



# *Usk Town Council*

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

## **Minutes of a meeting of Usk Town Council held remotely on Zoom. on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 6pm**

### **Present**

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

### **18.0 To accept apologies for absence.**

All Members were present.

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

There were none.

### **18.2 To approve the Minutes held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

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

### **18.3 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

There were none.

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

See report dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### **18.5 To receive the monthly finance report for January 2021.**

The reconciliation for January 2021 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

The following items were recommended by the Finance sub-committee for approval by Full Council.

- **An increase in Factory Lane Allotment fees from £17 per annum to £20 p.a.**  
**Resolved:** This was approved by Full Council. Clerk to notify allotment holders.
- **Financial support for the Draft Usk Market Proposal.**
  - ❖ Cllr Strong reported Welsh Government is encouraging these types of projects and has forwarded the document to Cllr Bob Greenland at MCC for consideration
- **To discuss the Application for funding from MIND Monmouthshire.**

The Sub-Finance committee recommend a £200 donation to MIND Monmouthshire following a request for funding.

**Resolved:** All councillors in favour (LG Act 1972 s.137)
- **The Newport/Gwent branch of The Samaritans** There has been a request for funding as their current building is not fit for purpose. They need to raise £200k.  
**Resolved:** All Members were in favour of a £500 donation (LG Act 1972 s.137)



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## ➤ **Dog Waste bins**

Monmouthshire Housing Association wishes to purchase a dog bin for the Plas Mawr complex. They will meet the cost of the bins but request UTC to cover ongoing costs.

**Resolved:** UTC do not feel consider it necessary to have a dog bin adjacent to Plas Mawr. The bins can be unpleasant, and this is a residential area which already has a waste bin right next to the complex, which is emptied everyday by UTC's road sweeper. Merlin Waste empties the dog waste bins once a fortnight.

## ➤ **Dog bins at Usk Athletic Club** -the two bins on the cricket field need replacing.

**Resolved** UTC will purchase the bins – MCC will install them. (Litter Act 1983, s5, s6)

## 18.6 To receive the following Planning Applications.

- a) **DM/2021/00090** Proposed single storey rear kitchen extension and outbuilding  
57 Mill Street, Usk NP15 1AP

**Recommend Approval.**

## 18.7 Areas of concern around the Town

### ➤ Recent Flooding

- ❖ Usk Athletic Club is anxious about the ditch that runs alongside Mill Lane. MCC Land Drain Officer has recommended they contact National Rivers Authority with a view to the ditch being cleared of debris.

- ❖ Olway brook

There are concerns about flooding at the end of Mill Street and the corner of Mill Lane /Maryport Street. It was reported Dwr Cymru has been working in the pumping station located in Mill Lane with a view to resolving the problem.

### ➤ Potholes

There are several potholes as a result of the recent bad weather. These have been reported to MCC.

### ➤ Conigar Fence

It was reported there is now an agreement between the landowner and MCC which will enable the fence to be fixed.

### ➤ Old Market Street

Bags of rubbish have been left out on the street for a few weeks.

**Resolved:** Clerk to investigate this matter.

## 18.8 To receive an update on the proposed markets on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC)

The draft report has been circulated to UTC Members and to MCC

Members of the sub-committee, Cllrs Wilkinson, Ivin and Graz were thanked for their work on the proposal and Cllr Graz for compiling an excellent report.

**Resolved:** To await a response from MCC



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## **18.9 To receive an update on**

### ➤ **Memorial Hall car park**

**Resolved:** The EV charging points in the car park are now operational. MCC has created a page on their website dedicated to EV charging points in Monmouthshire.

### ➤ **Monmouthshire Councils Review of Parking in Usk**

#### **Resolved:**

- The Review of Parking sub- committee has compiled a response to MCC should they wish to introduce car parking charges.
- Cllr McGowan has researched off street parking in Usk, which has proven to be very informative.
- It was reported MCC is not currently reviewing parking due other more urgent matters.

## **19.0 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk.**

No update

## **19.1 To discuss residents parking in Twyn Square.**

Cllr Strong, met on site with MCC officers Graham Kinsella & Mark Watkins to discuss what could be done to assist with parking issues encountered by the residents of Twyn Sq.

The following options were suggested.

- **Option 1** – to re-align the kerbline towards Four Ash St, giving a larger amount of space for residents to manoeuvre into/out of the access road. MCC would hatch out this area following removal to try and stop parking and maintain the extent of the double yellow lines.
- **Option 2** – to remove the bollards at the end of the access lane and provide a vehicular access across the footway, this would allow the vehicles to exit in a forward direction onto Four Ash Street.

**Resolved:** Following discussion members voted for Option 1. Clerk to notify MCC)

## **19.2 To receive an update on the traffic light system in Bridge Street, Usk**

The barriers outside Sprokwobbles have been replaced with flower barrels. Should the barrels remain in place, MCC will look to plant with UiB colour scheme.

## **19.4 To elect a UTC representative for the Almshouse Committee.**

**Resolved:** Cllr Alec Leathwood was duly elected to represent UTC on the Almshouse Committee

## **19.5 To discuss correspondence from a resident regarding 20mph in & around Usk.**

An Usk resident has expressed concerns regarding the need to extend the 20mph throughout Usk, including reducing the 30mph adjacent to Burrium Gate on Monmouth Rd

**Resolved:** Following discussion it was resolved Cllr Brian Strong will raise this issue with MCC



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## **19.6 To discuss a memorial in memory of Jill Jeremiah, former Councillor and Mayor of Usk**

### **Resolved:**

- Cllr Roderick has planted 200 daffodil bulbs in the Sessions House grounds in memory of Jill.
- It was resolved to dedicate the new noticeboard in memory of Jill too.
- An appropriate plaque will be made.

*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 item 19.7 a) & b)

## **19.7 To receive an update on**

### **a) The Whitehouse, Old Market Street, Usk**

### **b) The Priory Gatehouse**

Following discussion Council came out of Committee and returned to the main meeting.

## **19.8 To receive the Clerk's report on the following.**

- **Mon CC Dog Fouling Group** – postponed until 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- **Dog Fouling Action Day in Usk** - postponed until 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.
- **Usk Litter Action Group** – members of the group are working individually to help keep Usk tidy. Guidelines have been forwarded to help keep members safe during the pandemic.

## **19.9 Correspondence**

**From:** Sparkle Charity – thank you for donation

**From:** Coronavirus Support Group – thank you for donation

**From:** Usk resident regarding speeding limits in Usk 20mph

## **20.0 Any Other Business**

The Police Community Support Officer has offered to meet with Members to discuss issues around the Town - Clerk to arrange

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 7.35pm.