

**Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting by Usk Town Council held in Sessions House
on Monday 12th September 2022 at 6.00pm**

Present Cllr. M Howells, Cllr Roderick, Cllr A Ivin, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr K Peacock, Cllr D Harrison, Cllr A Morgan R.F.O Mrs. D. Richards, Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

Prior to the meeting there was a minute's silence to honour and remember HM Queen Elizabeth 11

The Chairman informed members that Cllr Morgan has resigned her role as Councillor of UTC.

6.1 To accept apologies for absence.

All Councillors were present.

6.2 Public Open Forum

(15 minutes at the discretion of the Mayor.) Members of the public are invited to address the Council in relation to items on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes unless directed by the Chair. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given.

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

Cllr Harrison declared an interest in item 7.6 and all matters concerning Natural Resource Wales

6.4 To approve the Minutes held on 18th July 2022

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and duly signed

6.5 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 18th July 2022

There were none

6.6 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated 12th September 2022

6.7 To receive the monthly finance report for July /August 2022

The bank reconciliation for July/August 2022 showed no erroneous payments or receipts

a) To discuss CADW match funding grant for repairs to Sessions House

Following discussion

Resolved: Members agreed to go ahead with the CADW match funding grant for repairs to Sessions House

b) To discuss match funding for Welsh Government Transforming Towns (WGTT) grant application

Following the masterplan meeting members were made aware the WG Transforming Towns funding is for 'design work' only, not works. Apparently having a Masterplan and design in place, enables UTC to apply for further potential funding. The total amount of WG Transforming Towns funding is £50,000.

Resolved

Following discussion and a vote by members of 4:2, it was agreed UTC will contribute £5000 to the funding package. MCC will contribute £20 000 and WGTT £25,000.

Clerk to notify MCC

6.8 To receive the following Planning Applications.

- a. **DM/2022/01044** The Old Bank House 6 Porthycarne Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1RY To build a tree house, for the occasional use by grandchildren, at the rear of the garden **Recommend Approval**
- b. **DM/2022/00420** Land Adjacent 21 Four Ash Street Usk Monmouthshire Proposed Residential Development for 7no. new dwellings (3no. dwellings already approved at no. 21 Four Ash Street) 7no. dwellings in total. Extant Planning Permission MCC Approval ref: DC/2015/01210 dated: 13 July 2016. **Recommend refusal**
- c. **DM/2022/01092** 13 Castle Oak Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1SGThe client would like to convert their garage into a small office/study and remove the door and replace it with the window. **Recommend Approval**
- d. **DM/2022/00925** 32 Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AE The proposal is for a single storey extension at the rear of the property. **Recommend Approval**
- e. **DM/2022/01147** 27 Old Market Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AL Proposed alterations and extensions including replacement front door, removal of existing conservatory and replacement of existing rear single storey extensions. **Recommend Approval**
- f. **DM/2022/01148** 27 Old Market Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AL LBC - Proposed alterations and extensions including replacement front door, removal of existing conservatory and replacement of existing rear single storey extensions. **Recommend Approval**
- g. **DM/2022/01158** Monmouth House Maryport Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AB Change of use from class D1 medical centres to class A1. **Recommend Approval**
- h. **DM/2022/01172** 13 Usk Bridge Mews Bridge Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1SW Ground floor single storey extension. **Recommend Approval**

6.9 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

It was reported the Steering Group met recently. Cllr Ivin has repurposed the "Project Action Plan" into themes making it more comprehensive.

The following items were discussed

- Events Calendar
- Traffic Data

- Traffic Enforcement
- Town Wide Parking Strategy
- Supporting Local Business
- Bridge Street
- Improved Public Transport
- Improved Sustrans Route

Resolved: UTC were to consider the match funding for Welsh Government Transforming Towns (WGTT) grant application. The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.
See item 6.7 b) regarding discussion on WG Transforming Towns funding package and resolution.

7.0 To receive an update on the proposed 20mph

Resolved:

Cllrs met recently with Graham Kinsella from MCC who had provided a map of intended changes of speeds to 20 mph and buffer zones of 30 mph in Usk & Llanbadoc.

MCC intend to go out to consultation in November, potentially, implementation could be in early 2023.

7.1 To receive an update on the Digital Information Board

Resolved: The board is to be installed this coming Friday 16th September.

7.2 To receive an update on the markets being held on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC)

There had only been one market during August due to lack of bookings.

Resolved: Clerk to liaise with Green Top Events

7.3 To receive an update on the Town Guide

Resolved:

- Cllr Peacock & RFO Diane Richards have made initial enquiries
- They will form a working group with other interested parties.

7.4 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Resolved: The committee is due to meet tomorrow

The following events are organized

- Blaenavon Male Voice Choir 9th December 2022
- Usk Rotary Musical Evening 29th October 2022
- Usk Christmas Festival weekend 3rd/4th December 2022
- An Evening with Russell Jones 9th December 2022

7.5 To receive an update on Usk as a Smart Town

Resolved:

- Area for installation have been identified
- UTC waiting on installation of the footfall counters.

7.6 To receive an update from NRW Discharge of Sewage into the River Usk

There is a march organized by the Save the River Usk campaign in Crickhowell on Saturday 1st Oct at 10am.

It was reported signs have been posted stating people had become seriously ill from swimming in the river, although no factual evidence has been submitted.

Resolved:

- UTC continues to support "Save the River Usk "
- County Cllr Kear along with David Davies MP will continue correspondence with NRW

7.7 To receive an update on Community Speed watch

There is no report due to the summer break

7.8 To discuss the proposal to have vehicle Matrix Signs (VMS) on the entry slip roads for A449 North & Southbound

Cllr Bob Trigg from Llangwm & Llanstrissant is seeking support to look into the feasibility of a vehicle Matrix Signs (VMS) on the entry slip roads for A449 North & Southbound. The purpose of this is to alleviate delays to local commuters when A449 S/B or N/B is closed due to a serious accident

Resolved: Members agreed to support this proposal

7.9 To receive an update on the Memorial Hall car park

Resolved: UTC awaiting an update on proposed lighting from MCC

- Cllr Roderick reported an application for grant funding has been submitted to Welsh Water for planting of the raingarden.
- The Usk Environmental Group is willing to maintain the raingardens

8.0 To receive an update on Monmouthshire Councils Review of Parking in Usk

No update

8.1 To receive an update on the Priory Gatehouse

The heras fencing was taken down for a recent funeral but is now back in situ.

Resolved: It was reported MCC has received a report with reassurance, that movement of the Priory Gatehouse building is historic. It is hoped that once some roof slates have been secured the heras fencing can be removed

8.2 To receive an update on the amount of pavement space being occupied by 49 Bridge Street opposite the Co-op

The owners of No 49 reported the matter has been resolved.

8.3 Correspondence

None

8.4 Matters of information

- An invitation from Usk Rotary has been extended to members to the opening of the new Arboretum on Saturday 24th September at 12noon
- Usk in Bloom received a Gold Standard award named as joint best large village in Wales

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 7.50pm