

**Minutes of a Finance Meeting of Usk Town Council (UTC) held in Sessions House
on Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 6.00 pm**

Present: Cllr A Ivin, Cllr M. Howells, Cllr G Howells, Cllr D Harrison, Mrs A Morgan (Clerk) Mr D Nash (RFO)

Apologies: Cllr K. Peacock, Cllr B Thomas,

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr K. Peacock, Cllr B Thomas.

2. Declarations of interest in items on this Agenda

None declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2025

The Minutes were approved as a true & accurate record.

4. Matters arising from meeting held on 8 January 2025

Still waiting on response from CADW for reimbursement of certain monies spent on the Sessions House repairs and professional fees. Forms submitted to CADW.

Otherwise, none other than as listed on the agenda for this meeting.

5. Authorisation of payments online/cheque – Bank Reconciliation.

Members received copies of the payments & receipts for the month No queries - all agreed.

No payments were made outside the normal monthly running costs or not previously agreed. All payments are being made by BACS and Direct Debit.

The Rialtas and Bank statements reconcile aside from the known differences of the £14.68 adjustment from year end.

6. To approve the following payments:

- a. Payment to Newport Bus – payment of £103.31 for loss in bus revenue approved for payment, subject to Cllr M Howells having one further attempt to secure that MCC pay the bill, as the additional traffic management required by MCC and paid for by UTC was unnecessary as the buses were unable to run even with those measures.

7. To receive an update on the Internal Audit and Annual Return 2023/24

JDH Business Services Limited (Internal Auditor) has provided a draft report and request for further information. Work ongoing. At the Internal Auditor's recommendation, the Annual Return will be brought back to Finance Committee once the 23/24 Internal Audit is finalised.

Notice (of delay in publishing Annual Return 2023/24) to remain displayed on both the noticeboard and the website.

8. To discuss the 2025/26 Draft Budget and precept for 2025/2026

Following lengthy and detailed discussion on each item of predicted expenditure and anticipated receipts, the draft budget was confirmed with a precept rise of 7.73% for 2025/2026 giving a precept for the year of £186,500.

9. Training

Training ongoing for new councillors. All councillors reminded to keep up to date with training. Clerk reviewing the training that was available through SLCC and OVW.

10. Matters of Information/ Any other business.

Usk Primary School were unable to raise a bill for UTC's £160 contribution to the cost of replacing the De-fib battery. The School would be asked to make an email request for payment to provide a paper trail for the one off contribution.

There was no further business and the meeting formally concluded.