

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at
The Sessions House, Usk, on Monday 12th February 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Prior to the meeting at 7pm Naomi Warner from Run4Wales addressed Full Council about the forthcoming Velothon.

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, C. Cllr B Strong, Cllr T Kear, Cllr C Williams

RFO - Ms. J Mee, Town Clerk - Mrs. Tracey Huxley

19.5 To accept Apologies for Absence

All Cllrs were present.

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

There were none

19.7 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018

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

19.8 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018

➤ **17.8 Usk Civic Society (UCS)**

With reference to valuation of the Priory by USC. They will forward the cost of the valuation to Usk Town Council (UTC) for its consideration

19.9 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See report dated 5th February 2018

20.0 To receive the monthly finance report

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

Resolved:

The Annual Internal Audit is due to take place on Tuesday 10th April 2018.

20.1 To receive Planning applications

DC/2018/00037 Ceiling mounted fire safety units, trunking and cabling

HMP Usk 47 Maryport Street Usk NP15 1XP

Recommend Approval

20.2 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee

Nothing to report.

Resolved:

Cllr Strong advised UTC that the flashing gateway signs for Abergavenny Road have been ordered.

20.3 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies

❖ Usk Civic Society (UCS)

USC has submitted the planning application to Mon CC for the installing of the statue of Alfred Russell Wallace in Twyn Square. These were distributed to Cllrs for viewing.

Resolved:

Cllr Evans reported that once the statue is installed UCS will request that ownership of the statue be handed over to UTC

❖ Usk Business Network

Cllr Brown reported that the group has met and Mrs. Kelly Jolliffe was elected as chair. The network now has a defined format and is working collectively.

Resolved:

The group will meet on the second Wednesday of the month

❖ Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism (WVFD)

Cllr Leathwood recently attended one of their meetings. The WVFD is developing a walking route around each of the market towns. Usk will feature in the pamphlet they are putting together.

Resolved:

Cllr Leathwood considers Usk has a great deal to gain from registering with WVFD and will ask a member of the group to address UTC

❖ Usk Twinning Association

Cllr Richards reported the following

- The trip to Graben -Neudorf has been finalized -Saturday 23rd April to Thursday 3rd May
- The Usk Twinning Association Annual Meeting is to be held on the 14th March 7pm in the Sessions House

The following fundraising events have been organized: -

- Quiz Friday 9th March 7pm at the Conservative Club
- German Wine and Food pairing evening at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 5th May

20.4 Areas of concern around the Town

❖ Post Box in Bridge Street

UTC has requested that Royal Mail reinstate a post box in Bridge St. following the closure of the old Post Office. The request has been refused by Royal Mail on the grounds that "there are already three post boxes all within 440 meters of the post office and it is considered that the current post boxes cover all address points in the area. Additionally, Bridge Street is also only a two-lane road which is very narrow with Double Yellow lines along its length. The pavements are extremely narrow making collecting difficult and thus unsuitable for a pillar box "

Resolved:

The Clerk to contact Royal Mail again to ask they reconsider their decision

❖ Roadside signs on the approach into Usk from Llanbadoc

Resolved: These are in a poor state and will be replaced by Mon CC

❖ **Missing stone on Usk Bridge**

This has been missing for sometime

Resolved: Cllr Strong will consult Mon CC about the replacement of the stone

❖ **Potholes**

There are dangerous pot holes outside the following

✚ Usk Primary School

✚ Governors House in Maryport Street

Resolved: Cllr Strong will speak to Mon CC about the repair of these

❖ **Lights around the Clock in Twyn Square**

These are not working

Resolved: Clerk to contact Mon CC

20.5 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee

Cllr Brown reported the following

- The new Usk Town website is now up and running on usktown.org
- Following a visit to the "Visit Monmouthshire Team" at County Hall the new website with now have stronger links with Mon CC
- Facebook has 617 likes and 175 followers on Twitter

Cllr Richards reported that communication from officers at Mon CC about notification of the proposed renewal of the Gas pipes in Usk were forwarded to Town & Community Councils at different stages throughout 2017.

Resolved:

Cllrs need to be more aware of communications from Mon CC and other bodies.

20.6 To receive an update from the Events Committee

It was reported that the Casino Night in aid of the Usk Mayor's Charity had been a great success.

The following fundraising events are planned

- A Talk on Great Citadels by Jeremy Bosanquet
- A Race Night at Usk Conservative Club on 18th April

Other forthcoming events

- ❖ Usk Busking Festival and Picnic in the Park weekend of the 21st/22nd July - the plans for this are progressing
- ❖ Welsh National Opera has approached UTC about use of the Sessions House to celebrate a 100 year since the Suffragette Movement

Resolved:

There is meeting arranged with WNO in order to discuss this proposal

20.7 To receive an update from Usk in Bloom

Cllr Kear thanked UTC on behalf of Usk in Bloom for the recent reception held in their honour. He also thanked Cllr Strong for his request to Mon CC for funding towards hanging baskets for "Champion of Champions".

The following was reported

- UiB is working hard towards Britain in Bloom
- UiB is considering entering the "World in Bloom" competition. Cllr Kear asked if UTC would consider paying the entrance fee of £850. A decision will be needed by 1st March 2018
- Cllr Kear expressed concern about the flowers in Twyn Square during the Velothon
- A number of members/administrators within UiB have been reduced due to various reasons

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

Cllr Richards reported the following

- ❖ Usk Town website and Facebook page has been updated. This coincided with a letter drop from W&W Utilities.
- ❖ All residents affected by "Clearways" have received hand delivered up to date information.
- ❖ Relative signage is in place.

The chairman thanked Cllr Richards for all her hard work in liaising with W&W Utilities and communicating with residents in relation to the gas pipe replacement/works.

20.9 To receive an update on parking facilities in Maryport Street, North car park following changes to the recycling centre

Cllr Leathwood reported that two additional car parking spaces have been identified. UTC are just waiting for Mon CC to mark these up.

Following discussion, it was suggested that a survey be conducted on the use of the car parks in Usk.

It was also noted that

- ❖ The Memorial car park remains in a poor state of repair
- ❖ Management of the car parks in Usk is mentioned in the Hamilton Baille report.

Resolved

Cllr Strong will speak to Roger Hoggins on MCC about the state of the car parks.

21.0 To discuss the planning of the Usk Christmas markets

Following an Usk Business Network meeting it was proposed that UTC take the lead in obtaining permission for the Christmas Markets

Resolved:

Councillors to meet and discuss this proposal – clerk to arrange

21.1 To discuss establishing more effective, anti-litter and anti-dog fouling strategies and the setting up of a litter picker volunteer scheme with the support of Mon CC.

The following was discussed

- ❖ The offer from several residents to do a regular litter pick in Usk
- ❖ Dog fouling bylaws

Resolved:

- ❖ There is a volunteer litter pick scheduled for Saturday 3rd March
- ❖ These issues will be included in the community consultation survey

21.2 To discuss the promoting of "no plastic" in Usk

It was proposed that Usk promote "no Plastic" in the Town

Resolved: UTC contact Mon CC to seek guidance on how this may be progressed

21.3 To update Councillors on the “Review of community boundaries and electoral arrangements”

It was reported that Mon CC has been asked by the Welsh Government to pick up from where the review of community boundaries and electoral arrangements were postponed due to the publication of the Williams report and the uncertainty of future mergers.

Resolved:

Mon CC will reconvene its working group and finalize its proposals based on feedback received at the previous consultation stage. It is hoped that Mon CC will approve the final proposals in April/May 2018 following which these proposals will be submitted to the Local Boundary Commission for Wales

21.4 To receive an update on the Local Development Plan Draft Review Report Consultation

Following on from the Cluster meeting with Mon CC Cllr Richards gave a presentation on the Local Development Plan Draft Review Consultation Report.

This was noted by Full Council. It was recommended by Cllr Richards that UTC give formal approval to new LDP proposals.

Resolved:

Ratification was given by UTC for the new LDP proposals

21.5 Correspondence:

From: MCC Obstructions in the Highway Policy i.e. ‘A’ boards, tables, chairs etc.

From: MCC Give Dog Fouling the Red Card

From: Tenovus Cancer Care request for funding

From: GAVO Monmouthshire Third Sector Network meeting 5th March at The Bridges Community Centre Cardiff

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.

21.6 To discuss proposals for community awards 2018

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

21.8 To discuss recent correspondence from the Police

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

There was no further business and the meeting formally closed at 9.40pm

