

**Minutes of an Annual Meeting of Usk Town Council to be held at Sessions House,
Usk on Monday 14th May 2018 at 7.00pm.**

Present: G Roderick, A. Leathwood, M Evans, C C. Cllr B Strong, Cllr Mrs. J. Jeremiah,
Cllr Mrs. C Wilkinson, Cllr Ms. I Brown, Cllr J Richards
T. Huxley – Town Clerk
Ms J Mee - Sessions House Manager/Responsible Finance Officer

1.1 Election of Mayor for 2018/2019

Mayor Elect Cllr Alec Leathwood was installed as Chairman 2018/2019

1.2 To receive the Mayor's DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Alec Leathwood signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Town Mayor.

1.3 Election of Deputy Mayor 2018/2019

Cllr Christine Wilkinson was installed as Deputy Chairman 2018/2019

1.4 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were none

1.5 Retiring Chairman's report

"It has been an honour and a pleasure to have served you as Mayor over the past year. The support I have received has been amazing and none more so than from the staff who work in the Sessions House. Jenny, Lyn and Tracey I cannot thank you enough for the way you have organized our year and the time you have spent above your normal hours supporting events. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking staff.

My year started in blazing sunshine with a 34-degree temperature for my service. The town looked perfect and just amazing when our friends from Graben – Neudorf visited. We enjoyed a wonderful evening in the Llangeview Lodge and I then spent most of the evening doing my duty representing UTC in the pubs of Usk!

June brought a series of Civic Services in the main towns of Monmouthshire but without a doubt nothing compares to the afternoon we in Usk host.

July brought a number of events, but the most memorable was the pageant and picnic where I really did feel the support of the town. It was an amazing afternoon and so many people deserved a huge vote of thanks. The Usk Park Project should be congratulated on their superb fundraising efforts in achieving the new park and it was a wonderful celebration of their efforts on the day.

In September Pam and I were blessed with fine weather at the Usk show, where we had the challenge of judging the pony fancy dress competition – a very difficult task! I was also privileged to attend Burry Port when Usk received the Wales in Bloom Award.

Christmas started early with the Reindeer Parade, quite a spectacle with so many people enjoying the occasion. Later in December I sang embarrassingly bad carols with Meirion, his gang and the Buskeleles

School fetes, coffee mornings, galas, dinners, musical evenings, silvercreen, quizzes, talks, these are all part of Mayoral activities. As Mayor I was asked many questions – 'What are you doing about clearing the snow? Why isn't my bin emptied, when everyone else's is? What is the Council? Why do the Council do this? Why don't the Council this? – all this is part of being Mayor.

I wish to pay tribute to my amazing deputy, Alec, who has overcome all manner of adversity to bounce back and be a constant source of wisdom and advice.

Finally, I must commend and thank our multi-talented, hardworking Councillors all of which play an important part in Council business. Any planning problem – see Tony, media/communication – see Isobel, environmental issues – see Martyn, finance and traffic problems see – Alec and Roger, Sessions House – see Chris, Mon CC – see Brian. I must add that if there are any issues with horse drawn

vehicles then Roger who arrived as a young man on a horse drawn vehicle with a knife sharpening device, is your man! Then there is Jenny, Chris, and Jill who worked tirelessly on the production of the Usk Town Guide. Also, a huge thank you must go to Jan who has handled the task of negotiating with everyone over the gas pipe replacement with such skill and resolve. My final thanks go to my wife Pam for all her help and support throughout the year

I will close with my highlight of the year (it was not the look on Roger's face when he realized he had left his passport in his case which was on its way to the plane before it he had cleared security and customs). It was however, a remark one of our German friends made to David Gale on arriving in Usk.

Our German friend exclaimed "I see you have a new young Mayor!"

I was stood next to Roger at the time!!

Once again many thanks to you all and now it's over to Alec!"

There was a short interval whilst photographs are taken

The new Chairman presided over the remainder of the meeting

1.6 Apologies for absence

Cllr Galletley and Watkins

1.7 To receive Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11th May 2017

These had been approved as a true and accurate at the June meeting 2017

1.8 To review and formally adopt the model code of conduct

The code of conduct was formally adopted by Full Council

1.9 To review and formally adopt Standing Orders for 2018/19

The Standing Orders were formally adopted by Full Council

2.0 Adoption of Income & Expenditure Report for 2017/2018

Cllr. Leathwood gave the Financial Report for 2017/ 2018 see attached.

Cllr Leathwood thanked the Responsible Finance Officer, Jenny Mee who manages the finances on a daily basis and members of the Sub-Finance Committee for their work throughout the year.

The Year End figures have been internally audited.

These were approved by Council, signed and sent to the External Auditor.

2.1 To confirm the date for the Civic Service as Sunday 17th June 2018

This was confirmed as Sunday 17th June 2018

2.2 Proposals for appointments of members to committees and as representatives of local organizations.

The list of present committees was revised - see enclosed list.

2.3 Nominations for Town Constables.

Cllr. Leathwood proposed Robert Hamer and Shaun Galletley retain their positions as Town Constables for the coming year.

Resolved: All Cllrs were in favour.

Robert Hamer and Sean Galletley will retain their positions as Town Constables for the coming year.

