



Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Minutes of meeting of Usk Town Council held remotely on Zoom on Monday 14th June 2021 at 6.00pm

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

3.1 To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr P. McGowan, Cllr B. Strong, Cllr A. Watkins

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

Cllrs Evans and Galletley - Item 4.3 the forming of an Allotment Liaison Committee

3.3 To approve the Minutes held on 10th May 2021.

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

3.4 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 10th May 2021.

There were none.

3.5 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10th May 2021.

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

3.6 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated 3rd June 2021.

Discussion followed regarding the tidying up the front of the Sessions House in preparation for forthcoming weddings.

Resolved: Clerk to investigate the cost

3.7 To receive the monthly finance report for May 2021.

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

It was suggested the number of dog waste collections be increased to weekly.

Resolved: Following discussion it was resolved to leave at fortnightly collections for the time being

3.8 To receive the following Planning Applications.

a) **DM/2021/Community Digital Noticeboard** Co-op Store 51 Bridge Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1BQ **Recommend Approval.**

b) **DM/2021/00540** Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AH Provide new dormer window to rear bedroom roof. **Recommend Approval**



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- a) **DM/2021/00624 17 Old Market Street Usk NP15 1AL** New single storey infill extension with general conservation works to main house. **Recommend Approval**
- e) **DM/2021/00703 The Old Coach House Baron Street Usk NP15 1AS**
To retain the addition of a 3ft fence painted charcoal grey, along with a 1ft trellis to an existing 4ft stone wall which will exceed 2m, for privacy to property and surrounding properties. The total height of the wall, fence and trellis as shown on the pictures given in the evidence is 2.7m. **Recommend Approval**

3.9 Areas of concern around the Town

- ❖ **Number 49** – Usk Town Council (UTC) has received complaints about Number 49 placing signage and other marketing obstacles on the public footpath area opposite the Co-op Store, greatly narrowing the walkway.
Resolved: To seek advice from MCC
- ❖ **No Mow May** – objections & complaints have been raised about uncut verges and in particular the Owain Glyndwr field.
Resolved: UTC to contact MCC to see if there can be some negotiation/compromise on “No Mow May”. Cllrs were reminded of MCC’s survey on “No Mow May”

4.0 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk - Digital Noticeboard

Resolved: There is a site meeting with the engineer, to look at installation, scheduled for the 22nd of June

4.1 To receive an update on the proposed markets on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre

It was reported MCC Officers are unable to attend a meeting with UTC next week about the (UHRC).

In the interim, UTC has been advised MCC will need to consider internal uses of the UHRC land and if there are none, will invite bids/proposals from third parties over the use of the land. Apparently, MCC is obliged to comply with S123 which requires them to obtain best price for the asset.

MCC also stated they have not received any business case from UTC for consideration and needs to review its long-term intent for this land in terms of disposal or not. It was suggested UTC put forward a business case for use of the land.

Resolved: It is apparent UTC’s business plan sent to MCC has been missed. Clerk to request a meeting with MCC.

4.2 To receive an update on the Noise cameras

It was reported Gwent Police do not have noise detection equipment.

Resolved: The Police have agreed to complete active patrols in Usk, as part of a Priority Policing Problem.



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4.3 To receive an update on Usk as a SMART Town

A small working party, Cllrs Williams, Howells & Graz met this week with Adam Greenwood from MCC to discuss Usk as a Smart Town

Resolved: UTC is looking to complete an application for Smart Town funding

4.3 To discuss the forming of an Allotment Liaison Committee

Resolved: Cllrs Roderick, Evans & Howells will meet with allotment holders following their request to form an Allotment Liaison Committee

4.5 To review re-opening towns measures put in place in response to the Covid pandemic. Meeting scheduled for this coming Thursday.

A small group of councillors met to discuss key issues.

- a) Prohibition of parking on Castle Parade by the chip shop
- b) Application of "blip road markings" and a loading bay outside the One Stop Store in Maryport St.
- c) Flashing 20mph signs as motorists approach Bridge Street
- d) Widening of pavement along Bridge Street
- e) Improved signage on the A449 for HGVs
- f) Development of the former recycling centre
- g) Usk as a SMART Town
- h) Encouraging traffic coming off the A449 to turn left along Chepstow Road passed the Olway. This will prevent traffic going through Bridge St. & encourage visitors to drive through Usk.

Resolved: Following discussion it was resolved to remove item (h). The rest will be brought to the attention of MCC.

4.6 To discuss Open Gardens weekend of 26th/27th June 2021.

- ❖ There is limited, pre-booked sale of tickets for Open Gardens this year.
- ❖ Sessions House will be open to visitors. There will be a councillor rota and a risk assessment will be carried out.

4.7 To receive an update on

a. Memorial Hall car park

There is a meeting scheduled with MCC, on Wed 16th June to discuss the resurfacing of the car park, which is due to commence in July.

b. Monmouthshire Councils Review of Parking in Usk – no update.

4.8 To discuss the vacancy of elected governor for Usk CiW Primary School

Resolved: Members will consider the vacancy and inform the Clerk by the 18th of June should they wish to be nominated.



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4.9 To receive The Clerk's update on

- a) **The path on the Conigar Walk near the bridge** - no update from MCC. Clerk to investigate further.
- b) **An extra bin on the Conigar Walk** – this has been installed.

5.0 To discuss the repair & maintenance of the Town Clock.

There has been no response from MCC.

Resolved: As the clock is in dire need of maintenance it was decided UTC will go ahead with the repairs/painting and then invoice MCC

5.1 To receive a report from the Events Committee.

- a) Cllr Howells reported the Events sub- committee met this week to discuss the national celebration of our first NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day on 5th July.

The following is planned for the event.

- ❖ Raise NHS at 10.30am Flag UTC Cllrs will be invited to join.
- ❖ Two Minutes silence at 11am
- ❖ Toast to our heroes with light refreshment for Cllrs to follow.
- ❖ Possible firing of the Usk Castle canon
- ❖ Advertise event & encourage residents to do "their own thing".
- ❖ Flags & bunting in the town
- ❖ Church bellringing & clapping at 8pm

b) Civic Service

It is hoped there will be small Civic Service on Sunday 18th July 2021 at St. Mary's Priory Church

Resolved: Clerk & Chairman to meet with the vicar of to discuss further

5.2 To receive an update on the proposed arboretum located on the Borstal Field.

There remains uncertainty about the lease, legal obligation & liability of the arboretum between, UTC, Usk Athletic Club, & the Roger Edwards Educational Trust.

Resolved: Waiting on advice from Jonathan Stephens

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 5.0 a) & 5.0 b)

5.3 To receive an update on

- a) **The Whitehouse, Old Market Street, Usk**
- b) **The Priory Gatehouse**

5.4 Correspondence - There was none.



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5.5 Any Other Business

For information

- Local Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales
Cllrs were Informed Usk joins with Llanbadoc to form one ward but is represented by two members of the County Council.
- Volunteers for Trees – Cllrs were made aware of an opportunity to take part in an i-Tree Eco Study

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 7.45pm