



# *Usk Town Council*

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

## **Minutes of a meeting of Usk Town Council held remotely on Zoom Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 6.00pm**

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

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

Cllr S Williams

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

There were none

### **15.9 To approve the Minutes held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed

### **16.0 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

There were none.

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

See report dated Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

### **16.2 To receive the monthly finance report for November 2021.**

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

See finance report dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

It was reported Sessions House requires updates on fire safety, the cost of which is £455

**Resolved:** Full Council agreed payment of the fire safety updates

### **a) FINANCE & BUDGET**

#### **To consider the draft budget and proposed projected expenditure and income and agree a Budget for the Financial year 2021/22**

UTC Members had received copies of the draft budget for 2021-22 prior to the meeting

The Finance sub- committee recommended the budget to Full Council,

**Resolved:** Following discussion Full Council unanimously approved the budget

### **b) PRECEPT**

#### **To agree the Precept figure for the financial year 2021/22**

The proposed budget precept for 2021/22 is £145.656, this remains unchanged.

**Resolved:** Full Council unanimously approved the precept



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## **16.3 To receive the following Planning Applications.**

**a) DM/2021/01296 The Coach House 16 Porthycarne Street.**

Proposed attic conversion and replacement garage.

**Recommend Approval**

**b) DM/2021/01930 15 Conigar Crescent, Monmouthshire NP15 1RX**

Proposed replacement rear extension and attic conversion.

**Recommend Approval**

**c) DM/2021/01672 The Medical Centre Maryport Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AB**

Change of use of existing building from Class D1 medical Centre class to class C3 (a) single dwelling.

**Recommend Approval**

## **16.4 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk**

Cllr Strong reported the Economy & Development Select Committee recommends adoption of the plan. This will now go to Cabinet for approval.

**Resolve:** UTC to discuss the plan further with MCC

## **16.5 To receive an update on the Digital Information Board**

**Resolved:** The electrical power to the information board is now connected.

Cllr Williams recommends March as the earliest month for installation as the design, layout menus, content gathering, and staff training needs to be completed.

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

Cllr Williams has written again to Richard John regarding the handover to UTC but is still awaiting a response.

**Resolved:** Cllr Strong will investigate further

## **16.7 To receive a report from the Events Committee**

Cllr Howells reported the following

- The Quiz Night organized by Diane Richards had been a great success raising £372 for the mayor's appeal
- The Casino Night is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021
- Plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations are being put into place.
- Contact has been made with Green Top Events with a view to potential markets on the UHRC site

## **16.8 To receive an update from NRW Discharge of Sewage into the River Usk**

The following was reported

There has been positive news following a meeting of the Chairman of Usk Fishing Association and the CEO of DWR Cymru Welsh Water.



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Their meeting covered many aspects of the current and future issues that will affect the river and looked at what action Dwr Cymru plan to take in order to end much of the river pollution. Apparently, there has been recent investment and more proposed investment in the Usk catchment

**Resolved:** To monitor this and trust Dwr Cymru will deliver.

## **16.9 To receive an update on a request for the removal of the kissing gate on the Conigar walk in order to improve accessibility for wheelchair users and pushchairs**

**Resolved:** Cllrs met with Nigel Leaworthy MCC who will arrange for an adjustment of the gate, to facilitate it opening wider in order to accommodate wheelchair users and pushchairs

## **17.0 To review the Dog fouling contract with Monmouthshire County Council & Merlin Waste**

**Resolved:** Following scrutiny of the proposed contract it was resolved to opt for Option1, the 3-year contract

## **Cllr Galletley joined the meeting at this point**

## **17.1 To receive an update on Community Speed watch**

- Gwent Police in partnership with SWFRS Road Safety & Go Safe Cymru, recently held a Speed Awareness Operation Day in Usk.
- There are currently five residents who have volunteered for Community Speed Watch.

The benefit of community speed watch was discussed.

### **Resolved:**

Clerk to

- Contact the Gwent Police coordinator of the scheme with a view to Speed Watch going ahead in Usk.
- Invite the Police to discuss the Speed Watch further with UTC

## **17.2 To receive an update on multilocation meetings**

**Resolved:** Following the installation of the camera UTC will have the ability to stream Zoom meetings to YouTube and Facebook.

## **17.3 To discuss Mind Monmouthshire holding a mental health & wellbeing awareness fundraising day in Usk**

**Resolved:** UTC agreed this would be good to go ahead.

Clerk to contact MIND Monmouthshire

## **17.4 To update members on the proposed Usk Railway & Cycle Track Railway & Cycle Track**

UTC has been copied into correspondence regarding the Usk Railway and Cycle track as there were concerns the project by UTAG was not progressing.



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**Resolved:** MCC's Youth, Sport and Active manager has confirmed AMEY have been commissioned to look at the work agreed in this year's Active Travel Fund Application

## **Usk Railway Tunnel**

Concerns remain about the safety of the tunnel. This has been highlighted, again by Usk Castle owner Henry Humphries.

**Resolved:** These concerns have been passed on to MCC's Traffic and Road Safety Technician, who reassures UTC the matter is with their operations/maintenance team

## **17.5 To receive an update on**

a) **Memorial Hall car park** - No Update

**Resolved:** Clerk to request an update from MCC

b) **Monmouthshire Councils Review of Parking in Usk** - No update

## **17.6 To inform Councillors of the Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at the Priory Church of St. Mary Usk**

There is no official Civic Carol Service this year. However, Councillors are invited to join the Mayor & Mayoress at Priory Church of St. Mary's Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December

*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 17.7a)

## **17.7 To receive an update**

### **a) The Priory Gatehouse**

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

## **17.8 Correspondence**

**From:** Request for funding for the Urdd Eisteddfod 2022

**From:** Henry Humphreys regarding repair of the railway tunnel

## **17.9 Any Other Business**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.20pm