

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at  
The Sessions House, Usk on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 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 D Harding, Cllr M Evans, Cllr Leathwood, Cllr Watkins, Cllr Mrs. C Williams  
RFO – Ms. J Mee, Town Clerk – Mrs. Tracey Huxley

Prior to the meeting, Ian Saunders member of MCC Enterprise Directorate addressed Full Council

**11.8 To accept Apologies for Absence**

All Cllrs were present

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

County Cllr Strong– All Planning

**12.0 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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

**12.1 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

8.6 (7.1) Gutters along the Monmouth Road leading towards Factory Lane are blocked. It was reported that the mechanical sweeper has been, but the weeds have not been treated

**Resolved:**

Clerk to contact MCC with a request to spray and removal of the weeds.

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

See report dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**12.3 To receive the monthly finance report**

Councillors received the list of receipts and payments.

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

**a) To discuss the appointment of an internal auditor**

It was proposed by Cllr Leathwood that Mr. John Evans be considered as the permanent auditor to Usk Town Council.

**Resolved:**

This proposal was accepted by all Councillors.

Clerk to notify Mr. Evans of his appointment.

**12.4 Planning Applications.**

1. **DC/2013/01036** Listed building consent. Removal of existing glazed roof to create external courtyard. Removal of existing concrete external staircase and the forming of link structure to

connect isolated rear building at ground and first floor level to main accommodation space. Internal revisions

**8 Porthycarne Street, Usk NP15 1RY Recommend Refusal**

2. **DC/2013/00985** Removal of existing glazed roof to create external courtyard. Removal of existing concrete external staircase and the forming of link structure to connect isolated rear building at ground and first floor level to main accommodation space. Internal revisions

**8 Porthycarne Street, Usk NP15 1RY Recommend Refusal**

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

There is a meeting/workshop scheduled tomorrow Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November with consultant Ben Hamilton-Baille and invited participants to discuss the ongoing HGV problems.

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

- **Festival Committee**

Cllr Brown reported that the preparations for the Festival are going well. There are 42 confirmed stalls and the stage entertainment is fully booked.

- Cllr Roderick thanked Cllrs for their attendance at the Armistice Parade.

**Resolved:**

Clerk to write to the Rev Burge the retiring chaplain to thank him for his work over the last seventeen years.

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

There are concerns about the number of leaves in the Town.

Robert Hamar is doing his best to cope, however, Councillors consider he needs assistance.

**Resolved**

Clerk to contact MCC to request some help with leave clearing

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

**Resolved:**

- ❖ Facebook

Information and posts including press releases from MCC and Festival information are being shared on Facebook. There are presently 256 "likes".

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

**Resolved:**

Preparations for the Reindeer Parade are ongoing.

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

Cllrs have met with Nick Ramsay AM to discuss this matter.

**Resolved:**

- Nick Ramsay had given some direction on the increase in Business rates. He plans to ask the Welsh Government to explain the local rises businesses are facing and to see what can be done to cap rises. He will organize a public meeting in Usk and will raise an online petition
- UTC to write to Mark Drayford, Paul Matthews Chief Executive MCC, Cllr Bob Greenland Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member of Enterprise, David Davies MP, Nick Ramsay AM

**13.1 To discuss financial support for Usk in Bloom**

Usk in Bloom are facing a shortfall in their budget which could potentially lead to a 15% reduction in their floral displays

**Resolved:**

UTC Finance Committee will discuss financial help for Usk in Bloom and report back to Full Council

**13.2 To discuss the Usk Town Guide 2017**

Cllr Jeremiah reported that the current Usk Town Guide will soon be out of circulation and was looking to co-ordinate an updated guide for 2017

**Resolved:**

Cllr Jeremiah will calculate the cost and submit to UTC Finance Committee for consideration

**13.3 To confirm attendance at the next Usk Area Cluster Workshop**

**Resolved:**

Cllrs Brown and Harding will attend the next meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November at County Hall.

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

This idea has been suggested by a resident who considers match funding may be possible.

**Resolved:**

The matter to be investigated more fully and then be submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration

**13.5 Correspondence:**

**From:** The Royal British Legion Re: Armistice Parade Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**From:** MCC Statement of Reasons Bridge Street, Castle Parade and Monmouth Road (A472) 20 MPH Speed Limit Order 2016

**From:** One Voice Wales - Cabinet Secretary proposes very positive developments for Community & Town Council Sector in Wales

**From:** MCC RE: Control of Goods displayed on the public Highway: 'A Board' Guidance

**From:** One Voice Wales – Consultancy Services provided

### **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 13.6.

### **13.6 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.

### **13.7 Any other Business**

There have been rumours that the Waste & Recycling may be closing. This matter will need to be investigated.

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 9.00pm.

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