

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Usk Town Council.
Hybrid Meeting held in Sessions House
and via Teams conferencing on Monday 14th July 2025 at 6.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Diane Richards (Mayor), Councillor Kay Peacock (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Meirion Howells, Cllr Gwyneth Howells, Cllr David Harrison, County Cllr Tony Kear, RFO Damain Nash, Clerk Angela Morgan.

6.3 To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Alison Ivin

6.4 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. Please note that only those elected members of Usk Town Council are permitted to speak during the meeting. An exception of this is if an agenda item requires a report from an invited person at their dedicated time.

One resident commented that they liked the new layout of chamber, allowing the public gallery to see and hear better.

Another resident raised the query of bins outside café No49 being on public property – Cllr M Howells has chased this issue with planning, highways and environmental health and is awaiting a response.

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

None

6.6 Co-option of councillor

Following interviews with three very worthy candidates, Council met this morning, and the majority voted for Mr Snelgrove.

Mr Allan Snelgrove of 5 Blackburn Close, Usk, was co-opted onto the council and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr A Snelgrove then joined the council at the table.

6.7 County Councillors participation

County Cllr M Howells

Post Office

Temporary lunchtime closure due to staff shortages and bereavement.

Conigar Walk

Fence repairs on Conigar Walk initiated.

Low-Cost Home Ownership

There is a vacant property at Castle Wood which councillors have been urged to share.

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No49 Bins

No public health risks were identified in relation to waste storage. Planning investigations are underway regarding bin placement and land ownership.

MCC said they would get in touch with the owners.

BAE Systems

Councillors visited their new testing areas and queried the traffic volume going through the town.

Dog Fouling

Pook Lane is being monitored by Environmental officers for the next 4-6 weeks

County Councillor T. Kear

Roadworks have started on Abergavenny Road and Chain Bridge.

Steve Lane, engineering officer has given an update: Work from the Three Salmons junction to Llancayo forested area will be done in two sections; one is the planning of the poor surface and addition of 2 inches of tarmac, scheduled for early October, the part in the middle will be top-dressed in August and September.

Work is due to start on Chainbridge in April 2026, and it is likely to be closed for 12 months.

Traffic & Speeding Measures

MCC has accepted there is a speeding problem on Abergavenny Road. A new gateway into the town is planned and visual traffic calming (e.g. removal of centre lines, red paint) to be introduced. Under the railway bridge, white lines will funnel traffic through in the interim until a permanent narrowing is introduced with the use of rubber kerbs and priority signage.

Monmouth Road

Work is now complete. Request for ASRAF signs to be further out. Dropped kerb is now being reconsidered

Police have accepted that speeding is a problem. Evidence needs to be collected and will be done by GoSafe handheld monitoring over the next few weeks.

Question asked By Cllr K. Peacock as to why part of the road had been dug up. Quality inspection ruled that it was not sloping into the drain. Contractors were called back to fix.

Usk Bridge

Reported to have been hit 15 times over 10 years, costing taxpayers £55,000.

Site meeting requested with MCC officers to assess potential solutions.

UTAG project

Very positive meeting with Ken Skates, Henry Humphries, Catherine Fookes and Natasha Asghar. Advice to be given on how to move the project on to the next steps.

Ladyhill Bus Stop

Temporary sign still up

Usk School Crossing

Zig zag lines added but they will need reviewing

Railway Bridge

Walkway is closed but restrictions are not in place as work is delayed.

Usk Prison

Councillors visited the prison last month and gained an insight into how the prison operates.

6.8 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th June 2025

Corrections:

County Cllr T Kear omitted from the attendees; he was present.

Bus Stop in item 3.9 should state 'Ladyhill Bus stop'

6.9 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 9th June 2025

None

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7.0 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Cllr K Peacock

Events last month were all a great success:

The Mayor's Civic Service, a Wedding, Cardiff/Nante exchange visitors, Usk Open Gardens - History tours of the sessions and The Alfred Russel Wallace Day.
Decorating should start in August.

7.1 To receive the monthly Finance report for June 2025

Damain Nash RFO

Bank Reconciliation completed without any issues.

Section 137 payments have been made.

John Henry has been commissioned for auditing process.

Annual Return for 2024/2025 has been posted on the website.

Rialtus has now been moved to the cloud.

7.2 To receive any Planning Applications:

DM/2025/00768 - Erection of first floor side extension, part conversion and raised roof of garage and external alterations to front façade.

1 St Mary's Way Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1BX

APPROVED

DM/2025/00774 - Installation of an EV charger.

The Laurels 7 Porthycarne Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1RY.

APPROVED

Discussions were held about the signage recently added to The Royal as part of its redevelopment. Residents have concerns about its suitability since it is an illuminated sign on a listed building.

ACTION: Clerk to contact MCC Planning

7.3 To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk

County Cllr M Howells

Robert Limbrick Ltd have received the traffic modelling data results. They made a presentation on work done so far and will now be working on a concept design prioritising pedestrians on Twyn Square and Bridge St. Bus travel has also been considered. Once complete the concept will go out to public consultation. Usk Town Council's feedback has been considered.

7.4 To receive MCC's countywide forthcoming parking review

County Cllrs M Howells/T Kear

MCC's Countywide Parking Review feedback notes that the current situation will remain unchanged.

Report recommended a bespoke approach but also noted inconsistencies in charging across the county.

Report failed to mention that UTC had been consulted and that petitions were received.

Cllr Kear shared his concerns that this report does not address the issues in Usk, and any decisions should be evidence based.

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7.5 To receive a report from the Groups/Organisations within the Town

County Cllrs M Howells/T Kear

UTFTC are preparing a Hub exhibition of the model by students of UWE of a sustainable Usk in 2050. Projects will also be hung up. This will be going ahead in September.

The Civic Society Giant Salmon glass mosaic, designed by artist Stephanie Roberts and created by pupils at Usk Church in Wales Primary, has had a slate frame designed. NRW has agreed the frame.

Usk in Bloom worked really hard for Wales in Bloom judging last week.

UBSE will meet on Wednesday 16th July 5.30pm

7.6 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Cllr M. Howells

Usk Town Council have a link on Facebook Page for all organisers in the town to add their events.

To review recent events

- **Usk River Festival** 7th June – due to yellow weather warning for thunderstorms the event was rescheduled for Sunday 14th September.
- 19th June French exchange group visited the Sessions House and Rural Life Museum. The group enjoyed looking around the Sessions House
- **Lines Pop-up Pub** Conigar Walk Sat 21st June – from remarks this was a well-attended event with live entertainment. Mostly positive comments and the area was left litter free. Bags of rubbish left at the top near a dustbin were not related to the event.
- **Usk Mayor's Civic Service** – Very well attended and enjoyed.
- **Open Gardens** Sat & Sun 28th & 29th June
- **Duck Race** Friday 4th July 7pm
- **Alfred Russel Wallace Day** - Saturday 5th July 11am to 5pm
- **Teddy Bear Picnic & Parachute Jump** – Fri 11th July 11am to 1pm – Usk Castle
- **Usk Primary School Lion King** _ Council not invited. Cllr K Peacock and Cllr D Richards have offered to attend future events.

Forthcoming events for information

- **Autumn Fayre** Saturday 11th October 10-4pm Green Top Markets
- **Party in the Park** – community event on Owain Glyndwr field. Businesses to be offered space, local musicians, Sat 23rd August
- **Usk River Festival** Sunday 14th September
- **Risca MV Choir** April 26 to hold an event to support the Mayor's Appeal.

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

Once Co-op has finished using it, MCC will relinquish the centre back to UTC.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Nicholas Keyse

7.8 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

PEA (Preliminary Ecological Assessment) has been undertaken. Results will determine if any other surveys are needed before planning is submitted.

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

Four Ash St bend and corner at the rear of the church still needs to be done. It's on the current works list.

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8.0 To discuss UTC SH Lottery Briefing paper

Cllr M Howells is following up on this. It is set up ready to go. Needs promoting. Add to Events Agenda. Clerk to attend meeting to aid with marketing.

8.1 Active Travel update

No update

8.2 Allotment update

Cllr D Richards

Empty allotments are now fully released.

ACTION: Letters to unpaid plot owners will be sent by RFO.

ACTION: New plot holders need to sign a lease – Cllr D. Richards

8.3 Town Clock

Smiths of Derby has advised that service is now due.

Council voted on paying the bill and then claiming back from MCC once paid. - **APPROVED**

ACTION: Clerk to contact Smiths of Derby to organise Invoice and arrange service

Friends of Usk arranged the plaque to be fixed to the clock and it is now in place.

Approval from MCC.

8.4 Telephone Boxes

BT retain ownership of the boxes if not adopted by the community or individuals. BT will lock the boxes and will maintain them.

This item can now be removed from the agenda.

8.5 Update on surgeries

Proposal to reduce surgeries to one a month and adjust the timings to evening. A trial of a monthly evening session from September. The first Thursday of the month.

8.6 Street cleansing and bin emptying

MCC are requesting UTC sign a Street Cleansing contract. To meet Financial regulations, contracts over £3,000 needs to go to a tender process which UTC are now pursuing.

8.7 Matters of Information

Cllr D. Richards has contacted **Welsh Water** about their placement of tarmac outside Shampooch, Bridge St and requested they replace the block pavement that they removed during works.

Commit to your Street has been relaunched via Facebook. Encouraging residents to keep pavements and gutters clean in their area. Tim Southern is leading this initiative and has given a presentation to councillors. Dan Fordham has been contacted regarding safety of working around the cobbles.

Usk Litter Action meet on the first Saturday of each month, 10am outside the Co-op and finish at Wendy's café for refreshments.

8.8 Correspondence

None



Town Clerk

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th September 2025 6.00pm