**Meeting of the Events & Tourism Committee held**

 **at The Sessions House, Usk, on Wednesday 30th April 2025 at 09.00 am**

 **MINUTES**

**Attendees**

 Cllr Kay Peacock, Cllr Diane Richards, Cllr Gwyn Howells, Cllr Meirion Howells

1. **Apologies**

Cllr Alison Ivin, Cllr Dave Harrison

1. **To approve the minutes of 2nd April 2025**

Minutes were approved

1. **Matters arising from the above Minutes**

No matters arising

1. **To review recent events**

Dog Fouling Awareness Day Friday 11th April 8.30am to 10.30am – attended by GH & MH along with 2 MCC Officers. New larger signs were placed on the Owain Glyndwr Park, Cricket Ground, Pooks Lane, and Island Park. Dog walkers were approached to make aware of the new rules that state owners must carry a bag to pick up waste at all times. Dog owners walking on Island Park were advised that the football pitch and play area are now dog exclusion areas.

1. **Forthcoming events**
	1. VE Day 80 Years Thurs 8th May – on agenda
	2. River Festival Saturday 7th June 2025 – on agenda
	3. Lines Pop-up Pub Conigar Walk Sat 21st June midday to 10pm
	4. Open Gardens Sat & Sun 28th & 29th June – agreed to open the Sessions House to visitors on Saturday 10am to 4pm. Councillors to be asked to work a 2 hours shift.
	5. ARW Day - Saturday 5th July on agenda
	6. Autumn Fayre Saturday 11th October 10-4pm
2. **ARW Summer Festival**

Saturday 5th July –Whole day event with Live Entertainment/Local Group Stalls/ Guided ARW Walk, ARW actor, BYO Picnic Fun Day/Summer Festival/Short Films/Exhibition.

Members felt they could not support co-organising the event and suggested that it started as a guided walk event and allow to grow over repeated years.

1. **Usk River Festival**

River Festival Saturday 7th June 2025 10am to 3pm – Save The River Usk have requested financial support to cover part of the costs to put on this free event.

1. **To discuss future closure of Bridge Street**

DR informed there had been no UBSE meetings. Members were concerned that no discussions had taken place for the August closure.

Bank Holiday Bridge St closure 24 August 2025

Christmas Event Sunday 30 November 2025 8am to 8pm

1. **To discuss future of BT Telephone Boxes**

There have been no clear proposals to suggest how the telephone boxes will be maintained and members felt this could become a cost to the council. Decision to be made at Full Council

1. **Discuss outcomes of survey of Spring Fayre by Green Top Markets**

MH has produced a 12 page report from the survey. Conclusion was that the Spring Fayre was well-received that successfully brought the community together and supported local businesses. Improvement suggestions to traffic management, parking, adding children’s activities, improving stall diversity and quality, sourcing local traders, upgrading toilet facilities would ensure the fayre would continue to grow.

MH agreed to share the report with UBSE

1. **VE Day 80 Years**

Thursday 8th May various events centred around the Sessions House organised by the Usk British Legion and supported by UTC. DR has liaised with the Legion and informed the committee that everything is in hand for the day.

9/9.30am Raising the Flag and VE Day Proclamation – Year 6 students attending
12 midday two-minute National silence

4.30pm Afternoon Tea (no charge/donation) with Live Entertainment
RefreshmentsTea/Coffee/Wine/Beer/Soft drinks
Table reservation, call Diane 07854 876614
6.30pm Firing of the Cannon – Usk Castle
6.30/7pm Peal of Bells The Priory Church of St Mary's
6.15pm Buskuleles of Usk
7pm Usk Brass Band
8pm Usk Singing Club - WW2 Sing-a-long
9pm Proclamation - Mayor of Usk.
9.05pm Rev. Sally Ingle-Gillis
9.30pm The Nation Sings ‘I Vow To Thee My Country’
9.30pm Lighting the Beacon - Usk Scouts – DL Cilla Davies attending

1. **To discuss Tourism in the town**

MH has put together a social media post to encourage Spring visitors

The Clerk has put up a UTC display board in the Hub

1. **Update on the Digital information Board**

The Clerk informed that there is a steady flow of adverts.

1. **To receive an update on activities from other groups**

UTFTC – 3 4th Year Architect and Planning UWE Students will produce a paper on how they think a sustainable Usk could look like in 25 years – Susk2050

Mural on Railway Bridge by Danielle Farrington – suggestions for alternative spaces to put paintings

1. **To discuss/review promotion of events on the following**
	1. **Diary -**
	2. **Facebook –** What’s On Usk now has over 500 members
	3. **Website –**
2. **Matters of Information**
3. **Correspondence**
4. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 28th May 9.30 am