

In the interests of transparency, minutes will be published in draft form within seven working days of the meeting. Please note that draft form minutes have not yet been formally approved by Councillors as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting by Usk Town Council held in Sessions House**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6.00pm**

**Present** Cllr. M Howells, Cllr Roderick, Cllr A Ivin, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr K Peacock, Cllr D Harrison, R.F.O Mrs. D. Richards, Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

**8.5 To accept apologies for absence.**

All Councillors were present.

**8.6 Public Open Forum**

(15 minutes at the discretion of the Mayor.) Members of the public are invited to address the Council in relation to items on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes unless directed by the Chair. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given.

County Cllr Kear informed UTC that MCC is facing unprecedented financial pressures and forecasts an £8.8million overspend in the current year. MCC intend to scrutinize Usk Post Office which is currently running at a loss.

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

There were none

**8.8 To approve the Minutes held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

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

**8.9 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

There were no matters arising

**9.0 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee**

See report dated Wed 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**9.1 To receive the monthly finance report for September 2022**

The bank reconciliation for September 2022 showed no erroneous receipts or payments. The following was reported. See report dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The Finance sub – committee recommended the following payments

- Christmas Light expenditure £4782
- Road Closures for Usk Christmas Festivals £1225
- Payment of £45 each for the Town Clerk & RFO to attend the SLCC & One Voice Wales Joint Event Conference

The RFO requested she investigate the purchase of a smart phone to be used in conjunction with a card machine

**Resolved:** All the above was agreed upon by Full Council

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

- a. **DM/2022/01372 35 Ladyhill Usk NP15** Remove existing Store, WC and Conservatory and replace with Single Storey Rear Extension. **Recommend Approval**
- b. **DM/2022/00010 31 Bridge Street Usk** Change of use from A1 to A3 (Tea Room and Gift Shop) **Recommend Approval**
- c. **DM/2022/01369 1 Black Barn Lane** Two storey side and front extension to an existing dwelling. **Recommend Approval**

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

**Resolved:** UTC will meet Wed 12th October to discuss the Masterplan projects in preparation for the MCC meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022

## **9.4 To receive an update on the Digital Information Board (DIB)**

There has been a great deal of interest in the DIB

**Resolved:** Cllr Harrison will approach Broadway Partners regarding possible sponsorship for the DIB

## **9.5 To receive an update on the markets being held on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC)**

The next market is scheduled for Saturday 29th October 10 till 3pm.

**Resolved:** Clerk to arrange a meeting with Green Top Events to discuss further markets

## **9.6 To receive an update on the Town Guide**

**Resolved:** Cllr Peacock is currently working on this with a view to its production in the Spring

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

Cllr Howells thanked County Cllr Kear for all his help in arranging the Blaenavon Male Voice Choir Concert. Thanks also went to Cllr O'Brien & Diane Richards for their support. The concert had been a huge success both in enjoyment and monies raised for the Usk Mayor's appeal.

### **UTC Planned Events**

- Combined UTC & Rotary Musical evening 29<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Memorial Hall
- Flanders & Swann Evening 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at the Royal British Legion
- A Christmas evening with Russell Jones 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at Sessions House

#### **a) To receive an update on the planned Usk Christmas Festival**

- Plans for the festival are in place.
- All the necessary documents have been forward to MCC and the Events Safety Advisory Committee.
- Cllrs were asked to schedule in some time for stewarding for the event

#### **b) To receive an update on the Usk Christmas Lights**

- Installation of the lights will be by the company Enerveo.
- Clerk to liaise with Festive Lighting & Enerveo regarding installation & delivery

Cllr Roderick informed UTC there will be no Armistice parade this year due to the cost of the necessary traffic management required for the parade to go ahead.

**Resolved:** UTC very disappointed to hear this news. County Councillor Kear will contact David Davies MP

### **9.8 To receive an update on Usk as a Smart Town**

Four businesses were nominated for installation of the footfall counter; however, a couple of businesses have expressed concern over the cost of the running of the footfall counters

[The max power consumption of the Meraki unit is 15W, but I would expect this to be less - likely closer to 12W - for our purposes. My calculations suggest that this would entail an additional monthly electricity cost of around £3{at the £211 MWh max price for non-domestic users set by UK Gov's Energy Bill Relief Scheme}.]

**Resolved:** Following discussion it was resolved to help offset costs, to offer the businesses who accept the footfall counter, two months free advertisements on the Digital Information Board.

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

There had been a good turnout at the recent march at Crickhowell to highlight the discharge of sewage into the river. Angela Jones continues to lead the campaign and has set up the following

- A crowdfunding, JustGiving Page
- Online petition to the Senedd

### **10.0 To receive an update on Community Speed Watch**

Community speed Watch had done a 35-minute session at Burruim Gate as 30mph zone Cllr Kear reported the following

- There had been 26 vehicles monitored 2 of which had been recorded doing in excess of 50mph, 18 vehicles in excess of 40mph, the rest in excess of 35mph
- The non-working SIDS in Bridge to be replaced

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

- Cllr Roderick & Peter McGowan, Chair of Memorial Hall, were successful in obtaining a grant from Welsh Water for plants for the rain garden.
- Waiting for an update on MCC's bid for solar lighting

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact Paul Keeble regarding an update on planting of the rain garden Cllr Roderick will investigate further funding from Wales in Bloom "I your Neighbourhood"

### **10.2 To receive an update on the Priory Gatehouse**

No update. Still waiting for an update from Amy Longford MCC

### **10.3 To discuss the provision of a "Food Pantry" in Usk**

The Clerk has made Initial enquiries and waiting to hear from MCC regarding electricity supply to the cabin.

Cllr Howells reported Usk Primary School is hoping to set up a second-hand uniform stall

**Resolved:** UTC to liaise with the school

### **10.4 To discuss the installation of a defibrillator to be located near Ladyhill & Burruim Gate**

There has been a request for a defibrillator in the Ladyhill/Burruim Gate area.

**Resolved:** UTC to establish where a defibrillator can be sited in this area and what funding can be obtained

### **10.5 To receive an update on the “Give Dog fouling a Red Card” Group**

MCC has the responsibility for the management and maintenance of public spaces across the county. Despite the majority of dog owners acting responsibly the council receives a significant number of complaints regarding issues with dogs in public areas.

MCC is therefore considering the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to set out the dog controls in the county.

MCC has issued the following

- Report that went to the Strong Communities Select Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Appendix 1 of the report appraising the results of a public consultation undertaken from the 26<sup>th</sup> July to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- Appendix 2 of the report which is the Dogs Trust response to the consultation.

**Resolved:** Members to consult the documents. This item will feature on next month's agenda for further discussion

#### **a) To discuss installing an additional dog bin either at the top of factory lane or near the entrance to the allotments**

**A resident has requested UTC** consider placing an additional dog waste bin either at the top of factory lane or near the entrance to the allotments.

**Resolved:** Following discussion, UTC it was decided the following factors will need to be considered

- Cost of dog bin & installation,
- Cost of collection
- Location
- Whether a general waste bin would be a better option

**Resolved:** UTC will visit the top of Factory Lane and assess the need for a dog bin

### **10.6 Correspondence - None**

### **10.7 Matters of information**

- Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Armistice service to be held at St. Mary's Church 10am on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November
- Rotary Concert Sat 29<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm
- Combined UTC& Rotary Musical evening 29<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Memorial Hall
- Flanders & Swann 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at the Royal British legion
- A Christmas evening with Russell Jones 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at Sessions House
- Civic Carol Service at St. Mary's Church Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm
- County Cllr Howells & Kear to consider holding surgeries for
- The clock in Twyn Square isn't working – Clerk to investigate repair
- Repairs to Usk Bridge are scheduled for w/c 17<sup>th</sup> October

No further business meeting closed at 7.40pm