

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at
The Sessions House, Usk on Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr T Keenan, Cllr G Roderick, Cllrs A Leathwood, Cllr Mrs. C Wilkinson, C. Cllr B Strong, Cllr Ms. I Brown, Cllr M Evans, Cllr A Watkins, Cllr D Harding, Cllr R Galletley,
RFO Ms. J Mee
Town Clerk – Mrs. Tracey Huxley

Prior to the meeting at Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) Mr. Jeff Cuthbert addressed members of Usk Town Council (UTC) on the role of the PCC.

There was a minute's silence in remembrance of former Mayor of Usk John Jones who recently passed away.

22.0 To accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr Jeremiah and Cllr Williams

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

Cllr Strong – all planning

22.2 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and duly signed with one amendment 20.1 should include "There was no financial report available due to the reduction in working hours of the RFO and extra work involved in the production of the Town Guide."

22.3 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017

- The Gents Public Toilets in Maryport Street
Resolved:
The toilet flush is now working
- Litter on the grass verges of the A449
Resolved:
Awaiting clarification as to who is responsible for the cleaning/maintenance of the A449.

22.4 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

It was reported by the Chair that a local building surveyor has looked at the Sessions House and submitted a report highlighting work that needs to be done on both the inside and the outside of the building.

Resolved:

The following work on the Sessions House was agreed by Council

- External work will be put on hold until further quotations have been received
- The carpet leading off the main hall is to be replaced
- Cost of materials in order to decorate the kitchen and gents' toilet

22.5 To receive the monthly finance report

The reconciliation for January 2017 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

The Chair of Finance reported that UTC is within budget.

A request has been received from Usk Town Football Club for funding in order to improve their pitch following their league promotion.

Resolved:

Funding will be given to UFC with a view to improving facilities subject to various issues regarding ownership of the football pitch being resolved.

22.6 To receive Planning Applications

- 1) **DC/2017/00135 8 Baron Street usk NP15 1AS** Ground floor rear kitchen extension
Recommend Approval
- 2) **DC/2017/00152 The Orchard 21 Maryport Street, Usk NP15 1AB**
Replace flat roof with a pitched
Recommend Approval
- 3) **DC/2015/01588 Appeal Against a refusal The Old Smithy Gallery 34 Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AE** Conversion with alterations and extensions to former gallery to provide 2 no dwellings
Noted – for information only

Cllr Strong reported that there is planning for the development of 18 houses on the land opposite Factory Lane allotments.

The developers plan to contact UTC in order to discuss the development.

22.7 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee Bridge on the Abergavenny Road,

It was reported that the new markings under the railway bridge on this stretch of road have no benefit or impact on traffic management.

Resolved:

Cllr Strong will take this forward to MCC.

22.8 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies

- **Usk In Bloom**
There has been a request for the brown signs on the road into Usk (off the A449) to be brought forward to just within the 30 miles an hour speed limit signs
Resolved:
C Cllr Strong will liaise with Paul Keeble from MCC regarding this.
- **Summer Festival**
Dates are 1st and 2nd July 2017.
Cllr Brown reported that this is progressing. Advertising will start after Easter. Entertainment for the weekend has been arranged.
The Chamber are exploring a new layout with a view to visitors paying a £1 per person for entertainment in order that the Festival becomes sustainable.
- **Twinning Association**
Visitors from Graben Neudorf will be arriving on Saturday 8th April 2017.
Muskicwerkstat will perform a concert at St. Mary's Church on Sunday 9th April at 6pm
There will be a reception afterwards at Usk Conservative Club.

22.9 Areas of concern around the Town

- The fallen tree on the Conigar Walk
Resolved:
Cllr Strong reported that MCC will take away the tree and tidy up the area
- Tree at the rear entrance to the Sessions House
The tree is causing obstruction to passing vehicles and need cutting back
Resolved:
Cllr Strong will investigate this matter with MCC
- Parking outside One Stop Retail Shop, Maryport Street
It has been suggested that the cobbles opposite the One Stop Retail shop in Maryport St. be removed and make way for a parking layby to ease the congestion/hazardous parking on this stretch of road.
Resolved:
Cllr Strong will take this suggestion forward to MCC

- **Athletic Club fence along Mill Lane**

This is unsightly and needs repairing

Resolved:

Clerk to contact Usk Athletic Club (UAC)

- **White House situated in Old Market Street**

This remains in a poor state of repair

Resolved:

Cllr Strong will make some enquiries with MCC

Borstal Field

- A new dog poop bin will be placed near to the playing field.
Japanese Knot weed has been identified on the field.

Resolved:

Clerk to notify UAC

23.0 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee including the "1 piece of litter campaign"

- "1 piece of litter campaign" joined with the Spring Clean Cymru.
- Usk in Bloom did a 30-minute challenge and Usk Primary School were also involved in litter picking.
- UTC sent a letter to Welsh Government and other key members about the state of the laybys on the A449. The letter was printed by the Abergavenny Chronicle.
- UTC have been liaising with Litter Champions and the waste and recycling dept. at MCC. It is hoped that better links will be built

Resolved:

Awaiting clarification as to who is responsible for the cleaning/maintenance of the A449.

23.1 To discuss the current Usk Town Council website

A review of the website has been undertaken. The present website is now outdated and needs a better navigation system

Resolved:

Cllr Brown will put forward recommendations to the Communications Committee

23.2 To receive an update from the Events Committee

There are a few events planned

- Jeremy Bosanquet's talk is scheduled on 15th March at 7.30pm on "Lost Houses of Monmouthshire"
- Rotary Music Night at Usk Memorial Hall Saturday 25th March at 7pm
- Tony Watkins has agreed to do a talk on Wednesday 19th April entitled " My years in Special Branch with one case in particular"

23.3 To receive an update on the proposed increase in Business rates announced by the Government for 2017

The response from Mark Drayford has been noted.

23.4 To receive an update on the Usk Town Guide 2017

It is hoped the Town Guide will be available at the end of the month. The cost of the guide has been covered through advertising and there will be 15 000 copies published.

Members of UTC thanked Cllrs Jeremiah and Wilkinson and RFO Jenny Mee for all their hard work in producing the guide.

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

Next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Tuesday on 14th March 6.30pm at County Hall.

Cllr Brown will attend.

23.6 To receive an update on the forthcoming Velothon on Sunday 9th July 2017

The Velothon event organizers and MCC met with Usk Town Council in order to discuss areas of concern and to give a Velothon update.

Resolved:

Cllr Brown has agreed to lead a planning group for 'Velothon Usk' in order that Usk capitalizes as much as possible on making the event a success for Usk. A 'town team' approach to planning is required. Usk Town Council will 'lead' the way and embrace the importance of the event, hopefully, with the support of other key organizations and businesses.

The first meeting will be held on Monday 20th March 6.30pm at The Sessions House

23.7 To receive an update on the forthcoming Usk Pageant on the 16th July 2017

Preparations for Pageant are progressing.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 23rd March at 6.30pm

23.8 To discuss the proposed civic reception from Graben Neudorf

The new Burgermeister and Councillors from Graben Neudorf are due arrive on Friday 23rd June 2017. They will be in Usk for Open Gardens weekend 24th – 25th June.

There will be a small reception at the Sessions House on their arrival and a Civic Dinner on Saturday 24th June with entertainment hosted by UTC.

23.9 To discuss the consultation on the planning of Gypsy, Traveller and Show people sites

Resolved:

Following discussion, it was resolved to write to Welsh Government informing them that UTC considers Gypsies and Travellers to have a fundamental right to appropriate accommodation sites. UTC will request Welsh Government's specific detailed intentions on how they plan to resolve the accommodation issue.

24.0 To accept proposals for nominations for Chairman 2017/2018

Cllr Galletley proposed Cllr Roderick as Mayor Elect for 2016/2017.

All Cllrs were in favour of this proposal.

24.1 Correspondence:

From Independent Remuneration for Wales – Annual Report 2017/18

From: Caerleon Comprehensive School – Prize day

From: MCC Commercial Obstruction in the Carriageway: Verge Sponsor Policy

From Boundary Commission for Wales The 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales – Secondary Consultation Period

From: Welsh Government – The effects of the non-domestic rates revaluation 2017 on businesses in Usk

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 items 24.2

24.2 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

24.3 Any other Business

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 8.50pm