

**Minutes of a monthly meeting of Usk Town Council held at
The Sessions House, Usk, on Monday 8th July 2019 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Deputy Chairman Cllr A. Watkins, Cllr A. Leathwood, C. Cllr Strong, Cllr M Evans, Cllr R Galletley, Cllr S. Williams, Cllr A Watkins, Cllr K Dancer, Cllr G Roderick, Cllr M Howells Town Clerk Mrs. T Huxley

5.4 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs. C. Wilkinson, Cllr J. Richards, Mrs. D. Richards RFO

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

With reference to Item 7.5 Cllr Watkins declared he is a member of Usk Rotary Club

5.6 To Approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2019

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

5.7 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 10th June 2019

4.0b) Cllrs had a general discussion about parking in Usk.

Resolved: Cllr Strong will request the new Mon CC Enforcement Officers monitor the area around the One Stop retail shop more closely

5.8 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

See draft report dated 4th July 2019

- ❖ HMP Usk will refurbish the benches outside the Sessions House. UTC will provide the materials
- ❖ UTC wish to express thanks to caretaker Lyn & Richard for the planting and maintenance of all the lovely planters outside the Sessions House

5.9 To receive the monthly finance report

The reconciliation for May 2019 showed no erroneous receipts or payments.

a) To receive the up to date percentage of budget spent

The six-monthly cost centre report was approved by Full Council

The Finance sub-committee proposed the installing of a Hearing Loop and possibly a PA system in the Courtroom.

Resolved: This proposal was met with Full Council approval

6.0 To receive Planning Applications

a) **DM/2019/00879** The Inn Between 53 Bridge Street Usk NP15 1BQ

To provide pedestrian access from public car park **Recommend Approval**

b) **DM/2019/00938** Mod or Removal of Condition. Variation of condition 2 (we would like to amend the design of the rear of the property) relating to DC/2015/01588 31 Maryport Street Usk

Recommend Refusal

c) **DC/2018/001441** Twyn Square Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1BH **Proposed erection of a plinth with bust of Alfred Russel Wallace and an interpretation board explaining the work of Alfred Russel Wallace and his connection to the area.**

Recommend Approval

d) **DM/2019/01049** MCC Store & Welfare Building Mill Street Close Usk NP15 1AR.
Conversion of rear existing MCC store and welfare building into a public toilet with disabled access.
Recommend Approval

6.1 To receive a report/update on the Master Plan for Usk

The following was reported

- Future Usk Survey is now complete and has progressed to the Master Plan for Usk.
- Following an inaugural meeting with ARUP the timescale has been revised, by mutual agreement, to the end of September.
- ARUP were encouraged by the public engagements planned by Usk. They plan to attend events

6.2 To receive Reports from Members serving on other bodies

Dog Fouling Meeting

ClIr Leathwood and the Clerk attended a meeting at County Hall.

- Mon CC is looking to organize its own collection of dog waste however; this has not reached a conclusion.
- Monmouth Town to host an Action Day in September.

Usk Litter Action Group

Resolved:

- Volunteers were out on Saturday. The town is looking litter-free following the recent judging.
- ClIr Roderick will attend a safety litter pick & needles course

Usk in Bloom

Resolved:

- The area outside the Coop has been refurbished by UiB.
- Following discussion, it was resolved UiB be requested to submit a monthly report to UTC

6.3 To discuss the pebbles /cobbled areas in Usk in relation to the Usk in Bloom

Usk in Bloom has raised concern over the pebbled area however, there is a cost implication.

Resolved:

This matter will be included in ARUP's remit

6.4 Areas of concern around the Town

a) **Mill Lane** – Usk Athletic Club fence remains unsightly

Resolved: Clerk to approach Chairman of UAC - again

b) **Pumping Station, Mill Lane**– this remains unsightly.

There has been no reply from Welsh Water

Resolved: Clerk to write to the Chief Executive

c) **Ty Brith Gardens**

There are dangerously parked cars on the corner.

Resolved: Clerk to contact the Police

d) **BT Station in The Meadows-** again an unkempt, unsightly area

Resolved: Clerk to contact BT

6.5 To receive an update from the Community Communication Committee

See report dated 25th June 2019

6.6 To receive an update from the Tourism & Events sub - committee

a) **To receive an update on the Community Festival 20th/21st July**

b) **To receive an update Street Party on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August**

See report dated 25th June 2019

6.7 To receive a report from the Usk Business Forum

Cllr Dancer is unable to attend the next meeting. Cllr Williams will attend and report back to UTC

6.8 To receive an update on the Usk Post Office Counter Services

The Post Office has been officially opened.

It has been proposed two disabled parking bays be installed outside the Post Office

Resolved: Clerk to contact Mon CC

6.9 To receive an update on the proposed Usk Park toilets

Resolved:

- Planning application for change of use has been submitted.
- Councillors approved David Turner as the builder who, all being well will look to start the works in September
- It was agreed by Councillor to provide portaloos for park users during the school holiday

7.0 To receive an update on the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Tourism Membership (WVFDT)

- With regards to **the WVFDT** Cllr Williams explained Usk needs to be represented as "Usk Town" not "Usk Town Council". The Events sub- committee is in the process of choosing a large picture and eight other pictures for the WVFDT website which will best represent Usk.
- A new email address is needed other than clerk.usk@usktown.org The café at the museum was nominated as a possibility

Resolved: Clerk to organize

7.1 To discuss the "Commit to Your Street" proposal

Usk in Bloom and Usk Litter Action are planning a joint initiative to promote the idea 'Commit to Your Street'.

This is a project where residents sign up to keep the area outside their own home or a section of the street they live in, litter and weed free. Their area is then marked off on a town map with their name against it. The aim is to eventually have all areas of the town covered. UiB and the Litter action group request the support of the Town Council as a joint initiator.

Resolved:

Seven Councillors were in favour. One Councillor abstained from voting

7.2 To confirm Councillor attendance to the One Voice Wales Monmouth/Newport area committee meeting and AGM, to be held at 7pm on Thursday the 18th July 2019

Resolved: Cllrs Leathwood and Roderick will attend

7.3 To discuss new Twinning signage in Usk

It was reported the old Twinning sign is facing the wrong way in Twyn Square.

Usk Twinning Association has requested Twinning Signs with Graben - Neudorf on entrances to the Town

Resolved: UTC to enquire with Mon CC regarding the signage

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 7.4

7.4 To discuss the appointment of a Burgess of Usk

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

7.5 To discuss the proposed arboretum on the Borstal Field

Resolved: All Councillors are supportive of the proposed arboretum

7.6 Correspondence

From: Usk Choral Festival – Thank you

7.7 Any other Business

For Information

- Councillors are invited to the Open Gardens Beneficiary evening at Sessions House on Wed 10th July at 7pm
- No 49 Bridge Street -Cllr Watkins described a conversation he had with the owners of the business.
- Planning Application DM/2018?01641 Trostrey Court
Cllr were informed of the planning application. This matter will feature on September 2019 UTC Agenda for discussion
- Cllr Dancer will research the prospect of introducing a food bank in Usk

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.40pm