

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Minutes of Hybrid Meeting held in Sessions House on Monday 8th September 2025 at 6.00pm



Town Clerk

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr D. Richards,

Cllr K. Peacock, Cllr A. Snelgrove, Cllr G. Howells, Cllr M. Howells, Cllr A. Ivin, County Cllr T. Kear,

RFO: D. Nash,

Clerk: A. Morgan.

8.8 To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr D Harrison

8.9 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.

Question 1: Bins outside No.49 – has this been resolved?

MCC have not been answering questions around this.

Council agreed to pay a Land Registry Disbursement cost of £7 +VAT to establish ownership of the land. Total cost will be £14 +VAT

ACTION: Cllr A. Ivin to follow this up.

Question 2: Publication of the audit; will this be on 30th September or delayed?

Cllr A. Ivin replied to this explaining that last year there were a lot of queries arising that needed addressing and it will be submitted by 15th October. Extension of time was given due to the acknowledgment of changes in practice in 24/25 audit. Both internal and external auditors agreed it would be sensible to use an extension this year. After submission and auditors' responses have been received, the audit will be published to the noticeboard and the website.

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

None

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9.1 County Councillors participation

County Cllr M. Howells

Abergavenny Rd Road Works: Work to commence 29th September. Resurfacing will take place in 3 phases. Phase 1: Llancayo, Phase2: Abergavenny Road to Usk Vets, Phase3: Porthycarne St to Bridge St. There will be access for residents. To minimise delays at rush hour, work will be between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

Castle Oak Pond: work has been carried by Green Infrastructure on the management of this area. Other ponds are in planning process.

Usk Railway Bridge: Wales and West have finished their works, and the bridge has been reopened.

Bus Services: A new timetable is available with additional services added. The last bus to Newport is 9:50pm and last bus to Monmouth is 8.40pm.

MyTravel Pass: available for young people aged 16 – 21 enabling them to travel for £1 a journey. From November this will be available to younger children. Available from Transport for Wales.

RLDP Place Scrutiny: Scrutiny will take place on 25th September. 4,000 responses have been received, and each had to be responded to. The report will come out before 25th.

Flooding Consultation: Consultation currently running, public are invited. Issues over blocked drains were raised. These can be reported via MyMon app.

Island Play Park: Maryport St Park was assessed but the Island Park wasn't assessed. No work has been undertaken for the last 8 yrs. Cllrs Kear and Howells have challenge the study and have since arranged for cleaning and painting to be done by MCC. Further fundraising will be need to add more/replace equipment.

County Cllr T. Kear

Abergavenny Rd Speeding: Speeding has been an ongoing concern on this road. As part of the road works, this will be addressed. There will be a prioritisation of traffic at the railway bridge which will mean traffic meeting will have to give way on one side. White lines will not be replaced outside the houses; psychologically without lines, traffic slows down.

Speeding at Burrium Gate: Tubes have been laid to collect data. The tubes on the left came out on 3 occasions due to either vandalism or soft tarmac. Data will be redone to understand the extent of the problem. GoSafe team has changed so meetings with new staff will need to go ahead.

Speed Indicator Devices: Solar powered devices are costing between £2,500 and £3,000 and come in cheaper than the £8,500 electricity driven devices. This is something that can be investigated when considering further sites for SIDs around the town.

Usk Bridge: this has been hit again. Discussions with Cadw and Heritage are ongoing. Confirmation of the extent of the listing – All of the bridge that is seen. Any proposed changes would need Heritage and Cadw permission. Heritage are not in favour of any alterations to the bridge and would like other solutions investigated placing the emphasis on Highways. The bridge is get hit by back ends of lorries to avoid this, lorries need to cross the central line and oncoming traffic can hinder the correct manoeuvres. One of the issues is the signage; the view from Britannia signs is blocked by MCC signs. A proposal to move the signage is being considered and a keep clear zone has been discussed.

School Crossing: The fence has been repaired and road lines are to be changed.

SIDs: The one coming into town on Monmouth Road is to be repaired.

Car Parking Review: No update.

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Parking Enforcement: MCC have had staffing issues with 3 staff down. A new Head of Enforcement has been appointed and will be hoping to have 3 replacement staff in place by November. A shift system will be introduced so officers will be working weekends. One Stop corner will be an enforcement hotspot.

9.2 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th July 2025

APPROVED

9.3 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 14th July 2025

- Check the audit notice
- Low-cost housing has now been allocated
- Shampooch shop pavement has been tarmacked and paving has not been replaced, Welsh Water have claimed they have not carried out works there
ACTION: Chair to contact Shampooch
- No update on UTAG project

9.4 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Cllr K. Peacock

Safety Checks: Windows are unsafe at the back of the building, quotes are being obtained for this work.

Roof: Water ingress in Room 6 and corridors. Roof to be looked at by Roy Watkins

Decorating: Room 6 has been decorated by HMPS under supervision of Amey; this will soon be carpeted ready for letting

Events

- Twinning reception on Thursday
- Cadw tours on 20th Sept 10am-4pm
- 2 Christenings booked for the library
- Royal Countryside Fund are holding 3 reception events

Staffing: The caretaker is leaving her post and vacating the cottage. A cleaning company has been appointed to clean three times a week until further notice.

Chair wishes to thank Lyn Wadley, the caretaker for 23 years of service, hard work and loyalty.

9.5 To receive the monthly Finance report for Jul/Aug 2025

Cllr A. Ivin

Rialtas and Bank statements reconciled. Payments were all authorised with no unexpected payments.

NALC have come up with the pay rise award which is from 1st April; recommended 3.2% increase for clerks. Council agreed that the pay award also be given to the Finance Officer at the same rate of 3.2%.

Work ongoing with Audit and a review of contracts with SIT Group and Electricity contracts.

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9.6 To receive any Planning Applications:

The following planning applications were approved by UTC and MCC during July and August:

DM/2025/00926 16 July 2025

This application proposes installing 8 No. charging and storage units for electric mobility scooters to the rear of Plas Mawr social housing development.

Plas Mawr, Old Market Street, Usk, Monmouthshire

DM/2025/00809

The removal of an existing conservatory. The construction of a single-storey ground floor rear extension with associated external storage, and the addition of a rear box dormer to the main roof to facilitate a loft conversion.

59 Mill Street, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1AP

DM/2025/00880

Proposed refurbishment of existing flats and ground floor shop with demolition of existing out-building with new extension to form additional 3 nr 1 bedrooms, in addition the part demolition of existing listed boundary wall to form entrance to provide access to the rear garden.

2 Bridge Street, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1BG

DM/2025/00938

Cascaded air source heat pumps to be installed under ECO4 scheme.

Adrian Court Farm, Usk Road, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1LH

DM/2025/01031

Proposed single and double storey rear extensions with internal alterations

1 Castle Street, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1BU

DM/2025/00998

Lowering kerb, creating off road parking.

22 Priory Gardens Usk NP15 1AJ

9.7 To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk

Meeting on Wednesday to discuss responses to the proposals.

Cllr T Kear requested a response from UTC prior to this meeting and is seeking UTC agreement that Public Consultation will go ahead. MCC are adamant that it goes to consultation.

UTC have put forward alternative designs but this is not being considered at this stage. All members of the public will be able to respond to the public consultation.

Cllr A. Ivin is still concerned about Bridge St regarding pedestrian safety and access to retail. She proposes that any changes are seen as a staging solution only. The real problem is too much traffic

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in a Medieval street and would like MCC to recognise rerouting traffic as a long-time solution. Cllr M. Howells confirmed that MCC have already acknowledged the aspirations and challenges of re-routing traffic and are taking that forward.

UTC voted for the Public Proposal to go ahead – **APPROVED**

ACTION: Clerk to reply to MCC that UTC are willing for it to go to public consultations.

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

Cllr D. Richards

Twinning: Programme of events for Graben-Neudorf visitors Thursday to Sunday will include Drinks Reception at the Sessions House, Hog Roast at Llanllowel eco project, visits to St Fagans and Usk Show.

Silver Screen: AGM on Tuesday 9th September at Sessions House. Silver Screen are looking for new members to join. Screenings are on the last Friday of each month and the next film is Mr Burton.

Cllr M. Howells

Usk Together for the Climate: have a final report form the UWE students on the Sustainable Usk 2050 Project which will be displayed in the Spring to avoid confusion with the Improvement Plan for Usk consultation.

Usk Civic Society: the positioning for installation of The Giant Salmon has now had an agreement from Natural Resources Wales. It'll be installed on the wall near the bottom of the slope on Conigar Walk, by the sheltered bench, facing the river.

Men's Shed: A project is underway to address loneliness in older men. This is an ongoing project to place a community space outside the Hub for meetings.

Usk River Festival: Organised by Save the River Usk, this will go ahead on Saturday 14th September

9.9 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Cllr M. Howells

Graben Neudorf Youth Choir: A wonderful performance from the confident young people and the funds raised went to St Mary's Priory Church.

Party in the Park: A great event with the dog show, clearly a success. Thanks to Katie-Lou for organising the performers and to Diane for organising the event.

Tour of Britain: Thanks to all that helped with the bunting. It was great to see Usk so busy with people lining the streets. Publicans and café owners have said that they had good footfall that day.

Forthcoming Events:

- Usk Show
- Usk River Festival
- Tour de Gwent a St David's Hospice fundraiser on Sunday 14th – no road closure, stopping at Cricket Club.
- Open Door Cadw Event on Saturday 20th Sessions House Tours and ARW guided walks
- Autumn Fayre – Green Top Market in Twyn Square 11th October
- Hallowe'en Midnight Walk (sponsored) around the Flood route on Friday 31st October for the Mayor's Appeal
- Silurian sing Springsteen on 22nd November for the Mayor's Appeal
- Christmas on Bridge St. on Sunday 30th November

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

There has been no response from Nick Keyse. There has been a hiatus due to use by the Co-op. The licence was terminated on 31st December 2024. The new licence was requested at that time. Following agreements that cop-op would use it, UTC could resume licence on Co-op completion. Discussions were had around uses and the reason to have a licence. County Cllr T Kear informed UTC that Nick Keyse is expecting a response from UTC on proposed usage and whether the licence is required to be renewed.

Expenses are £30/m licence and £90/yr water rates.

Council voted on obtaining a further 12-month licence: **APPROVED**

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr A, Ivin will email Nick Keyse to request a further 12-month licence.

10.1 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

Progress is ongoing. A planning application will go in over the next few months.

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

All the yellow lines are now done.

10.3 To discuss UTC SH Lottery Briefing paper

Cllr M. Howells

This is ready to launch. The money will go into the UTC Back Account to be transferred to the Sessions House Maintenance. A launch event will need to be organised. Marketing materials are ready to go out.

10.4 Allotment update

Cllr D. Richards

A new list has been sent to the RFO showing those that have been unpaid.

UTC have authorised hire of a skip to remove old shed

10.5 Town Clock

Service has been completed by Smiths of Derby. Thanks to Enerveo for kindly supplying the cherry picker and operative. The bill has gone to MCC

10.8 Update on surgeries

Surgeries are held on the first Thursday of the month at Sessions house from 6pm – 8pm.

One resident attended the last surgery.

Next Surgery: 2nd October 2025 6-8pm

10.9 Street cleansing and bin emptying

UTC are still in discussions over this but we are moving forward with this. Another meeting will be organised for next week.

11.0 Biodiversity Visit

One Voice Wales have offered to carry out a Site Visit on 15th October to study ways that UTC can increase biodiversity on green sites around the town. Cllr M Howels and the clerk will lead on this.

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11.1 Matters of Information

- As a result of Prescoed Camp painting project in room 6, the Health and Safety Team have requested an asbestos report. It was agreed by the Finance Committee that this can go ahead. A few quotes are being obtained.
- Welsh Water have invited UTC to visit the plant at the Rhadyr to view the improvements.

11.2 Correspondence

Email from a visitor to the town commenting on how tidy the town is and how much they appreciated the flower displays.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th October 2025 6.00pm