

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting held in Sessions House and via Teams conferencing on Monday 10th November 2025 at 6.00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr D. Richards,

Cllr K. Peacock, Cllr G. Howells, Cllr D. Harrison, Cllr M. Howells, Cllr A. Ivin, Cllr A. Snelgrove

RFO: D. Nash,

Clerk: A. Morgan.



Town Clerk

Meeting was proceeded with a presentation from Angela Jones – Save the River Usk

Chair thanked Angela for her presentation updating the council on the developments to date.

AGENDA

13.7 To accept apologies for absence.

County Cllr T. Kear

13.8 Public Open Forum

(15 minutes at the discretion of the mayor.)

Question 1: When will the seat be reinstated outside the wall of Mulberry House opposite the square? Cllr M Howells answered that this would be very soon and the bin will be moved. Date to be confirmed.

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

None

14.0 County Councillors participation

County Cllr M. Howells

MCC RLDP: Plan has now been submitted for independent examination and will be returned to councillors in summer 2026 for later adoption. Previously, the administration requested 4,000 homes across Monmouthshire, this is now reduced to just over 2,000. 50% will be affordable and net zero. 40 homes proposed for usk. Report is accessible on MCC website.

Town Council had previously voted against the proposal, County Councillor M. Howells voted for the proposal at MCC Planning review based on the resident survey results and his own views that Usk needs affordable housing for the younger generation.

Chainbridge: will be closed for 2-4 days towards end of November in preparation for the Spring refurbishment. This will take place on weekdays as not to disrupt the weekend business of the Chainbridge Inn and Craft Renaissance.

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Bus Passes: charges for 5 to 15yr olds are now £1.00 as 16 to 21yr olds.

Recycling: Wales could soon become Number 1 in the worlds for recycling; all it would take is for every person to recycle one banana skin a week.

14.1 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th October 2025

APPROVED

14.2 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 13th October 2025

NONE

14.3 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Cllr K. Peacock

Asbestos update: Survey was carried out on Monday 3rd November by CASA. Report will be received within 10 working days.

Roof & water ingress: Taliesin visited to assess and will return to look at roof once weather is better.

Heating – Radiators & Boilers: Waiting on Phoenix Aircon to visit to assess radiators and boilers in Sessions House and cottage.

Events: Ian Williams' Flanders & Swann concert was excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

Monday 10th November – Save the River Usk 7pm Public meeting in Courtroom

Saturday 15th November – Gwent Local History Council, 10am – 12pm. – Cllr K. Peacock to open up/close.

Sunday 30th November – Usk Country Market at Christmas 2-5pm

Friday 5th December – A Christmas Carol Storytelling Daniel McGowan 7pm

Saturday 6th December – A Christmas Carol Storytelling Daniel McGowan 7pm

Cottage: Excellent work completed by Roy Watkins on back door and glass pane replacement. Rob Morgan Electrics has carried out work in the cottage and provided a certificate. Gas and Electric meters to be investigated. Window concerns – quotes needed for windows to kitchen and bedroom above. Windows will need cleaning before letting. Establish whether the cooker is still available through Digby Turner.

Cleaning/Caretaking Role: One applicant – this person is self-employed and able to carry out caretaking duties but not cleaning. Decision was made to carry on engaging services of LP Cleaning for 6hrs a week, with both parties giving one month's notice of termination.

APPROVED: Full council voted to engaging the services of the caretaking applicant on a self-employed basis.

Roger Galletley Memorial: Friends of Usk have requested that a tree may be planted at Sessions House – **APPROVED.**

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

14.4 To receive the monthly Finance report for October 2025

RFO D. Nash & Cllr A. Ivin

An exercise needs to be undertaken to check for any tax implications of renting out the cottage. During a meeting on 20th October, Council compiled a six-monthly outturn budget report as required by the internal auditor.

Lottery money is beginning to come in for the Sessions House Restoration Fund. A new code is required for this.

A contribution of £250 towards a memorial bench for Chris Wilkinsin, organised by Friends of Usk, was agreed. UTC will order and invoice Friends of Usk for the rest of the costs.

There are ongoing exercises reviewing the terms of the SIT Group contract for photocopier and phones, considering termination costs and other providers and a review of Churches Fire alarm contract in comparison with another provider.

Caretaker to be engaged on a self-employed basis.

Payments and receipts for the month were all reconciled.

The annual bill for the street cleansing (£34,329.02) needs authority to be paid in several payments

- **APPROVED**

14.5a To receive any Planning Applications:

Cllr D. Harrison

DM/2025/01306 Proposed two storey rear extension to provide master en-suite bedroom and ground floor storage.

Ty Cwrw 16 Bridge Street Usk NP15 1BG

APPROVED

DM/2025/01154 Support information and large-scale details

7 New Market Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AU

APPROVED

DM/2025/01289 Roof and Wall Repairs

The Rosary 23 New Market Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AU

APPROVED

DM/2025/01290 LBC part retention of refurbishment, alteration and renovation

The Royal Hotel 26 New Market Street Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1AT

APPROVED at an extraordinary meeting.

Parking in general is a concern throughout Usk and will be discussed in due course.

14.5b To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk

Cllr A. Ivin asked for confirmation when Roberts Limbrick plans will go to public consultation. Chair confirmed that January in the Hub was mentioned at the last meeting and to verify this next meeting.

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

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

Chair congratulated **Usk in Bloom** on winning Gold for the Large Village Award this year. A marvellous effort for such a small group of people.

Cllr M. Howells

On 18th October, **Usk Civic Society** presented the glass mosaic of a Giant Slamon, a representation of the 68½lb salmon caught between Usk and Llantrisant in 1782. Unveiled by Jean Williams, formerly of Sweets Fishing Tackle Shop, the mosaic stands proudly overlooking the Usk from Conigar Walk.

Community Transport car ride scheme available from Bridges, Monmouth to people in Usk. This information will continue to be shared to make more people aware.

Usk Surgery has a new portal that allows patients to submit clinical and admin queries quickly and securely.

Usk Pharmacy offers free advice and treatments through NHS Wales Common Ailments Service.

Usk Junior Football Team have requested that dog owners keep dogs on leads and pick up their mess.

14.7 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Cllr M. Howells

Autumn Fayre a survey has gone out to businesses but have has received limited responses.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday 9th November 10am - Armistice Day –St Mary’s Church
- Saturday 22 November Silurian – Bruce Springsteen Evening at the Legion
- Wednesday 26th November - Parade 9.30am Sessions House; 10am Light a Candle Service, St Mary’s Church for Victims of Violence Against Women
- Thurs 27, Fri 28, Sat 29 November 7pm Usk Panto
- Sunday 30 November 2025 - Christmas on Bridge St 8am to 8pm
- Tuesday 9th December 7.30pm – Singing Club Christmas Sing-a-long – Sessions House
- Sunday 21st December 6pm – St Mary’s Christmas Nine Lessons & Carols

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

The licence is now in place.

14.9 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

Meetings taking place each month. Money is in place; various issues need to be resolved before planning is submitted.

15.0 Allotment update

Cllr D. Richards

One new tenant has taken a plot. There are 2 plots unpaid for and tenants have been approached to relinquish them. The shed will be removed soon, weather permitting.

15.1 To discuss future projects in the town

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Proposal: Pook Lane Finance has approved a fee for design of a project in partnership with HMP Usk. Important to have projects 'oven ready' to apply for available funding.

Proposal: Co-op walkway. Investigate the opportunities to improve that area underneath the yew tree. Possibility of relocating the toilet, could be wrapped up with the Robert Limbrick's plan.

Discussions need to continue around these proposals.

15.2 Street cleansing and bin emptying

Ongoing discussions in place. Take this item in committee at the end of this meeting.

15.3 Armistice Day

A successful day. Many thanks to Diane for all the arrangements and to Rev Sally for a lovely service. Thank you to Tom for the jeep and controlling the music.

It was good to have Catherine Fookes MP, Peter Fox AM and Deputy Lieutenant Lady Cilla Davies in attendance.

15.4 Bins outside No49

MCC Estates will be writing to the owners asking them to move the bins.

15.5 Christmas Update

Cllr D. Richards

Meeting with UBSE will be this Wednesday, though previous meetings have been poorly attended. Businesses have been visited and most are able to take part I their own way. Businesses receive the minutes of the meetings with all information.

The list of stallholders has gone to MCC for approval.

The Three Salmons has kindly offered the car park and will be providing children's rides. There will be a double gazebo for performances of School choir, possibly the Rock Choir, Usk Brass Band and the Carol Singing with Rev Sally. Jane Hathaway stall will also be in the carpark.

Kindly, Mark Roberts has offered his shop for the church to run a craft event for children.

Road closure of Bridge St by Quantum is going ahead.

Church Street, Priory Street, Maryport Street and Old Market Street will be coned as an urban clearway; strictly no parking on either side, to allow free flow of traffic along the diversion through the town. There will be no traffic lights.

Christian Schmidt and Phaedra Cleary of Newport Buses have been contacted about the bus service and how this would be affected and would they appreciate UTC posting a notice in the bus stops to Caerleon that car services could be available. There has been no official response to this.

Police will be on duty on the day.

A letter will be sent to residents that will be affected.

There will be a charge of £40 a stall for those businesses that are not in Usk.

Russell from Willows has very kindly donated a real tree for the square, Festive lighting will provide the lights as part of their contract and Enerveo will install the lights.

15.6 Matters of Information

Scaffolding along the Bridge Street, the scaffolding outside M2 is very narrow and the pavement is inaccessible.

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

ACTION: Clerk to look into scaffolding licence and length of time it will be up.

Council Leader Mary Ann Broklesby has offered to join one of our council meetings.

ACTION: Clerk to invite her to a meeting in the new year

15.7 Correspondence

Policing Update: Available on website and Facebook

National Grid: Matt Turner has written to inform us that there has been a 1.5million pounds investment to reinforce the Usk substation; a project that will strengthen the local power network for years to come. Discussions over where this is. The Mayor has been asked to comment for the press release.

U3A: letter relating to the increased charges to room hire and additional charge for kitchen use. The provision of hot drinks that needed to be carried. Swinging price increases has been unsustainable for members. They no longer feel valued clients and request that any future changes to Ts & Cs are properly negotiated to ensure objectives of both parties are realised. Treasurer – Keith Edwards.

UTC had replied that we could accommodate by setting up the coffee urn in the adjoining room which was taken up by scrabble but Bridge declined refreshments.

UTC discussed how they wish to support them and meet with their committee members of Kieth to discuss these issues. It would be a shame to lose these groups and to have the building used.

ACTION: investigate Warm Spaces option.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Keith to offer a meeting.

Usk Town Council is inviting you to a scheduled a Teams meeting:

Usk Town Council invited you to a Microsoft Teams Meeting:

Usk Town Council Meeting

18:00 - 19:30 (GMT)

Occurs every month

Meeting link: [Usk Town Council Meeting | Microsoft Teams | Meet-up-Join](#)

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