

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

To the Town Mayor and Councillors of Usk Town Council.

**You are summoned to attend a Hybrid Meeting to be held in Sessions House
and via Zoom conferencing on Monday 14th 2024 at 6.00pm
The business to be transacted is set out in the agenda below.**

MINUTES

Present Cllr K. Peacock, Cllr. D Harrison, Cllr M. Howells, Cllr A. Ivin, Cllr D Richards, Cllr G Howells,
Clerk A. Morgan

11.3 To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr B Thomas

11.4 Public Open Forum

(15 minutes at the discretion of the Mayor.) Members of the public are invited to address the Council in relation to items on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes unless directed by the Chair. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given.

No questions or enquiries raised.

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

None raised

11.6 County Councillors participation

Cllr M Howells

- 1) Active Travel – route proposed along Factory Lane to the School. Plans to be drawn up for further engagement
- 2) Faded lines on roads reported – outside The Legion, Church St, One Stop corner, all along the A572 and Maryport St.
- 3) UTAG meeting with MP and MS. Transport for Wales has identified Usk as one of their Pathfinder locations. Political parties have shown interest in this development going ahead.
- 4) Air Quality reports are showing improvement, with Nitrogen Dioxide level readings going down; 6 locations on Bridge St and 3 on woodside have all reported lower than previous years. This is the 6th continuous year of falling levels. April 2025 will be the 7th year and monitoring can be revoked but monitoring can be continued.
- 5) Monmouthshire residents online survey active until 31.10.24 (asking of views of living in the county).

11.7 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th September 2024

All approved.

11.8 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 9th September 2024

None

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11.9 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Cllr Peacock

Tree to be planted at the front of Sessions House for Emma, Jane and Richard Tuck in memory of their parents. Tree to be planted this Autumn with a commemoration ceremony in June 25 when a memorial plaque will be installed.

Tree survey on the Red Oak completed by James Pinder today. It is a mature example and is around 90 years old, a rare and important non-native species when planted. Tree needs extensive deadwood removal from squirrel damage.

Drainage done throughout the whole building. Map to be provided

Outdoor tap fixed.

Flagpoles to be cleaned by Kay and Reg this week.

12.0 To receive the monthly Finance report for September 2024

Cllr A Ivin

3 monthly report on finance:

- 1) £100 anomaly between Council and Realtas relating to mis-postings from the beginning of the year in terms of NEST and the Mayor's appeal has been checked by Damian. Dave reported that it all now balances.
- 2) All other payments were normal or pre-approved
- 3) All agreed expenditure of:
 - £5,885 - Christmas lights to Inervo,
 - £2,090 - Road Closure operatives for Christmas on Bridge St
 - £50 – banners. Many thanks to Ottimo for providing FOC
 - £2,430 - roof repairs – Taliesin
 - £2,200 - drainage
 - £500 - repair to wooden notice board at Co-op

12.1 To receive an update from the Welsh Audit Office

Cllr A Ivin

Audit Office are due to publish the results for 22-23 and qualify it. It is currently with the Senior Officer who will sign it off.

12.3 To receive the following Planning Applications

- a) **DM/2024/01129** Alteration to Wall, Mulberry House, 7 Castle Parade, Usk Monmouthshire NP15 ____ 1AA
This has been approved.

12.4 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk

Cllr M Howells

MCC are currently developing a plan to be agreed that it goes to consultation with residents. If agreed it will go to consultation on 24th October 2024 for 6 weeks. Recommendations can then be made on the results of consultation which will go to a Spring 25 vote on whether to take the deposit plan to Welsh Govt. The plan would be to develop 2,130 homes in Monmouthshire by 2023.

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In Usk the proposal to develop 40 homes on the roadside by Burrium Gate is on the deposit plan. The administration are adamant that all homes must be net zero construction and sustainability. Half of them (20) must be affordable homes that is social rent or on shared ownership. Cllr Howells' survey is available on his Facebook page.

Cllr K Peacock

A lot of concerns were raised a recent meeting by Burrium Gate and Castle Oak residents about the excess water that collects there and comes out onto Monmouth Road. Their concerns need to be addressed and what the impact will be on the drainage systems. The system they have in place is not coping with the water at the moment – 100,000 litre tank.

New residents will bring more vehicles to the area impacting on parking near the shops and services in the town.

Cllr A Ivin

The viability of this seems unlikely, with zero carbon and 50% affordability.

Cllr G Howells

People are mostly objecting to the risk of flooding more than the houses themselves.

Cllr M Howells

There have been more designs on sustainable drainage systems and policy is that any site over 100 square metres must show that it's better than what's there, which is basically a sponge at present, so it has to be better than that before development can take place. This is being addressed.

Cllr A Ivin

We're still waiting for the results of the Road Survey. This has been delayed several times and should have been delivered end of September. Apparently MCC have had some data but came in a format that was unreadable to anyone that wasn't a traffic specialist so they have requested an executive summary. We have requested we meet with the traffic consultants to ask questions directly about the results. Next meeting will be end Nov/beginning Dec.

Cllr M Howells

Action Point Meeting

Action plan now has seven points

- Bridge Street
- Twyn Square
- Public Transport Improvements
- Active Travel Improvements
- Car Park Strategy
- Traffic Modelling
- Green Corridor Projects

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List consists of over 31 objectives including the Pump Track, the Giant Salmon Art Installation, Pook's Lane Improvements and a pedestrian bridge. Some will come forward as complete and some, because of the viability, will remain on the list which is fluid.

Steering Meeting attended – Traffic Modelling.

12.5 To receive MCC's countywide forthcoming parking review

Cllr M Howells

Consultants have been appointed and there will be engagement with communities, businesses, town councils and community county councillors. No dates set. If proposals for change emerge there will be a public consultation. The survey shared at the last meeting had 1,656 respondents, 93% (1,537) requested that parking remains free, 6% (108) said it should be charged.

By the end of this year all yellow lines and blips outside the One Stop should be complete by the end of 2024. These will be monitored by the Traffic Enforcement Team, there are five of them covering the county, we have 2 officers for 2 hours a week. They are looking to recruit one extra and there are currently 2 officers on long term sick leave.

12.6 To receive a report from the Groups/Organizations within the Town

Cllr M Howells

Usk Together for the Climate have a meeting this Thursday at 7pm, all councillors welcome. There will be a presentation from the student that's doing the research project. Richard Barnaby and Isabel Tang will be in attendance.

Climate Café 12-2pm every Tuesday at The Hub - UTfC welcome councillors to chat with them.

Usk in Bloom have won Gold in the Large Village category and on behalf of the council I would like to give our thanks to Usk in Bloom team and all the volunteers for their remarkable work in keeping the town looking so vibrant.

12.7 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Cllr K Peacock

- **Risca Male Voice & Chris & Wendy concert**

An outstanding event in the church, organized by Cllr Kear for the Mayor's charities. Thank you to Meirion, Gwyn and Dave for your support and extended gratitude to Tony. A magical evening! Funds raised - £1,433

- **Usk singing club**

Sunday concert, Dave and Meirion singing and Gwyneth and Diane helping. Tables were laid out with tea and cakes. Laura Sydney singer – incredible singer! A lovely relaxing afternoon.

Cllr D Richards

- **Usk Christmas Festivities**

The decision of the council is to close Bridge St for 30th December for businesses to make the best of the event.

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Application for the road closure has gone in for 10am – 11pm

Quantum have a better service for Road Closure

Business down Bridge St are on board.

-The Three Salmons are organizing a children's funfair in their car park and have offered the use of the grassed area for a carol service to be held at the end of the day which would include a lantern (battery-operated) parade for the children – this needs to be finalized.

-The church wishes to hold workshops, so space needs to be found, Cllr Richards to approach Mr Cleverly (Usk Emporium) about this. Other empty properties such as Sprokwobbles and Mark Roberts' may also be options.

-Lines Brewery are coming in late with a Brass Band

-Usk Brass Band are playing 10am-12pm

-14 new applications for stalls (outside of Usk businesses) with the proviso no drink or food stalls. Christmas gifts and crafts welcome. Dell Vineyard (previous vendor at markets on the Square) have applied for a stall as dry sales – gifts of bottles, not selling drinks.

- Mrs McGowan and Mrs Reeves have applied for a stall for book sales

- Kelly (ARW), Andrea (49) and Jeff (Three Salmons) are in consultation with Cllr Richards. They have formed a subcommittee of UBSE for all things Christmas.

- Banners designed by Issy and made by Ottimo Digital, a huge thank you to Nick and Lee for providing these free of charge – bit early to put up yet and need to check with Julie McGowan as Panto is the same weekend to discuss Banner Stops so they aren't together to cause confusion. Issy will do Facebook post and there are A4 posters to go up closer to the time.

- Stalls holders are being kept informed. They will need to bring their own gazebos, the only one being supplied is to the Prison.

- Usk stalls agreed are Quinell Candles, The Prison, Jane Hathaway Fund, The Willows

- Gerry Hawkins has offered to be Santa and they will set up a grotto in Usk Rural Life Museum. Willows Garden Centre will also have a grotto. We could offer Willows signage to theirs.

- Decision needs to be made regarding pitches for stall holders. Discussions were held after the meeting, Councillors agreed £40 but for Usk businesses there will be no charge.

- Vendors applied – Bespoke Wooden Boards (Jack Bowen), Dried Fruits Garlands & Wreaths, Children's author, Photography, Activewear

- St John's contacted

Next events meeting 30th October.

Another meeting to be held sooner to discuss Christmas event.

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12.8 To discuss the use of the former Usk Household Recycling Centre (UHRC) site

Cllr A Ivin

To write to Nick Keys to explain the proposals discussed and to start discussions about getting the license extended for another 12 months.

12.9 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

Cllr M Howells

Sports Wales have offered £100,000 not the £125,000 requested but we still have option of Crowd Funding to give some resident involvement. We've got £25,000 self-funded including the £20,000 from REET. There is scope to reduce the size of the Pump Track.

The REET fields company are working to put a lease together. The Athletic Club are relinquishing part of their lease on the area so that can facilitate the Pump Track lease.

Funding requirement is that work starts by March 2025 and is completed by September 2025.

13.0 To receive an update on the proposed Traffic amendments in Usk

Cllr M Howells

Should be in place Nov/Dec

Blips outside the One Stop will allow Officers to issue immediate tickets.

Ticks outside the school within a time restriction of the yellow parking lines, will also have instant ticketing.

Yellow lines:

- on the bend by the church and coming into the square both on Four Ash St, this will prevent issue of pavement parking

- outside the entrance to Maryport St carpark to allow clear visibility

- Mill Lane by the Cricket Club entrance

Cllr G Howells

Issue of large wheely bins outside One Stop on the pavement. Cllr M Howells has notified the department already but will contact them again.

13.1 To discuss the relocation of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Bridge Street

Nothing to report

13.2 Update on noticeboard by the Co-op

Agreed in last finance meeting, £500 to be fixed. Roy Watkins to fix within the next 3 weeks.

13.3 To discuss a policy for maintaining town defibrillators

Keep on Agenda for next meeting

13.4 To discuss UTC SH Lottery Briefing paper

Keep on Agenda for next meeting

13.5 Matters of Information

None

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13.6 Correspondence

Need to discuss new funding that has become available from Wales Tourism. The discussion of Changing Rooms in the main carpark to be discussed at future meeting. It will open to Usk to other visitors, offering fully accessible facilities including hoists. Chepstow and Abergavenny Leisure have them and it's a facility the Local Authority is becoming more aware off.

Cllrs Peacock and Harrison have been invited to attend tea and cakes at Caldicot Civic reception.



Angela Morgan
Usk Town Clerk
18.10.24