016

## **21.4 To receive a report from Cllrs attending The Usk Festival/Market Committee**

Cllr Mrs. Williams reported that the Chamber of Commerce is working hard and plans for the markets are progressing. Debbie McCarty, Mon CC is advising on the event.

The markets/festival will be held on the weekend of the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.

**21.5 To discuss the proposal of UTC obtaining a block trading licence on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce**

**Resolved:**

It was agreed in principle by members of UTC to obtain a block trading licence on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce  
Cllr Mrs. Williams to make a formal request to the Finance Committee for their approval.

**21.6 To discuss the proposal from MCC of "Community Cluster" communities for the purpose of contributing to service provision**

The proposal from MCC of "Community Cluster" communities for the purpose of contributing to service provision was noted by members.

**21.7 To receive an update on the Vale of Usk Local Action Group**

**Resolved:**

Cllr Roderick reported that the Usk Environmental Group has applied for a grant for the path across the Owain Glyndawr Field.

**21.8 To receive an update on the Velathon 2016 and discuss attendance at proposed meetings at County Hall**

The Velathon will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016

**Resolved:**

- Either Cllr Galletley or Cllr Mrs. Williams will attend the proposed Velathon meeting at County Hall.
- The date of the meeting is to be confirmed by MCC.

**21.9 To discuss the Reindeer Parade for 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Resolved:**

It was agreed by members to host the Reindeer Parade again in the Town on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**22.0 To discuss renewal of UTC membership with One Voice Wales**

**Resolved:**

It was agreed that Usk Town Council will renew their membership with One Voice Wales.

**22.1 To discuss the car parking facilities at the Borstal Field**

It was reported that there are numerous cars parking on the road outside the Borstal Field during weekends when the Junior Football are playing. This is proving to be hazardous.

**Resolved:**

Organizers of the Usk Junior Football Club to be advised to contact the Prison Learning Centre directly to request permission to use their car park during weekends.

**22.2 To receive an update on Usk Town Band**

The Usk Town Band reception in order to celebrate their recent successes was well received.

The following has been resolved regarding the use of the Library  
The Roger Edwards Educational Trust is happy to give the band a 5 year lease. It is conditional on building repairs being undertaken by Usk Town Band.

### **22.3 To receive a report from the Events Committee regarding the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations**

#### **❖ "Clean for the Queen Friday " 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

##### **Resolved:**

Cllr Mrs. Williams reported that there has been a recent litter pick by Usk in Bloom

#### **❖ The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacon**

##### **Resolved:**

Waiting for confirmation from the Scouts about arrangements for a Birthday Beacon.

#### **❖ The Patron's Lunch/ street parties Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

##### **Resolved:**

UTC Events sub-committee have met to discuss this. It is to be a joint venture with Diane Richards from the Royal British Legion. Discussions are ongoing.

### **22.4 To inform Councillors of a series of questions being considered for the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill.**

This reported was noted by Councillors.

### **22.5 Correspondence:**

**From: Gwent Federation of Young Farmers request for funding**

**From: MCC Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2016-17**

**From: One Voice Wales Area Meeting Agenda**

**From: Post Office Correspondence Team re: Usk Post Office relocation**

**From: One Voice Wales re: renewal of Membership**

**From: Cairngorm Reindeer re: booking reindeer event 2016**

**From: Kidney Wales Foundation "Walk for Life" 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **22.6 For information**

- UTC Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am at SS Francis Xavier and David Lewis Catholic Church
- Kidney Wales Foundation "Walk for Life" 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**22.7 Any other business.** *Any other business is at the discretion of and with prior notice to the Chairman*

### **Speed watch –for information**

Members were informed that the Community Speed watch members have sent a letter and petition to Paul Matthews at Monmouthshire County Council requesting the following:

1. Confirmation as to whether MCC is willing to carry out a full assessment of traffic management options and clearly state what the Council can do to address their concerns, improve safety and reduce vehicle speeds on Abergavenny Road / Porthycarne Street, and in Usk town.
2. What budget the MCC has allocated for highway improvements in the Usk area in the coming financial year (2016/17).

The petition demonstrates 100% support for action to be taken from the residents of Abergavenny Road.

**For Information**

- The Chairman announced that Cllr Phillips is to tender his resignation as a member of Usk Town Council at next month's meeting.
- Councillors were reminded about the Casino Night 7.30pm on 13th Feb at Sessions House all proceeds in aid of the Usk Mayor's Appeal

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 9.15pm