

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at
The Sessions House, Usk, on Monday 9th April 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr G Roderick, Cllr A Leathwood, Cllr C Wilkinson, Cllr Ms. I Brown, Cllr M Evans, Cllr A. Watkins, Cllr R Galletley, Cllr J Jeremiah, Cllr J Richards,
Town Clerk - Mrs. Tracey Huxley

Prior to the meeting PC Evans gave the Police report for February/March 2018.
Cllr Roderick reported that he has received and regrettably accepted resignation of office of Town Councillor from Cllrs Tony Kear and Mrs. Chris Williams

24.6 To accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Strong, RFO - Ms. J Mee,

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

There were none

24.8 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2018

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

24.9 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2018

- ❖ There are numerous potholes around the Town

Resolved:

These are being reported to Mon CC as a matter of urgency

- ❖ **Missing stone on Usk Bridge**

This has been missing for sometime

Resolved: Clerk to chase this matter up with Mon CC

- ❖ **T.V series "Blooming Marvellous"**

This will now be screen on Monday 16th April at Usk Conservative Club (The Grange) not Monday 23rd April as originally planned

25.0 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See reported dated 3rd April 2018

Discussion followed regarding the oak tree in the grounds of the Sessions House as it causes huge problems with its leaves falling into the guttering

Resolved:

UTC to contact Jim Keech Mon CC to confirm permission that the tree can be felled as soon as possible

25.1 To receive the monthly finance report

The reconciliation for March 2018 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

The end of year accounts has been drawn up in preparation for the Auditor.

Consideration was given to settling the current mortgage on the Sessions House

Resolved:

- It was agreed the mortgage be paid off subject to there being no penalty clause
- Council agreed to confirm the appointment of Mr. John Evans as Internal Auditor to the Council.

25.2 To receive Planning applications

- a) **DM/2018/00299** Change of use of horticultural shop/display area to children's activity/play area **The Willows Garden Centre 20 Baron Street, Usk NP15 1DQ**

Recommend Approval

- b) **DM/2018/00296** Single storey rear extension **72 Burrium Gate, Usk NP15 1TN**

Recommend Approval

- c) **DC/2017/01078** **Trostrey Court Farm, Usk – for information only**

25.3 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee

There has been no further development regarding the Hamilton Baille report.

It was reported that Roger Hoggins Mon CC has been in discussion with the residents of Abergavenny Road with the proposal of introducing speed bumps along this stretch of road.

It was reported that nothing would be progressed until the views of the Usk Community survey have been gathered. After which resident's priorities will be assessed.

25.4 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies

❖ **Usk Civic Society (UCS)**

It was reported that Mon CC Highways have objected to the siting of the Alfred Russel Wallace memorial

Resolved:

UCS to meet with Mon CC to discuss other options

❖ **Usk Royal British Legion (RBL)**

The RBL plans to commemorate a 100 year since the Armistice with a service at Usk Castle at 11am on the 11th November 2018.

A sapling taken from the Mametz woods will be planted in the Castle grounds to mark this occasion

25.6 Areas of concern around the Town

❖ **Properties in Bridge Street**

A few shop keepers have complained about the number of cigarette butts in Bridge Street as a result of people smoking outside the Mad Platter

Resolved:

Clerk to approach the Mad Platter to discuss how this may be resolved

❖ **Old Noticeboard outside Number 49**

This is very unsightly

Resolved:

Cllr Leathwood will approach the owners of Number 49 to discuss how this may be resolved

25.7 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee (CCC)

Cllr Brown reported the following

- ❖ The CCC has been very preoccupied with the Future of Usk Survey.
- ❖ Cllr Brown thanked Cllrs Wilkinson and Richards for all their hard work in preparing the survey.
- ❖ Thanks also went to Rachel Rawlings Mon CC for her help and contribution.
- ❖ A flyer outlining the survey has been posted to most residents in Usk. There are a few streets outstanding - Cllr Galletley will post the remainder
- ❖ There is now a live link to the survey on the website
- ❖ Paper copies are available in the Sessions House

25.8 To receive an update from the Events Committee

The following was reported

- ❖ The combined UTC/Rotary concert had been an extremely enjoyable and successful evening, with £1600 being raised.
Cllr Watkins thanked everyone involved with special thanks going to Lyn Barratt and Jenny Mee for their organization of the food

- ❖ WNO digital dept regarding the exhibition to commemorate the 100 Anniversary of the Suffragettes.
Resolved:
This will take place during Gardens Open weekend 23/24th June

- ❖ Presentation of "Old Photos of Usk" at Sessions House will take place on 8th May 2018 - proceeds to the Sessions House

25.9 To receive an update on the proposed gas works by Wales and West Utilities

Cllr Richards reported that Phase 2 of the works appears to be going well.

It is hoped that there will be extra vigilance and patrols from the Police as requested.

There is general concern about the state of the roads in Usk as a result of the works. Cllr Richards reported that W&W Utilities have given reassurance that the roads will "be made good" following the works. This reassurance will extend to six months following completion of the repairs.

26.0 To receive notification of the Green Paper consultation '*Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People*' launched by The Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services

Cllr Leathwood has reviewed the document and reported its contents and the changes it proposes to Town & Community Councils

Resolved:

These were noted by Members. Cllr Leathwood will update Cllrs as more information is received

26.1 To receive an update on the Usk Christmas markets

UTC are now in receipt of the Annual Block Trading Licence.

Resolved:

UTC will draw up terms and conditions for the running of the markets

26.2 To discuss the proposed Summer Festival the weekend of 14th/15th July 2018

Phillip Mungeam has approached UTC regarding the running of a Summer Festival

Resolved:

Cllrs to meet with Phillip to agree on terms and conditions for the festival

26.3 To receive an update on the litter picker volunteer scheme

Resolved:

There has been a very good response with the volunteer group. They meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 10.30am outside the Co-op Store

26.4 To receive an update on the promotion of "no plastic" in Usk

The recent presentation was well received with twenty people wishing to join.

Cllr Richards reported that in order for a Town to receive plastic free status UTC will need to pass a resolution to support the initiative

Resolved:

Member of UTC passed a resolution to support plastic free coastline, committing to plastic free alternatives and supporting plastic free initiatives within the consultancy.

A further meeting is to be arranged

26.5 To accept proposals for nominations for Chairman 2018/2019

Cllr Galletley proposed Cllr Leathwood as Mayor Elect for 2018/2019

All Cllrs were in favour of this proposal.

26.6 To accept proposals for nominations for Deputy Chairman 2018/2019

Cllr Leathwood proposed Cllr Wilkinson as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2018/2019

All Cllrs were in favour of this proposal.

26.7 To discuss Usk Town Council's participation in the Usk Agricultural Show 2018

Resolved:

It was agreed by members that UTC will take part in this year's Usk Agricultural Show

26.8 To discuss Usk Shopper's Initiative

Cllr Richards reported that an opportunity to promote local businesses in order to attract shoppers to spend in local Usk Outlets is to will be encouraged. For every £10 spend shoppers earn an entry into the Usk Shopping Spree draw for a chance to win shopping vouchers to spend in any of the participating outlets. The prizes will be the sum of £600. UTC have match funded W&W Utilities contribution of £300. The event will be promoted to the public from 18th April onwards.

26.9 Correspondence:

From: Usk Farmers Club - sponsorship for Usk show

From: Mon CC Street Trading Consent Licence

From: Welsh Govt. Green Paper Consultation Document Strengthening Local Government

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 27.0

27.0 To receive the latest report on the Movement of Prisoners from HMP Usk to HMP Prescoed.

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

27.1 Any other Business *Any other business is at the discretion of and with prior notice to the Chairman*

For information Mayor's presentation of cheques on Wed 25th April at 7pm

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 9.05pm