

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

Present: Cllr G Roderick, Cllr C Wilkinson, Cllr Ms. I Brown, Cllr M Evans, Cllr R Galletley
Cllr J Jeremiah, Cllr J Richards, C. Cllr B Strong, Cllr T. Watkins, Cllr K. Dancer RFO Ms. J. Mee
Town Clerk - Mrs. Tracey Huxley

Prior to the meeting at 7.00pm Vivienne Leach addressed UTC about Moncare Co-operative an organization which provides assistance and independent living through the receipt of financial care packages.

6.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr. A Leathwood

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

There were none

6.2 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2018

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

6.3 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2018

There were none

6.4 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

There was no meeting this month due to holidays

6.5 To receive the monthly finance report

There was no meeting this month due to holidays

6.6 To receive Planning applications

- a) **DM/2018/00919 8 Priory Street Usk** Take down the current chimney and replace it with identically styled lightweight false chimney **Recommend Approval**

- b) **DM/2018/00969 13 Chepstow Road** Two storey extension to accommodate re-located staircase **Recommend Approval**

6.7 To receive a Report from the Traffic & HGVs Committee

The following was reported

- Cllr Leathwood has been liaising with Roger Hoggins from Monmouthshire County Council (Mon CC) about the Hamilton - Baille report
- There is a proposal that the 30mph limit be extended in Maryport Street from Usk Athletic Club to the Borstal Field entrance

6.8 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies

Usk Twinning - due to meet on Wednesday 12th July

Usk Civic Society

Cllr Evans proposed the Alfred Russell Wallace statue be sited in the grounds of the Sessions House

Resolved: It was agreed in principle. Sessions House Management Committee will discuss further.

6.9 Areas of concern around the Town

➤ **Grass verges at Ladyhill**

It was reported cars are causing damage to the grass verge by parking at the bottom of Ladyhill

Resolved: Cllr Strong reported that Mon CC is considering putting double yellow lines around this area.

➤ **Porthycarne Close**

Trees overhanging the entrance to Porthycarne Close

Resolved: Cllr Evans Mon CC will take a look and advise

➤ **Usk Traditional Fish and Chip Shop**

Questions have been raised over the opening hours of the Fish & Chip Shop

Resolved: Cllr Strong will investigate this matter

7.0 To discuss road signage at Maryport street adjacent to Barclays Bank

It was reported the painted road markings have faded giving uncertainty as to who has right of way at this junction

Resolved:

Clerk to send a proforma.

Cllr Strong will liaise with Mon CC

7.1 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee

Cllr Brown reported the following

➤ Facebook has shared information about the Velothon

➤ It was explained there are two Facebook channels calling themselves "Usk Town", one of which is posting false news items. This leads to confusion between Usk Town and the legitimate site "Usk Town Council"

➤ **Resolved:**

UTC to issue a statement on Facebook clarifying UTC operates the following three channels and UTC are not associated with running and maintaining any other Usk Town channels.

1. Usk Town Website
2. UTC Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/usktowncouncil/>
3. Twitter

7.2 To receive an update from the Events Committee including an update on the Big Usk Busk and Community Picnic the weekend of 21st/22nd July 2018

The Big Usk Busk and Community Picnic

Cllr Brown reported the following

- Plans for this event are progressing well.
- Busking zones, busking maps and the stage programme are all complete.
- Bryon Calloway will be coming to The Big Usk Busk to do some filming
- Busking badges have arrived
- Plans for the community picnic are also coming together.
- Cllr Richards and the Clerk to meet in order to discuss the site plan

Events Committee

Cllr Richards reported

- The recent WNO Rebel Rhondda has been a huge success. It is hoped this may be followed up with further WNO productions
- Cllrs were reminded of The Monmouth Male Voice Choir concert 7pm on 27th July 2018 at Sessions House in aid of the Usk Mayor's Appeal

Cllr Roderick reported to mark the First World War Centenary the Royal British Legion (RBL) has plans to commemorate the fallen of Usk and has organized the following:

- Usk Town Band are playing on the 10th November 2018 at the Royal British Legion (RBL)
- Tree planting and a service at Usk Castle as part of the First World War Centenary
- Ian Williams will present a talk at 5pm on 11th November at 5pm at the RBL

7.3 To receive a report from Usk in Bloom

The recent World in Bloom judging day had gone well. The Deputy Chairman thanked Cllr Richards for organizing a super reception on behalf of UTC.

The following is planned

- Wales in Bloom judging 10th July 2018,
- Britain in Bloom 2nd August 2018

Usk in Bloom has asked UTC to write officially to the Co op Store to request they keep the area around their entrance clean and tidy

Resolved: Clerk to do

Open Gardens

This had been an amazing weekend with £19,500 being raised and distributed to various charities. Other organization within the town did well with fundraising. The Memorial Hall has agreed to make a donation to the Mather Trust Library for the restoration of books.

Resolved:

UTC to write to both Open Gardens and Usk in Bloom to thank them for all their efforts and hard work

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

Cllr Richards reported the work has very nearly finished. There is still some ongoing work in Mill Street – this is delayed due to the recent hot weather.

Resolved: The UTC sub-committee will now stand down and any issues be dealt with as they occur

7.5 To receive an update on the litter picker volunteer scheme

The group continues to meet on the first Saturday of the month

7.6 To receive an update on the promotion of “no plastic” in Usk

Cllr Richards reported that although the last meeting had few attendees, they are very committed.

Resolved:

- The group will meet again in September.
- Mon CC will be applying for countrywide “plastic free” status.
- Mon CC has requested UTC have a presence in their marquee at the Usk Show in order to promote UTC’s plastic free initiative

7.7 To inform Members of the project targets awareness of pollinators in Monmouthshire

Cllr Evans informed members of this pilot project administered by the Vale of Usk Rural Development Programme.

The project entitled *Nature isn't Neat* will focus on one urban area in Monmouthshire. The Vale of Usk Rural Development Programme (RDP) is inviting the local councils to submit applications to be the first town in which pollinators feature on centre stage.

Resolved: Members were in favour of submitting an application to this. Cllr Evans will contact Alison Howarth Mon CC in order to discuss the application

7.8 To receive an update from the Usk Business Network

Cllr Dancer attended a meeting of the Monmouth & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce Various issues were outlined and discussed. It was resolved to keep Usk informed

7.9 To discuss the provision of toilet facilities at the new Usk Park

The lack of toilet facilities remains a problem

Resolved: Cllr Richards will make some enquiries into toilet provision

8.0 To review the recent Velothon

It was reported that there had been 8000 cyclists, 300 of which started the shortened route in Usk. There had been great community spirit, which was considered, will bring more visitors to Usk.

Areas for consideration for the debrief with Run4Wales

- Clearing up of the plastic energy gel pack
- Run4Wales need more direction in order to communication with local businesses

8.1 To inform Cllrs of the proposed changes in email contacts in order to keep within the new legislation of the new General Data Protection Regulations (“GDPR”) which was introduced on 25th May 2018

Resolved: In line with new GDPR regulations Councillors will be issued with new email addresses which will be solely for UTC use. Clerk to arrange

8.2 To discuss Usk Town Council’s participation in the Usk Agricultural Show on the 8th September 2018 including UTC Member’s Rota

Usk Civic Society will be joining UTC at the Show.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange a meeting with the two parties and organize a Councillor Rota

8.3 To review the recent Civic Service

Resolved: This had been a very well organized and successful event.

8.4 Correspondence:

From: Resident re: footway safety on Monmouth Road towards Factory Lane

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 8.6

8.5 To approve the “In committee Minutes” of 11th June 2018

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

8.6 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

8.7 Any other Business Any other business is at the discretion of and with prior notice to the Chairman For Information

- The recent announcement regarding closure of the Post Office Counter in Bridge Street and Barclay’s Bank was discussed by Council. These matters will feature on September’s Full Council Agenda
- There will be BAE Systems Glascoed – Telephone Activation Exercise week commencing the 30th July 2018

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