



# *Usk Town Council*

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

**Minutes of a Meeting of Usk Town Council to be held at  
The Sessions House, Usk, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm.**

## **Present**

Chairman Cllr C Wilkinson, Cllr A. Watkins, Cllr A. Leathwood, Cllr S Williams, Cllr Roderick, Cllr M Howells, C. Cllr Strong, Cllr R. Galletley, Cllr. M. Evans, Cllr P. McGowan, Cllr A. Ivin, Cllr H. Graz, RFO Mrs. D. Richards, Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

Cllr Wilkinson welcomed new Cllrs. Peter McGowan, Alison Ivin and Heather Graz to the meeting

## **6.5 To accept apologies for absence**

All Cllrs were present.

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

There were none declared

## **6.7 To approve the minutes held remotely on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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

## **6.8 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

There were none

## **6.9 To Approve and sign the minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020**

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

## **7.0 To approve and sign the minutes taken in Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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

## **7.1 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee**

See report dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## **7.2 To receive the monthly finance report for July/August 2020**

The reconciliation for July/August 2020 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

The following payments were approved by Full Council

- Annual fees for the Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer for membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks was duly approved
- Payment for installation of the Town's Christmas Lights by SSE

Following recommendation from the Finance sub-committee, Full Council approved the following donations under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137

- £100 donation to the Coronavirus group serving the rural communities.
- £250 donation to The Noah's Ark Appeal



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## **a) To receive the cost centre report**

### **Resolved:**

- The cost centre report showed no erroneous receipts or payments.
- Members were asked to make considerations for next year's budget 2020/21
- Cllr Leathwood paid thanks to RFO Diane Richards for all her hard work in preparing the accounts

## **7.3 To receive a report from the Welsh Council Audit Office with reference to outstanding points in**

### **a) The Annual review 2017/18**

**Resolved:** UTC has forwarded Full Council & Finance Minutes showing evidence UTC has recorded the statutory power being used to authorize expenditure.

### **b) The Annual Return for Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

**Resolved:** With reference to the Annual Review for year ended 31 March 2020. UTC has forwarded a copy of the Bank reconciliation as requested by the Audit Office

## **7.4 To receive Planning Applications**

**a) DM/2020/01090** The Willows Garden Centre 20 Baron Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1DQ

Demolition of commercial greenhouses

**Recommend Approval**

**b) DM/2020/00889** 16 Priory Gardens Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AJ Proposed outbuilding.

**Recommend Refusal**

## **7.5 To receive a report from Usk in Bloom (UiB)**

It was reported the present Chair of UiB has stepped down

### **Resolved:**

- UiB will be holding their Annual Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 when committee members will be elected.
- It is hoped, following a request from UiB, Mon CC will install bollards outside Usk Primary School in order to stop cars parking on the grass verge. The full cost of this is £6000, UTC has previously agreed to contribute £3000

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

### **i) Castle Parade**

Following consultation with Mon CC it was resolved UTC will recommend the following parking restrictions on Castle Parade

- Single yellow lines, with parking prohibited from 8am-6pm Mon-Fri

### **Resolved:**

Mon CC will now look to proceed with a formal consultation on this traffic regulation

### **ii) Fence on Conigar Walk**

This is still in need of repair.

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact Mon CC



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## **iii) Traffic cones**

A number of the traffic cones on Castle Parade are damaged and just rolling around the road.

**Resolved:** Clerk to report this to Mon CC

## **iv) One Stop deliveries**

A resident from Maryport Street has complained the early morning One Stop retail shop deliveries, are causing a disturbance

**Resolved:** In light of the current traffic regulations in Bridge St. due to coronavirus, it was agreed by Members, early morning deliveries are currently necessary in order to reduce traffic congestion

## **v) Dropped kerb**

There has been a request for a dropped kerb in Maryport Street

**Resolved:** Clerk to follow up

## **7.7 To receive an update from Usk Twinning Association**

No update

## **7.8 To receive an update on the Usk Household Recycling Centre**

UTC with residents have set up an initiative "Save Usk Recycling Facility" (SURF) requesting MCC reopen the recycling centre. Banners and posters have been produced along with a Facebook Page linked to an on-line petition. Cllr Wilkinson has prepared a detailed report explaining the reasons the centre should remain open, this has been forwarded to Mon CC. UTC is liaising with the local Press.

### **Resolved:**

Mon CC will debate the issue at the Strong Communities Select Committee on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September – this will be a public forum. Details of the meeting will be forwarded to UTC

Cllrs Ivin, McGowan and Galletley to meet with other members of the group to prepare for the Strong Communities Select Committee and to organize a petition.

## **7.9 To discuss the presence of the Police in Usk**

UTC remains dissatisfied with the work of the Police around the Town. There has been an increase in antisocial behaviour in Usk

**Resolved:** Clerk to invite Inspector Micah Hassell to meet with UTC to discuss the matter further

## **8.0 To receive an update on the Memorial Hall car park**

UTC still waiting to hear from MCC regarding refurbishment.

Mon CC has agreed to move two of the recently sited electrical charging points to a better location

**Resolved:** Cllrs McGowan & Leathwood to form a working party to work with Mon CC on the refurbishment of the car park

## **8.1 To receive an update on the consultation exercise on Active Travel.**

Cllr Howells updated members on the Active Travel Funding

### **Resolved:**

Mon CC is currently holding an online consultation -Cllr Howells has shared this on social media and urged councillors to take part in the consultation



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## **8.2 To receive an update on the traffic light system in Usk**

**Resolved:** The system seems to be working, although there have been complaints of pollution from idling traffic. UTC is working with Mon CC to troubleshoot problems as they arise

### **a) To discuss school children crossing Bridge Street and Abergavenny Road**

Cllr Ivin reported her concerns about school children crossing Bridge Street and Abergavenny Road with traffic queuing along Bridge Street. Cllr Ivin asked whether an additional crossing point is possible.

**Resolved:**

- To raise this matter with ARUP – the “Future Usk” group are due to meet again in September.
- To consult with the road safety officer

## **8.3 To discuss The Winter Festival, with reference to**

### **a) The Reindeer Parade**

**Resolved:** It was deemed unsafe by members to hold the Reindeer Parade this year. Clerk to notify Cairngorm

### **b) The Christmas Markets**

**Resolved:** Following discussion it was agreed by members due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic to cancel this year’s Christmas Markets

## **8.4 To discuss the proposal of an additional Bin on the Conigar Walk**

There has been an increase in litter along Conigar Walk. Much of the litter is discarded ice cream cups from the new ice-cream parlour

**Resolved:** Cllr Wilkinson will speak to the owner to see if they may provide a litter bin near to this area

## **8.5 To receive an update on**

**a) The Whitehouse, Newmarket Street Usk** - No update

**b) The Priory Gatehouse** - No update

## **8.6 To receive an update on the Pump Track**

Usk Rotary Club (URC) is seeking to develop an area of the Borstal Field as an arboretum and a possible Pump Track. URC will apply to Welsh Assembly Government for a grant.

Usk Rotary Club invites Usk Town Council to formally request a grant from Roger Edwards Educational (REET) in order to gain financial support towards the Pump Track.

**Resolved:**

Following discussion all Members were in favour of this.

It was noted the field is owned by the REET but let to Usk Athletic Club, so there would need to be some negotiating should things go ahead.

## **8.7 To receive the Clerk’s report on the following**

- **Mon CC Dog Fouling Group** - An action day is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 in Usk
- **Usk Post Office Counter Services** - The Post Office now has extended open hours. It will be open on Mondays & Thursday from 9-5pm.  
A defibrillator has been fitted at the side of the Usk Community Hub.
- **Park Toilets** - Mon CC to supply a cost to deliver daily cleansing of the park toilet throughout the week, from the beginning of October to the end of March. The toilet will be permanently closed



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throughout this period with the exception of x1 member of staff using who is based on site and will have a key.

- **Usk Litter Action Group** – The group has restarted
- **The Pumping Station** – Welsh Water plan to paint the pumping station later this month
- **Planning application**  
**DM/2018/01641** Erection of fuel storage building to replace existing storage compound and relocation of 2no.porta cabin office buildings together with parking provision Trostrey Court Farms Barns, Clytha Road Trostrey Common Gwehelog Monmouthshire  
**Resolved:** No update still awaiting a decision

## **8.8 Correspondence**

- Farmers Club – news letter
- Letter regarding anti-social behaviour

## **8.9 Any Other Business**

- **School Buses**  
It was reported the bus service to Monmouth is presently very limited and Mon CC has withdrawn school bus passes. This is causing problems for parents getting children to and from school. This matter will be discussed further
- **Shop local**  
Cllr Howells has set up an initiative urging residents to visit local shops & restaurants in a bid to support local businesses in Usk

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