Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 25th March 2025 – Usk Rugby Club – 1830

Minutes

1. **Attendance**

Colin Deakins, Jo Storey, Ann Bowyer, Jenny Carpenter

Jacob Richards-Powell (Clerk)

Meirion Howells & Tony Kear (Meirion left the meeting at 1949)

2. **Apologies**

Julian Bowen-Sargent, Janet Clarke

Hannah Dando

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None

4. **Chair's Remarks**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for feedback on using the Rugby Club as the meeting place for the first time.

5. **County Councillor Participation**

a. Tony Kear & Meirion Howells in attendance

i **Tony Kear reported that:**

1 A property in Little Mill that has been found to be in breach of planning rights is still under investigation.

2 Speaking to police to establish a speed watch site near Island House in Usk

3 Tony Kier complained about the lack of brightness of the Speed Indication Sign (SID) at Alexandra Terrace.

ii **Meirion reported that:**

1 Island Park pitch / play area – now no dogs, even on a lead. Fines and enforcement area in effect.

2 Traffic model presentation for Usk Master plan taking place on 25.03.2025

3 Reduction of funding from Active Travel (Welsh Government)

4 Review of pavements for improvements in Usk

5 Trees at Llanbadoc: Concerned resident met with member of MCC who have agreed that the site needs tidying up following tree works carried out by MCC.

6 Pontypool / New Inn train station is now fully open. Rail tickets can be bought using 'tap and go' a single ticket for Pontypool to Cardiff is approximately £4.00

7. No further update on Cae Melin adopted, no response from developer
8. Waiting for resident to identify site on Glascoed Lane to site a 'Warning Horse Riders' sign
9. River Festival to be held on Usk Island 7.6.25 (10am-3pm)
10. Social properties in the local area have become available, anyone eligible and looking for a property in the area should register to Monmouthshire Home Search: Monmouthshire Homesearch - Home

iii. Both County Councillors remarked that the car parks in Usk are not due to become 'pay and display' or chargeable.

1. Car parks in Monmouthshire are being reviewed over enforcement feasibility

6. Comments from Members of the public

a. No members in public in attendance

7. Clerk's Report & Action Updates

a. These were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, see appendix:

8. Approval of Minutes

a. February 2025

i. Proposed by Ann Bowyer seconded by Colin Deakins as an accurate record of the meeting.

9. Community

a. Discuss / note comments from LMVHA February Meeting

i. Colin attended the last Trustees meeting and shared his notes with Councillors prior the Council meeting.

1. Tony Kear, in his capacity as a Trustee reported that The Trust have spoken to Prescoed prison to arrange a day when inmates with sufficient skills will attend the hall to carry out decoration to the hall exterior.
2. It was raised that sufficient notice for events organised by The Village Hall which include use of the playing field is required as it is a prerequisite of the lease between the hall and the playing field.
3. 28th June LMVHA will celebrate 90 years of the hall and will be holding an event.
4. 31st May – Risca Choir will be performing in the hall.
5. Treasurer is resigning.

10. Finance & Procedure

a. Approve payments for March

i. Proposed by Jenny Carpenter seconded by Ann Bowyer

b. Approve updated Financial Regulations

i. Accepted by Council and approve

c. Approve Clerk's working from home / travel allowance Q4 £153.60

i. Proposed by Colin Deakins seconded by Jenny Carpenter

d. Note VAT return for end of year
    i VAT return to be completed and submitted at end of Month / financial year. Total return calculated: £2361.56 this figure is expected to rise slightly.

11. Maintenance

a. Update on Twyn Y Cryn Management Report and discuss initial phases of work
    i Invite Mike Richards back to the woods to mark trees which need to be removed – there is a cost of £300 involved. Ask how trees will be marked.
    ii Site visit taking place on 31st March at 11am to discuss redirecting a portion of pathway to avoid a precarious but necessary tree.

b. Update on Lower Common Glascoed and next phase of work
    i Ground clearance has taken place at Lower Common to allow the full boundary to be seen and improve access across the site. The two unauthorised laurel trees were removed. A letter has been sent to request removal of the unauthorised fence, if the fence remains standing it will be removed by the Council.
    ii Ground Force have removed a large area of growth behind the play area to the electricity poles. (This is work carried out by Western Power to keep power lines clear).

c. Note response from SWTRA regarding A4042 road sign
    i Confirmed in Clerk's Report: A sign northbound on the A4042 which warns drivers of the upcoming right hand turn for Little Mill has been missing for several years. SWTRA have confirmed that the sign is due to be replaced but have not identified a timeframe.

d. Confirm which services to request from MCC for 2025-2026 maintenance contract
    i Keep contract as is, remove cut and collect and ask for outer path around Lower Common.

12. Planning

a. DM/2025/00029 – Proposed new canopy over existing courtyard Vale Poultry Ltd Glascoed Lane
    i No objections

13. Next Meeting

a. **Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – Little Mill Village Hall**

Meeting ended at 2031hrs