

**Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting by Usk Town Council (UTC) held in Sessions House  
on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.00pm**

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

**15.9 To accept apologies for absence.**

Cllr B. Thomas

**16.0 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.**

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

There were none

**16.2 County Councillors participation**

County Cllrs Kear and Howells reported the following

- Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) proposed the Council Tax increase is 7.5%
- Gwent Police is offering the 'Smart Water Security Scheme' in order to deter & prevent theft.  
Cllr Kear will obtain details about the scheme.
- 20mph road markings are being applied around the town
- Usk Bridge – Unsure as to whether the Bridge has been hit again -Cllr Kear will investigate.  
Cllr Kear has cleared vegetation obscuring motorists' views from the bridge
- Old Surgery, New Market Street - MCC has now installed a pedestrian walkway
- Burrium Gate- following the flooding in May 2023 MCC's highways & flood team are looking to redesign the drainage. Due to budget restraints MCC is unsure as to when this will be carried out.
- Bus stop Monmouth Rd, Usk, opposite the junction with Ladyhill & Cwrt Bryn Derwen still needs repairing - Cllr Howells will investigate

**16.3 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

**16.4 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

There were none

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

See report dated 6th December 2024

## **16.6 To receive the monthly Finance report for December 2023**

See report dated 6<sup>th</sup> December

- The bank reconciliation for December 2023 showed no erroneous receipts.
- No payments were made outside the normal monthly running costs or not previously agreed.
- Cllr Ivin requested the following:  
To seek authority to engage Centurion for VAT advice

**Resolved:** Members approved this proposal.

## **a) To approve the renewal of a block trading street trading consent - £511**

**Resolved:** This was approved by Full Council

## **16.7 To consider the draft budget and projected receipts and payments and to agree a Budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025**

UTC Members had received copies of the draft budget for 2024-25 prior to the meeting  
The Finance sub- committee recommended the budget to Full Council.

**Resolved:** Following discussion Full Council approved the budget for 2024-25

## **16.8 To agree the precept for 2024-25 ANNUAL PRECEPT**

The proposed budget precept for 2024-25 is £173.112

**Resolved:** Full Council approved the precept

## **16.9 To receive the following Planning Applications**

- a) **DM/2023/01341** 33 Maryport Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AE  
Demolition of Coach House at rear of No. 31 and Office Building at No. 33 Maryport Street  
and Construction of a New Dwelling      **Recommend Approval**

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

UTC needs to review the comments received from consultants Roberts Limerick

**Resolved:** The following meetings are scheduled

- Steering Group meeting with Llanbadoc 10.30am Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Public Realm/Placemaking meeting 11am- 1pm Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Jan

## **17.1 To receive a report from the Groups/Organizations within the Town**

- Together for the Climate meeting - 7-9pm 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024
- Usk Civic Society have talks planned throughout the year
- Usk Primary School – Cllrs Howells & Peacock are working with the school on the '30 Must Places to Visit in Usk'
- Usk Business Shops & Events (UBSE) due to meet 6pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024 at No. 49 Bridge St.  
UTC has requested their feedback on the Christmas Markets
- One Voice Wales Monmouthshire/Newport Area Committee Meeting – Cllr Roderick attended this meeting - he reported there is digital training available if members are interested

## **17.2 To receive an update on use of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC) site and amended licence**

The licence is completed. Cllr Ivin has asked for a refund of fees paid by UTC to MCC.

It was reported Monmouthshire Town Centre Property Improvement Grants are available and there is a Transforming Towns allocation for Usk.

**Resolved:** UTC to meet & consider how best to use the former recycling centre

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

- ❖ The recent Come & Sing & Carol singing had raised money for the Usk Mayor's Appeal
- ❖ Tea Dances continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month at Memorial Hall £5 entry
- ❖ Black Tie Dance – Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 at Memorial Hall

#### **a) To agree the proposed date of 30<sup>th</sup> Nov/1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 for the Christmas Festival**

**Resolved:** To raise this date with the UBSE meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024

#### **b) To discuss proposed Spring & Autumn Fayres by Green Top Events**

Spring Fayre Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Autumn Fayre Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Resolved:** UTC agreed to both Fayres going ahead

### **17.4 To receive an update on the repair of the Town Clock**

The following was reported:

- Clock repairs are complete
- Scaffolding due to come down
- An event to celebrate repairs and thank Friends of Usk and benefactors to be planned
- The future maintenance of the clock requires consideration

**Resolved:** This matter will feature on next month's Agenda for full discussion

### **17.5 To receive an update on the Community funds Usk Participatory Budget Fund**

**Resolved:** A number of applications have been received. End date for application is 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024, after which Members will meet to discuss.

### **17.6 To approve the Minutes of a Meeting of Usk Town Council held in Committee on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm**

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

### **17.7 Matters of Information**

- Local Environmental Audit and Management System Management System (LEAMS) Report on litter in Monmouthshire is available
- Inconsiderate & dangerous parking outside the school is ongoing
- Clerk to arrange a talk for UTC on Counter Terrorism
- Clerk to arrange a meeting with Neighbourhood Police Inspector Emma Sowrey
- Members were asked to give consideration to the positions of Chair & Deputy for 2024/25 next year
- Members were asked to give consideration to Usk Community Awards 2023/24

### **17.8 Correspondence**

**From:** One Voice Wales: Working to address economic inequalities in Gwent

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 7.40pm