

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting by Usk Town Council (UTC) held in Sessions House and via Zoom on Monday 13th January 2025 at 6.00pm

MINUTES

Present

Cllr D. Harrison, Cllr G Howells, Cllr M. Howells, Cllr A. Ivin, County Cllr T Kear, Cllr K. Peacock, Cllr D Richards, Cllr B. Thomas.

RFO D. Nash

Clerk A. Morgan

18.5 To accept apologies for absence.

All present

18.6 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.

Query 1

Re: The Royal renovations in Newmarket St.

Objection to sandblasting going down the drains, concerns leading to blockages and flooding.

Query re planning, there is no application to be found.

Chair replied that all work is going via Cadw (Heritage) and planning has not been submitted as works so far are for renovation.

Query 2

Question requesting publication of Cost Centre Reports as requested meeting of 09.12.24

This will be addressed by the Chair in agenda item 19.0

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

None

18.8 County Councillors participation

County Cllr M Howells

The Green Corridors consultation will end this week. Plans have been updated to include the change of location of the ditch by the Arboretum.

Potholes have been reported – Maryport St. South by the Cricket Club, Priory St. and near the school.

Recipients of New Years Honors list to be recognised by the council, Chair stated that this is in hand and an event will be held later in the year.

County Cllr T Kear

Regarding potholes, MCC have promised to look at a small repair in Maryport St. with Karl Tuhig planning a site visit. A pothole in the middle of the road in Baron St near the entrance to The Willows Garden Centre appears to be a developing into sinkhole, this will be raised as a concern with MCC.

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Blocked drains have been reported on Bridge St., along Castle Parade from the Chip Shop to the Three Salmons. No time frame can be given with regard to MCC dealing with this.

18.9 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th December 2024

Item 16.9

Auditors Fee wrongly recorded. Fee was £795.00 +VAT

All other minutes approved.

19.0 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 9th December 2024

Chair responded to query of issuing Cost Centre Reports:

In response to public questions regarding sharing Cost Centre Reports and previous years' finances UTC have consulted with SLCC via One Voice Wales and received advice on this:

They stated that information about exceptional items go through finance and the meetings and minutes are available to the public. Financial reports are also recorded in Full Council minutes.

Financial documents available to the public are monthly Finance Minutes and Annual Returns for the End of year.

Quote from Statutory Guidance: Access to Information on Community and Town Councils:

This guidance applies to Community and Town Councils in Wales. It is issued, in part, under section 55 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Section 55 places duties on local authorities to make certain information available electronically. When carrying out their duties under section 55, Community and Town Councils have a statutory duty to have regard to this guidance.

6. The Community Council must publish electronically the minutes of its meetings They must also publish their annual audited accounts electronically.

19.1 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Churches Fire and Alarms

-Nathan came and tested Fire and Intruder alarms

Churches Contract cover checks of:

Fire alarms every 3 months

Intruder Alarms every 6 months

Emergency Lights and Extinguishers every 12 months

- Paint scraped from ceiling in Room 6 to remove damp patches

- PAT testing and Water heater are being done this week by Rob Morgan Electrics.

19.2 To receive the monthly Finance report for December 2024

Items arising from 8th January Finance meeting:

The books balanced apart from £14.68 adjustment form year end which was expected. RFO, D,Nash will sort this with Rialtus once the audit has been finalised.

The following expenditure was approved:

- Quantum's cost for the Christmas on Bridge St at the price that was reduced by negotiation with Cllr K Peacock and agreed: £250 +VAT

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- Sitgroup outstanding fees have been paid: £209.19 +VAT
- Christmas lights payment to Enerveo: £5885.00 +VAT
- Costs of St Mary's Christmas Craft materials to Debbie Harper: £87.03
- Charitable donation to the Usk Pump Track Group: £1000.00

Payment has been held back on Newport Bus invoice pending a meeting with Christian Schmidt, MCC and Newport Bus on Monday 20th January 2025.

All payments and receipts have been approved in terms of the monthly reports.

19.3 To receive an update from the Welsh Audit Office

Audit for 2022/2023 is finalised

Audit for 2023/2024 will be signed off by full council in February 2025; there are further questions to be answered before finalisation.

19.4 To receive any Planning Applications

DM/2024/01506 – APPROVED by UTC

Proposed internal alterations, addition of dormer windows in roof and replacement of windows.

7 New Market Street

Usk

Monmouthshire

NP15 1AU

DM/2024/01539 – APPROVED by UTC

Discharge of condition 3 (Non-Licensed Bat Method Statement) for planning decision DM/2023/01446.

The Three Salmons Hotel

1 Porthycarne Street

Usk

Monmouthshire

NP15 1RY

19.5 To receive an update on the Masterplan for Usk including RLDP

RLDP consultation is now closed and is being assessed. In June/July will come before full council again. It will go to Welsh Government for an independent assessment in July 2025. An independent planning examination will take place September to November 2025 and a final inspectors report will be in March/April 2026 for possible adoption in May 2026. This is for the whole county not just Usk. County Cllr T Kear informed council that Usk Civic Society are not in support of the RLDP.

Masterplan UTC is awaiting a response on the traffic study. A request has been put to MCC officers asking for a response on the paper UTC put out about the buses in September '24. Cllr A. Ivin raised the point that it is a separate issue to the traffic, and it would be good to have a response.

County Cllr T Kear stated that MCC is dealing with both traffic and buses in the same report and there will be a combined response. Cllr A. Ivin asked County Cllr T Kear if he could raise it with MCC that they are separate issues.

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Next meeting for steering group is 12th March.

19.6 To receive MCC's countywide forthcoming parking review

The report is delayed and has moved from Graham Kinsella to Dan Fordham, with Graham supporting. The report is going to be put forward and then parties will be consulted afterwards. UTC and Usk Business Group will not be consulted prior to the publication of the report. County Cllr T Kear reported that the Cabinet Member Councillor Griffiths was of the opinion that the questions raised within the survey were biased towards a negative answer. County Cllr T Kear has directed him towards the comments that were pertinent and asked that they were made available to the consultant. Cllr M. Howells confirmed they have been. County Cllr T Kear will keep UTC informed as soon as anything is available.

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

The Usk Together for the Climate group have arranged for over 100 students from the University of West England to visit the week commencing 10th February to look at projects for their degrees.

19.8 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Next meeting 29th Jan

Christmas Carol Singing outside the Co-op raise £184.00 for the Mayor's Appeal.

Event planned for 25th January 400WATT? at the Three Salmons – this has since been postponed to 29th March

Business group meeting this week to reflect on Bridge St event, Wed 15th 4.30pm.

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

No formal response received from Nick Keyes. Cllr M. Howells to meet with Gareth John MCC to discuss the Library of Things.

20.0 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

A waterflow test has been done. Crowd funding page is up £25,000 is needed, £4,000 has already been raised. All donations will be gratefully received via the Good Hub page, Usk Pump Track.

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

Cllr M. Howells reported that this has been delayed due to budget constraints and will be done next financial year.

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

UTC have not received any correspondence from residents of Maryport St.

Cllr T. Kear had a message from N. Gould that he'd met councillors, however no current councillors have met with him. Cllr T. Kear will follow up on this. He has recommended that residents approach UTC to make a presentation about their concerns around speeding on Maryport St.

There are also the Active Travel issues around the entrance to the Cricket Club down to the Roger Edwards Field. Suggested narrowing of the street for crossing and traffic calming.

Councillors voted not to move the SID from Bridge St.

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20.3 To discuss a policy for maintaining town defibrillators

Burrium Gate Defibrillator needs to be checked by UTC. Clerk to send email outlining what needs to be done.

Other holders are maintaining their own and have been encouraged to sign up to the Circuit portal to register their devices.

20.4 To discuss UTC SH Lottery Briefing paper

Cllr B. Thomas has sent a copy of the licence through to Gatherwell. A few questions have come back regarding the population of the website and the marketing material as to what UTC has as beneficiaries. Either fundraising for the Sessions House or good causes that are split among viable requests. Cllr B. Richards recommended that we choose the latter and there were no objections.

20.5 To discuss the Welsh Government Allotment Grant

Cllr G Howells and Cllr D Richards have visited the allotments and identified 4 available plots and possibly more if not required after April. There are 44 plots in total.

Cllr K Peacock asked for clarification over whether the plots had been counted individually or 2 together had been counted as 1, e.g. 44a & 44b. Cllr D. Richards said that would be counted as 2 plots.

Application for a grant to include clearing and hire of a skip, increase in water butts and plot markers. Many allotment holders are keen to help with improvements.

Matthew Hamar would like to see the formation of an Allotment Group between Councillors and allotment holders.

Letters to go out to all allotment holders with regards to maintaining their plot and abiding by their contract.

20.6 To discuss supporting Coleg Gwent Gym

Council agreed to support Coleg Gwent by advertising the gym on the DIB for 2 months as per the contract.

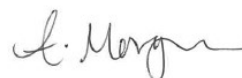
20.7 Matters of Information

None

20.8 Correspondence

Neighbourhood Policing Report

Date of next meeting: Monday 11th February 2025 6.00pm



Town Clerk