



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 13th September 2021 at 6.00pm

Present Cllr Roderick, Cllr S Williams, Cllr A. Leathwood, Cllr M Howells, Cllr Galletley, Cllr H Graz, Cllr A Ivin, Cllr M. Evans, Cllr B Strong, Cllr A Watkins Mrs. D. Richards, Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

Council was notified Peter McGowan has submitted his resignation as a councillor.
The Chairman paid tribute to Peter for his commitment and hard work whilst on the Council.

7.8 To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr C. Wilkinson & RFO Mrs. D. Richards

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

There were none

8.0 To approve the Minutes held on 12th July 2021.

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

8.1 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 12th July 2021.

Item 6.4 Number 49 – Complaints about Number 49 placing signage and other marketing obstacles on the public footpath, opposite the Co-op Store.

Resolved: Cllr Williams will follow this up with MCC

8.2 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated 9th September 2021

Resolved: Full Council approved making the tenancies at Sessions House inclusive of utility costs.

8.3 To receive the monthly finance report for July/August 2021.

The reconciliation for July/August 2021 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

The following was recommended from the sub- finance committee to Full Council

- The purchase of a defibrillator for the Ladyhill/Burrium Gate area at the cost of approximately £1450
- The purchase of an office safe cost £400.
- A donation of £500 in support of the Cairngorm Reindeer (Local Government Act 2000, s.2)
- The installation of the Christmas lights £4782.44
- A contribution of £2125 (50% of the cost) to MCC towards the purchase of a motorized trolley for the street cleaner in Usk. Sole use of the motorized trolley for Usk to be confirmed before payment.
- Funding request from Monmouthshire CAB £250 (Local Government Act 2000, s.2)

Resolved: All the above payments were approved by Full Council



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8.4 To receive an update on the External Audit 2021.

Audit Wales has requested the following supporting evidence

- Clarification UTC was not a trustee during year (19/20) or UTC a trustee in the current year (20/21)
- An explanation for the 36.7% variation between the prior year and current year in 'Total Cash and Investments.'
- UTC's budget takes reserves into account
- The Clerk contract's (signed) outlining role and the council approved salary
- The Clerk's October 2020 pay slip (or another month if October is unavailable)

Resolved: All the above supporting evidence has been submitted to the Audit Wales
Cllr Graz left the meeting at this point

8.5 To receive the following Planning Applications.

DM/2021/01128 53 Mill Street Usk NP15 1AP Proposed replacement garage with garden room & home office linked via utility room. **Recommend Approval**

8.6 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

Resolved: Masterplan sub- committee is due to meet Monday 20th September to discuss the next steps

8.7 To receive an update on the Digital Noticeboard

Resolved: It is hoped the noticeboard will be installed soon

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

UTC held a special meeting on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 6.00pm to discuss the matter. The Minutes from the Meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.

Resolved:

Members consider UTC is not in a position to place a monetary bid for the former Home Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC) as the Town Council has already made a substantial contribution to MCC for services. However, it was agreed to submit an Informal Tender with a non- monetary bid, along with the re-use of the former HWRC plan.

8.9 To receive an update on Usk as a SMART Town

Resolved: Awaiting an update on the application from MCC. Cllr Williams will chase up.

9.0 To receive an update on the arboretum

It was reported Lottery funding had been approved for the project. Usk Rotary Club are administrators, and it is hoped the work will go ahead with the next twelve months.

Town Clerk Mrs. T. Huxley email clerk.usk@usktown.org Tel: 01291 673011



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9.1 To inform members of the ongoing PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) ON DOG CONTROLS IN MONMOUTHSHIRE consultation, presently being conducted by MCC

Resolved: The survey has been circulated via social media to Usk residents

Members discussed the possibility of increasing the Dog waste bin emptying to weekly basis.

Resolved: It was reported MCC is intending to set up contracts for each council to streamline the present service by Merlin Waste. If Town & Community Councils agree there will be further negotiation about a more regular service if required. The next meeting with MCC is scheduled for Thursday 23rd Sept 2022

9.1 To receive a report from the Events Committee.

Due to meet tomorrow Tuesday 14th Sept 2021

9.2 To discuss the Christmas Markets & Reindeer Parade

Discussion followed.

Resolved It was decided that due to the uncertainty of the Covid crisis over the winter months and the inability to obtain insurance should events be cancelled, UTC will not host the Reindeer Parade, or the Christmas markets this year. The Events sub-committee will meet to discuss alternative events over the Christmas period

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

UTC has received a letter from Natural Resource Wales (NRW) on matters relating to the River Usk

Resolved: UTC will push for a resolution on this by contacting David Davies MP & Peter Fox AM requesting they take steps to enforce existing regulations with a degree of urgency.

9.4 To inform members of One Voice Wales Briefing Note for Community & Town Councils - Multi location meetings

Members were informed of the requirements of Town Councils to ensure multi-location meetings.

Resolved Clerk to arrange with Cllr Williams. These changes will need to be included in UTC's Standing Orders.

9.5 To receive a report from The Usk & Raglan Community Support Network

No update

9.6 To inform Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales-Review of the Remuneration Framework for Community & Town Council's Consultation One Voice Wales Response 26th August 2021

Resolved: This was noted by Members



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9.7 To receive The Clerk's update on

- a) The purchase of a bench in St. Mary's churchyard to commemorate HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Resolved: St. Mary's no longer require the bench. UTC to consider where to place the bench within the Town to commemorate HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- b) Priory Street carriageway/car parking

Resolved: Clerk to seek an update from MCC

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 9.8 a) & 9.9 b)

9.8 To receive an update on

- a. **Memorial Hall car park**

- b. **Monmouthshire Councils Review of Parking in Usk**

Resolved: UTC has been informed there will be a review of parking throughout Monmouthshire in the Spring of 2022.

9.9 To receive an update on a) The Whitehouse, Old Market Street, Usk, b) The Priory Gatehouse

10.0 Correspondence

From: Natural Resource Wales – Discharge of Sewage into the River Usk

10.1 Any Other Business

The following matters were raised

- The inability of wheelchair users and pushchairs to access the whole of the Conigar Walk.
- Parking & lack of enforcement of cars on the pavement outside the Chemist

These matters will feature on next month's agenda for further discussion

There was no further business and the meeting finished 7.25pm