

Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting by Usk Town Council held in Sessions House
Monday 13th February 2023 at 6.00pm

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

18.8 To accept apologies for absence.

All members were present

18.7 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.

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

There were none

18.9 County Councillors participation

The following was reported:

- Cllr Howells & Kear have submitted individual comments to Torfaen Council regarding the Planning Application 17/P/0468/OUT residential development of up to 900 dwellings - Land At A4042 Mamhilad, Pontypool, Torfaen
- MCC has been looking to introduce a cost-of-living community garden area in Usk. Two areas in Usk have been identified as possible sites. There needs to be further consultation on this.
- Mark Hand MCC held an online meeting regarding the RLDP. It was reported officers are collating comments from the consultation and will report findings sometime in April 2023. It was requested UTC be made aware of any such meetings so that members may attend.
- Welsh Water (WW) has now opened the new water pumping station in Usk. Welsh water has offered to fund testing kits to the Save the River Group, but this had been declined.
- MCC has put out a plea to homeowners for any properties that may help with homelessness.
- There has been two separate serious cycle injuries in Twyn square. This has been reported to MCC who will investigate the area concerned.

19.0 To approve the Minutes held on 16th January 2023

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record apart from one amendment.

Item 17.7 Should read 'Cllr Peacock proposed individual units be sited in the former UHRC for businesses to use'.

19.1 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 16th January 2023

There were none

19.2 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated Wednesday February 8th2023,

19.3 To receive the monthly finance report for January 2023

The bank reconciliation for January 2023 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

Members received copies of the payment & receipts.

See Finance report dated 8th February 2023

The following payments were agreed:

- To pay a lifetime subscription of £258.00 for the Content Management System for the Digital Information Board (Local Government Act 1972, s143)
- Road Traffic Management costs for the King's Coronation Celebration at £1545 + VAT (Local Government Act 2000, s. 2)
- Cost of Chapter 8 Training
 - ❖ If all 12 places are taken it will be £112 per person to date (Local Government Act 2000, s. 2)
 - ❖ UTC will be taking 6 places, Usk RBL 2 & the Scouts 1. The other 3 places will be offered back to the organiser to fill if possible.

19.4 To receive the following Planning Applications.

a) **DM/2022/01598**

Bruce And Co 2B Maryport Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AB

Change of use from offices to residential. **Recommend Approval**

b) **Revised Local Development Plan** - with reference to the RLDP, UTC has submitted their concerns about the proposed candidate sites via MCC's planning portal

19.5 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

Resolved:

- The £50 000 joint funding from WG/UTC/MCC for initial placemaking has been agreed.
- UTC met recently and are exploring designs for Twyn Square & Bridge Street and examining how they can encourage through traffic to find alternative routes.
- MCC is currently installing 4 Electrical Vehicle charging points in the Maryport Street, North car park.
- The 20mph speed limit will be adopted throughout Usk sometime during Spring.

19.6 To receive an update on the Jubilee Markets being held on the site of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC)

Members met with GTE who confirmed the holding of markets on the site is not financially viable.

Resolved: UTC will look at other options for the site including the proposal of siting individual units for business usage.

19.7 To discuss the provision of a “Community Fridge” in Usk

It has been confirmed that Usk has received funding to start up a Community Fridge in Usk.

Resolved:

- Members to visit current community fridges to see how they work
- Cllr Ivin will confirm with MCC that this use is a Permitted Use, so UTC can include a copy of the confirmation within the Licence Agreement.

19.8 To receive an update on the Town Guide

Resolved: Work in progress by Cllrs Ivin & Peacock

19.9 To receive a report from the Events Committee

King’s Coronation celebration

The following is planned

- To close Bridge St on Sunday 7th May from 11am to 11pm. The road closure will be from the White Hare Distillery to Cardiff Arms with access to Three Salmons Car Park, Usk Bridge Mews, Cross Keys Inn, Alfred Russel Wallace & 57 Bridge St Car Parks.
- Shops & Bars to come out on to the road.
- There will be options for trader stalls for Usk businesses.

UTC have met with members of local businesses and this proposal was well received – for further information see meeting notes dated 6th February 2023

Forthcoming events - in aid of Usk Mayors Appeal

- a) St. David’s Day Concert on Sunday 5th March 2023.
- b) Gig by Tim Southern Saturday 25th March 7.30 to 11.30pm Memorial Hall
- c) Cymanfa Ganu - Sunday 23rd April at 6pm.
- d) Crawfish Pie Gig at Sessions House– 14th Oct 2023

20.0 To receive an update on Community Speed watch

Cllr Kear reported the scheme is looking to restart next week

20.1 To receive an update on the Memorial Hall car park

Resolved: The solar lights are now installed and works complete, apart from some design work on parking spaces outside the Centenary Hall.

20.2 To discuss Chapter 8 Traffic Management Training

Resolved: Training for the above is scheduled to take place on Monday 17th April 2023

- 6 Places – UTC
- 2 Usk Royal British Legion
- 1 Usk Scout Leader

20.3 To receive an update on the Priory Gatehouse

Resolved: MCC Heritage is waiting for confirmation of grant funding from CADW under the ‘Urgent Works for Building at Risk Grant Scheme’ that will enable works to be carried out.

20.4 To receive an update on the installation of a defibrillator located near Ladyhill & Burruim Gate

Apparently due to the defibrillator cabinet requiring power, free standing defibrillators are not possible.

Resolved:

- UTC will wait to see if someone will have the defib on their property in the Castle Usk/Burrium Gate area.
- Clerk to enquire as to whether Phil Hill can provide some CPR/Defib training.

20.5 To receive an update on the Town Clock

No update.

Resolved: Cllr Kear will make some enquiries

Exclusion of Press and Public

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 items 20.6 20.7 & 20.8

20.6 To approve the Minutes taken in Committee on 16th January 2023

20.7 To discuss the nominations for the Usk Town Councillor Vacancy

20.8 To receive the nominations for Usk Community Awards 2022

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

20.9 Correspondence

None

21.0 Matters of information

- There was a joint Police & UTC Neighbourhood Watch meeting on Wed 8th Feb. 7 as a result a Community & What's App group has since been set up with previous members.
- Cllr Peacock reported the Usk Cricket Club fencing along Mill Lane has been renewed courtesy of Welsh Water

There was no further business meeting closed at 8.10pm