

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
on Monday Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 6.00pm**

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

23.6 To accept apologies for absence.

All Cllrs present

23.7 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.

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

There was none.

23.9 County Councillors participation

- The 20mph national rollout has been delayed until September 2023.
- There will be a number of revised traffic orders introduced in Usk in May 2023
- C Cllr Kear has reported the poor state of the road and recurrent potholes in Mill Street to MCC.
- C Cllr Howells has requested a site meeting with MCC regarding the 'No Entry' sign on the section of the one-way street on Monmouth Road, near to Usk Primary School
- Castle Street – Cllrs to enquire if the repositioning of the new 'No Entry' sign has been authorized.

24.0 To approve the Minutes held on 13th March 2023

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

24.1 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 13th March 2023

There was none.

24.2 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

No report available, meeting unable to take place due to not being quorate

a) To receive an update on the Mather Jackson books

Resolved: Cllr Ivin will speak with a Mather Jackson Trustee regarding the extra books housed in the Sessions House

24.3 To receive the monthly finance report for March 2023

No report available, meeting unable to take place due to Members not being quorate

The following payments were agreed by Full Council

- Replacement outside lights at Sessions House - £385.00 (Local Government Act 1972, s. 227)
- Slate pieces to be placed around the tree next to the Girl Guide Garden - £85.00. (Local Government Act 1976, s19)
- Removal of standing water at the town end of the Conigar Walk - £180
- (Highways Act 1980, ss 43 & 50)
- Sponsorship of 2 classes at the Usk Show **£61.00** (Local Government Act 1972, s143)
- A request for funding from Monmouthshire Citizens Advice Bureau - £250
Local Government Act 1972, s143)
- Materials to maintain the area outside the old recycling centre - **£150.**
- (Local Government Act 1976, s19)

The following was also discussed and agreed

- UTC to settle an outstanding payment to The Willows Nursery for supplying the plants for Maryport Street car park and claim this back from MCC as there is an issue with the purchase order.
- A request for funding from Llangollen International Musical Festival was declined.

Confidential Finance papers

Resolved: It was agreed these will be emailed to members prior to meetings for their consultation. Members were reminded they contain sensitive information and must be disposed of appropriately.

Annual Return

- Members were notified UTC has received the proforma Annual Return for 2022-23
The Audit Office is not able to issue Audit Notices for the 2022-23 audits, but still recommends councils prepare and approve the annual return and will provide the dates for the exercise of electors' rights under the 2004 Act with the audit notice.

24.4 To discuss the funding the maintenance of the flower bed outside the former recycling centre

Resolved: UTC agreed to fund the materials for the maintenance of this area. Cllr Howells will approach MCC to see if they have funding available.

24.5 To discuss the poor state of the Conigar path

There have been numerous complaints from residents regarding the inability to walk along the Conigar path due to the very deep standing water. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years and MCC has failed to address.

Resolved: UTC has investigated the area as a matter of urgency and agreed works. The cost to UTC will be approx. £180

24.6 To receive the following Planning Applications.

- a) **DM/2023/00503** 29 Priory Gardens Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AJ

Proposed single storey extension to existing 3 bed semi- detached dwelling to create assisted ground floor bedroom living facility.

Recommend Approval

- b) **DM/2023/00509** 2 Porthycarne Close Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1SA
Single storey wrap round extension to side and rear of existing 3 bed semi-detached dwelling, plus rear garden workshop studio plus bedroom loft conversion.

Recommend Approval

24.7 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

The following was reported:

- Match funding from Welsh Government can be carried over to 2023-24
- A draft brief has been produced.
- MCC Traffic data has been shared with the steering group.
- Cllr Ivin is organizing meetings with Graham Kinsella & other MCC officers.

24.8 To discuss the use of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC) site.

No update from MCC regarding the following.

- The Market area/portacabin being used for a Community Fridge.
- Starter Units

Resolved:

- UTC considers MCC is blocking community opportunities for the area. Cllr Howells will chase up with MCC.
- Cllr Harrison will research the Olio App

24.9 To receive an update on the Town Guide

No further interest from local businesses has been received.

Resolved: Cllrs Howells & Ivin will deliver letters to local businesses in hope to generate interest in the guide.

25.0 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Update on markets in Twyn Square proposed by Green Top Events (GTE)

UTC waiting for confirmation from Green Top Events (GTE) on the proposed markets in Tywn Square scheduled for

- Spring Fayre Sat 29th April 11am-7pm
- Autumn Fayre Sun 29th October 10am- 5pm

Recent events

The Spring Fling & family Bingo were well received and raised funds for the Mayor's Appeal

The following events are scheduled

- Cymanfa Ganu Sunday 23rd April 2023 at Sessions House
- Community Awards 10th May at 6.30pm at Sessions House
- Crawfish Pie Gig at Sessions House in aid if Usk Mayors Appeal – 14th Oct 2023

a) Update on the King's Coronation celebrations on Sunday 7th May 2023

Plans for the day are progressing. There was a meeting with local businesses on the 3rd April. See report dated 4th April for details.

Further meeting with local businesses scheduled for on 24th April 2023

25.1 To receive an update on Community Speed watch

Cllr Kear submitted the following report

- *Last month, 5 sessions were arranged but 3 of them were cancelled due to the weather. One was held at Burrium Gate (BG) the other at the Fire Station. They were held at opposite ends of the day.*
- *Usk Speed watch has identified a significant issue with speeding on the BG 30mph section of Road, more specifically at the junction to the entrance of BG.*
- *6-hour long sessions have shown vehicles regularly in excess of 40 MPH and far too many in excess of 50mph and higher. It is a very busy entrance / exit with the demographics changing over recent years to younger families. Walking to School now features far greater than previously.*
- *It has been requested MCC the "tube" system of recording be placed for the period to enable meaningful / weeklong data can be recorded.*

25.2 To receive an update on the Priory Gatehouse

Resolved: Following the structural engineer's report carried out on 21st March MCC will prepare the works.

25.3 To receive an update on the installation of a defibrillator located near Ladyhill & Burrium Gate

A resident from Burrium Gate has offered to locate the defibrillator on the wall of their property, near to the main entrance to the estate which would provide easy 24 hr access.

UTC has met with the electrician who has provided a quotation for the work

Resolved:

- Defibrillator to be purchased & hopefully installed soon.
- Usk Panto Players will meet all costs.

25.4 To inform members of the Finance & Government Tool Kit for Town & CC's

Noted by Members.

Resolved: UTC will form a working party.

25.5 To inform members of the Written Statement on Electoral Reform White Paper

Resolved: Noted by Members

25.6 To receive an update on the Town Clock

The Friends of Usk, Usk Rotary, Usk Civic Society are contributing to the repair of the clock, and following negotiations by Cllr Kear, MCC has agreed to contribute £2500.

Resolved: It was agreed by Full Council that UTC will procure initial payment for in order not to delay repair.

25.7 To discuss dangerous parking along Four Ash Street

This matter has been raised before but does not appear to have been resolved and UTC has received further complaints from residents

Resolved: Cllr Howells will take forward with MCC and explore the installation of double yellow lines

25.8 To accept proposals for nominations for Chairman 2023

Cllr Roderick proposed Cllr O'Brien as Mayor Elect 2023/2024, this was seconded by Cllr Howells

Resolved: All Cllrs were in favour of this proposal.

25.9 To accept proposals for nominations for Deputy Chairman 2023/2024

Cllr Peacock proposed Cllr Ivin as Deputy Mayor Elect, this was seconded by Cllr Howells.

Resolved: All Cllrs were in favour of this proposal.

26.0 To Approve the Biodiversity Report 2022/23

Resolved: This was approved by Full Council

26.1 To receive an update on the Chapter 8 Training

Resolved: To be rescheduled by the Clerk

26.2 To receive an update on the recent MCC Dog fouling meeting

Cllr Howells reported

- In order to raise awareness of the problems Usk is currently experiencing and to remind owners of their responsibilities UTC is planning in conjunction with MCC, to hold a Dog Fouling Awareness Day in Usk on Thursday 25th May.
- MCC has offered to put up some signs along the riverside which we consider will also help. relocated

26.3 To discuss the proposed visit from Graben-Neudorf Twinning on the weekend of 8th – 10th September (Usk Show weekend)

It was reported there will be a small delegation from Graben- Neudorf – arrangements for the visit need to be agreed by Usk Twinning Association (UTA).

Resolved: UTA will report back

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 item 26.3

26.3 To discuss the nominations for the Usk Town Councillor Vacancy

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

26.4 Correspondence - None

26.5 Matters of information

- Community Awards 10th May 2023 at Sessions House
- Civic Service 4th June at 3pm at St. Mary's Church
- Welsh Water meeting 10am on the 28th April

There was no further business meeting closed at 8.40pm