

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at
The Sessions House, Usk on Monday 9th January 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 A Watkins, Cllr D Harding RFO Ms. J Mee
Town Clerk – Mrs. Tracey Huxley

Prior to the meeting, Carl Touhig MCC and representatives of Virador addressed members of Usk Town Council (UTC) regarding the improvement in access and safety of the local Civic Amenity Centre.

16.1 To accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs. C Williams

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

C. Cllr B Strong - All Planning

16.3 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on

12th December 2016

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

16.4 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on

12th December 2016

14.1 The gutters along the Monmouth Road leading towards Factory Lane

Resolved:

These have now been cleared

14.2 A caravan remains situated on the highway in St. Mary's Way

Resolved:

Cllr Strong will investigate this matters

16.5 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management

Committee

No update

16.6 To receive the monthly finance report

No report available

16.7 To receive Planning Applications and to discuss newly proposed planning procedures

- There were no planning applications for consideration

- Newly proposed planning procedures

MCC wish to avoid running two systems (paper and electronic consultation for planning applications.) Town and Community Councils who require paper plans will need to cover the cost of printing and postage. UTC has been quoted £544 per annum for paper plans. The actual cost would be calculated at the end of each year and an invoice forwarded.

Resolved:

UTC to opt for the one-off cost of a projector to show the plans on a screen at Council meetings.

16.8 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee

Following the Usk Traffic Workshop held on 15th November the scoping report from Mr. Hamilton-Baillie entitled: "Tackling traffic and safety concerns through place-making and lower speeds." is now available.

Resolved:

Cllr Leathwood will meet with Paul Keeble to see how things can be moved forward. The HGV committee and relevant parties will then reconvene.

16.9 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies

Chamber of Commerce

The following was reported

- Summer Festival dates are 1st and 2nd July 2017
- Winter Festival 2nd & 3rd December 2017
- Discussions are ongoing with regard to a cycling event

17.0 Areas of concern around the Town

Car parking outside the school with particular reference to Monmouth Road

Resolved:

Cllr Strong to request that MCC meet with UTC before any decisions are made.

17.1 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee

The Community Communication Committee are due to meet this week. There are currently 290 "likes" on Facebook

17.2 To receive an update from the Events Committee

Events Committee are due to meet on Wednesday 11th January 2017

The following events are scheduled

- Geoff Hughes 18th Jan 7.30pm "Behind the Prison Walls"
- Ian Williams -7th Feb 7.30pm "The Klondike Gold Rush"
- Jeremy Bosanquet -17th Mar 7.30pm "Lost Houses of Monmouthshire"
- Casino Night Sat 11th Feb

17.3 To discuss the proposed increase in Business rates announced by the Government for 2017

It was reported that MCC are working hard to help local businesses with the rise in business rates. There is £10 million fund to assist. Local businesses are encouraged to contact the Valuations Office. Their application should be entitled "Monmouthshire Hardship Fund" this will then be given priority.

17.4 To discuss the Usk Town Guide 2017

Cllr Jeremiah and RFO Jenny Mee have visited local businesses with a view to updating the Town Guide. They have received a very positive response from businesses. There is meeting scheduled with the publisher in order to discuss the guide and cost of production.

17.5 To receive an update from the recent Usk Area Cluster Workshop and discuss Councillor attendance at the next Cluster meetings

Cllr Brown will attend the next Cluster meeting on the 26th January 2017

17.6 To discuss the Bus Services in Usk

No update

17.7 To discuss the forthcoming Velothon on Sunday 9th July 2017 and Councillor attendance at a community engagement session at 6pm on 17th January 2017

Cllrs Keenan and Leathwood will attend the Velothon meeting.

17.8 To discuss A Nation's Tribute 100 years of Remembrance 11th Nov 2018

In commemoration and remembrance of the end of the First World War a chain of 1000 beacons will be lit throughout the UK at 7pm on 11th November 2018. UTC have been asked to participate.

Resolved:

UTC will join with this special tribute. Clerk to notify the organizers

17.9 To consider Community Awards in Usk for 2016/17

Resolved:

The Community Awards sub-committee will meet on Wednesday 11th January in order to discuss the nominations.

18.0 To discuss the forthcoming Usk Pageant on the 16th July 2017

Resolved:

Following the recent lottery funding a Pageant Committee will form in order to organize the event.

18.1 To receive an update on the Usk Park Project

The Usk Park Project (UPP) has been successful in their Lottery Funding application. The Big Lottery Fund is providing £100k and Usk Park Project have already raised £16K.

The UPP has approached Usk Town Council about providing £6,000 capital budget (for the build etc. i.e. fixed elements)

Resolved:

UTC are not in a position to donate £6 000 however, UPP will visit UTC at the next Full Council meeting in order to update and discuss the park project.

18.2 To discuss management and cleaning of public conveniences - 2017/18

A number of Town and Community Councils are looking to adopt and manage public conveniences by the end of the financial year. It is proposed that UTC adopt and manage the public conveniences in Usk. MCC have contacted UTC to enquire as to how UTC is contemplating organizing cleaning and maintenance services in the coming year, in order to give MCC a steer on recruitment.

Resolved:

UTC will maintain the current practice/arrangement they have with MCC.

18.3 Correspondence:

From: Welsh Government re: Non-Domestic Rates Revaluation 2017

From: David Davies MP Response to rise in business rates

From: MCC Re: Velothon meeting at County Hall on Tuesday 17th Jan at 6pm

From: IBDO Update on invoice arrangements for the audit for the year ended 31st March 2016

From: Naomi Horsley Chair of Usk Park Project

18.4 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 18.5

18.5 Any other Business.

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 8.35pm.