

# Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

**Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting held in Sessions House  
and via Teams conferencing  
Monday 8th December 2025 at 6.00pm**



**Town Clerk**

## **MINUTES**

### **Present:**

Chair: Cllr D. Richards,

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

RFO: Damian Nash,

Clerk: Angela Morgan.

### **15.8 To accept apologies for absence.**

Cllr A. Snelgrove

### **15.9 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.*

No Questions or comments from the public

### **16.0 To disclose personal and pecuniary interest in items of business listed below**

None

### **16.1 County Councillors participation**

County Cllr T. Kear

**RDLP:** Cllr T. Kear has voted against the RLDP and has circulated the reasons for that to clerks of UTC and Llanbadoc CC to share with their councillors.

**Abergavenny Roadworks:** The resurfacing at the junction of the Salmons has hardwearing tarmac to accommodate turning lorries. The replacement of the double yellow lines has been finished after several requests.

**Monitoring of the speed along Abergavenny road:** Assessments were undertaken prior to the work and post the work. The results concluded that there is a speed reduction of 1 mile per hour, and the officer has deemed this a success. Cllr Kear disagrees that this is a success. In Little Mill

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there has been a reduction of 10 miles an hour. In Usk there are still vehicles doing up to and over 40 miles and hour. Further interpretation of the figures needs to be done.

Further challenges to the road works have been around the central white lines not being reinstated; this is a specific point introduced by MCC. Proven analysis shows that without the lines, cars' positioning is blurred and they naturally slow down.

On the approach to Abergavenny Rd from Llancafo, on the bend, cars are potentially meeting each other. This was raised with MCC and have responded that it is too early to draw any conclusions.

Comment was made that if vehicles are travelling at 20mph in and out of town, cars should be able to see each other. In the last five years, three cars have been written off at that corner.

A resident has complained that before the railway bridge, the Give Way sign is overhanging private land. A request to move the sign further back was rejected by Highways, stating that the sign needs to be next to the Give Way markings on the road to avoid confusion. The sign will be moved slightly. The hedge in front of the sign may cause problems in the summer, this will need monitoring.

**Usk Bridge:** The bridge has been hit for a 4<sup>th</sup> time since the summer repairs. There was an agreement between Cadw and Heritage Planning to open a pre-planning application but nothing has happened. The cabinet member said all the lines have been repainted but they haven't all been done on Llanbadoc side. MCC said they are going to speak to Gwent Police about enforcement of HGVs. For Police to prosecute they need to follow a vehicle in excess of 7.5 tonnes from the entrance to the A449 to the exit which is Little Mill, without stopping. An on-site meeting has been requested. Discussion were had around the increased number of lorries coming through for BAE Systems

**Enforcement of Car Parking:** Operatives are now fully operational. Two officers walked the town with Cllr Kear during the Christmas event to view the hotspots for illegal parking. Regular patrols will take place including Saturdays.

**North Street Car Park Lighting:** complaints around the walkway into the carpark near the disabled spaces. Cllr Kear has requested extra lighting here.

**Well Tag Scheme:** There will be a meeting to discuss initial designs of the active travel walking scheme from Burrium Gate to Twyn Square on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Chepstow Road:** Condition has now been formally looked at. The condition is so bad that it falls outside the 100 tonnes for repair. It is considered to be 250 tonnes, which qualifies it for repair under the Capital Funding Scheme. This list of prioritisations is a fluid one due to flooding changes and other deterioration.

**Monmouth Road Crossing:** The drains were done earlier in the year and has proved a success, with water flowing away from pedestrianisation.

**District Nurses Parking:** UTC has agreed for 2 parking spaces to be allocated next to the GP spaces in South Carpark. Dispute over funding, to allow this is to be investigated.

**Solar Farm nr Llansoar:** Development discussions around construction traffic and vehicular access; access routes, through Caerleon, from Cwmbran and through Usk. There have been meetings with MCC who have rejected the proposals to have access to the site through Usk and Little Mill. There is an estimation of 15 deliveries twice a day. Developers were unaware of Usk Bridge issues or the development of Bridge Street. MS's have raised objections with Pedw. There is also a campaign group. No planning has yet gone in.

**ACTION:** Add this item to the agenda for next meeting.

**Police Commissioner's Survey:** Councillors urged to fill in survey in relation to funding for the police and to share with public. Jane Mudd places great emphasis on public feedback.

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**ACTION:** share survey on social media, clerk to send to all councillors

County Cllr M. Howells

**Chain Bridge:** Is closed from 9.30am to 3.30pm for a week for investigative work.

**Vectors:** have been operating in town this week clearing drains. Memorial hall drain has been cleared.

**Flooding 28<sup>th</sup> November:** Usk wasn't affected. River go to 3.2m. Future alert has been received that there may be a problem with incoming storm Bram. Llanfoist level is 4hrs ahead of Usk.

**ACTION:** Raise a meeting for Emergency Procedures.

**Burrium Gate Drain:** Cover removed. The driveway is owned by the properties either side. It is possible that the liability is for the house on the left. Drain has been fixed temporarily by Cllrs K Peacock and M Howells.

**No Parking Sign:** opposite the school, the sign has faded. There are blips on the pavement, but parents are still parking there.

**Town Bins:** All the open top bins have been, or will be, replaced by new ones. UTC were not informed this would be taking place.

**Reported Branch:** Overhanging branch on Maryport St has been removed.

## **16.2 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

APPROVED

Cllr A. Ivin requested that 'swinging' (should read swingeing) be removed from Item **15.7**

## **16.3 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

NONE

## **16.4 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee**

County Cllr K. Peacock

**Roger Galletley:** A memorial bench has been arranged instead of a tree.

**Asbestos Report:** has been received from CASA – Clerk to discuss with CASA about what needs to be done.

**Water Ingress:** Taliesin have been to inspect the roof, we are waiting for their report.

**Cottage:** Waiting for Phoenix to come to certify the boiler. Dave Turner is booked to work on the windows and the door.

**Events:** Christmas Carol Story Telling was wonderful

**Bookings:** Filming company coming in January

## **16.5 To receive the monthly Finance report for November 2025**

Cllr A. Ivin

The bank reconciled. Payments and receipts were as expected.

**Cottage:** Damian has done some work regarding tax implications of renting out the cottage with commercial rent; nothing adverse to report.

**Lottery:** Daman has been reconciling the lottery payments; records against the amount receive.

**Photocopier:** Termination figure received from Grenke is circa £8,600. The penalty cost is too much so we will continue with contract.

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**Cottage:** We're chasing the payroll provider for advice regarding the benefit in kind for the prior caretaker and the rent and pay for the cottage.

**Security:** There is an ongoing exercise with Churches Alarms and other providers.

**Project:** The prison have confirmed that they don't object to a boardwalk on their land at the site of Pook Lane. The design work will be taken forward.

**Memorial:** Payment received from Friends of Usk for Chris Wilkinson's memorial bench; this has been ordered.

**Street Cleansing:** A commercial landscape company has offered a free one day trial to show competence, we have agreed to take up that offering and plan for that.

**Sessions House:** We have an increased filming fee of between £1000 and £2000 on the day.

**Maintenance:** £600 approved for repair to fence and clean up of the gas meter store entrance.

**Christmas on Bridge St:** Quantum costs for road closure and clearways - £1,920.

First Aid Personnel - £275.

**External Speaker:** The one leased from Adrian Merrett was very useful, we have agreed to purchase one through him - £250.

**Mayor's Event:** an allocation of £500 has been approved for a Spring event.

**Post Office:** Payment approved and budgeted for to support the Post Office.

## **16.6 To receive any Planning Applications:**

### **DM/2025/01445**

Proposed two storey side extension with rear dormer with associated works including green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancements.

**26 Mill Street, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1AW**

**APPROVED** – prior to meeting due to the closing date

## **16.7 To receive a report from the Biodiversity Committee**

**One Voice Wales Funding:** this was approved following a site visit. Rachel Carter of OVW came with 200 native bulbs and helped site and plant the bulbs with Meirion, Kay, Diane and Angela. More bulbs have been offered and will be sent in the post.

**Future Developments:** Funding has also been approved for a wildflower meadow and signage to the left of the Sessions House.

**Environmental Groups:** update on what groups are doing within the town

**Section 6 Report:** This will be completed by the clerk this December.

**Land Registry:** a query over a plot of land to be investigated by A. Ivin

**Castle Oak Pond:** MCC has appointed out TACP environmental consultancy to conduct a pondscape and ecological survey along with a restoration plan and design for a new pond. Work will go to tender once the plan is formatted.

## **16.8 To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk**

County Cllrs T. Kear and M. Howells

No confirmation of this at present.

Cllrs asked to attend meeting on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> December and to reply to Claire Sullivan.

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## **16.9 To receive a report from the Groups/Organisations within the Town**

**Usk Together for the Climate:** held a Climate Week and quiz

**Usk Civic Society:** had a delicious tea and enjoyed the harp music at their Christmas party.

**Usk in Bloom:** During the Autumn they have planted 9000 daffodils at the entrance to the town and on the Conigar.

**Usk Brass Band:** Have won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Five Blooms Competition.

The mayor is planning to hold an event to celebrate all groups and achievers in the Spring.

## **17.0 To receive a report from the Events Committee**

County Cllr M. Howells

Committee discussed recent events including Armistice Day and gave thanks to Tom Humphries for leading the procession with his American Jeep and appropriate music.

Thanks also go to Jeremy and Issy for their wonderful 'We Love Bruce' music at the mayor's charity appeal event at the British Legion. Over £500 was raised.

Usk Town Council were thanked for their organisational skills with the WI candlelit procession to the service at St. Mary's. The service commemorated over 100 women who have lost their lives to domestic violence with a wedding dress displaying their names. There were talks from the WI, Pathways and Newport Boxing Club. It was a very moving service.

Usk Pantomime was a great success as was 'Christmas on Bridge St'.

Usk Singing Club is holding a singalong on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Services:**

#### **St Marys' Services:**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Nine Lessons and Carols with Usk Brass Band

Christmas Eve – 4pm Cribs Service and 11.30pm Midnight Mass

#### **St Madoc's:**

Christmas Day Service 9.30am

#### **Catholic Church:**

18<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service

Christmas Eve – 5.30pm Vigil Mass

Christmas Day – 9.15am Morning Mass

#### **Baptist Church:**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> regular service 10.30am

Christmas Day Service 10am

**One Lottery:** This is proving successful as it continues to grow. Earnings and winnings fluctuate as people buy on the day or sign up for several weeks.

## **17.1 To receive a report from Usk Air Quality Steering Group**

County Cllr M. Howells

The plan is to revoke the Air Quality management that's been in place since 2012. Originally, there was a high of 49 micro milligrams of Nitrogen Dioxide. The highest recording in 2024 was 21.4 micro milligrams. Most recordings were around 20, so well below half the original. Welsh government guidance is for it to be below 36 for five years and we are seven years in because of covid. They are looking to revoke the management but they will continue monitoring it.

**ACTION:** Remove from next month's agenda.

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## **17.2 To receive an update on the proposed pump track**

Progress is being made. Discussions around pylons being moved or fenced with a 9m barrier to allow for a better design of the track.

## **17.3 Allotment update**

No update.

## **17.4 To discuss future projects in the town**

**Pook Lane:** Chris Waterworth to draw up designs

**Co-op Walkway:** making it more user friendly and attractive. Cllr Richards to investigate options.

**Public Toilets:** these will be discussed at the meeting with Claire Sullivan MCC on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Pump:** suggestion of a pump near the athletic club to pump out flood water from Mill Lane area. Discussions were had around all areas that flood or are at risk of flooding in and around town. The Olway Brook needs clearing and widening; this would be a preventive measure.

## **17.5 Street cleansing and bin emptying**

A trial of one day's free service with Country wide is being organised by Cllr A. Ivin.

## **17.6 One Voice Wales AGM**

Remotely 21<sup>st</sup> January 6-8pm – Cllr D. Richards to attend

## **17.7 Bins outside No49**

Estates at MCC are due to write to the owners. There is no update.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact Nick Keyse at MCC for an update

## **17.8 Christmas Update**

Overall, the day was a success. Thanks to Tony for helping with traffic and the other councillors that gave their time. Problems arose due to residents' parked cars not being moved out of the Urban Clearways. Unfortunately, one legally parked car was hit by a turning lorry.

Thank you to Ian Williams, Mel Canon and Oscar Brown for their help with stewarding early on that day.

8am road closure worked well giving traders time to set up. Traders and visitors were happy with the day. Feed back from business has been fantastic.

Groups arriving later were disappointed that they had missed Santa and that the stalls were closed. Stall holders who had sold out left early, also it began to rain so some packed up.

Comments to consider:

- music throughout the event and along the street,
- more stalls (however, there needed to be access for emergency vehicles),
- pavement ramps for wheelchairs are needed at the co-op exit onto the main street.

**ACTION:** thank yous to Andrew Willis and his reindeer and to Russell and Anna Walker for donating the tree in the square.

**ACTION:** Christmas de-brief in full at the next events meeting.

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## **17.9 Council Training 2026**

There are some free modules available; clerk has circulated the list to councillors.

Regular training modules cost £42.

Cllr Snelgrove has recently attended 2 modules and is due to complete a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the new year.

Clerk has a record of training.

**ACTION:** Clerk to circulate training to date and direct councillors to their next training module.

## **18.0 Matters of Information**

Historical Talks: Dennis Tippins has offered to do a talk at Sessions House for a fundraiser

**ACTION:** Cllr D Harrison to arrange

Energy Provider: The council has historically negotiated electricity and gas contracts through its agent, Northern Power. These contracts are typically arranged several years in advance. For example, the contract covering electricity and gas from May 2025 was signed around three years earlier.

Clerk received a phone call from a persistent salesperson resulting in another contract for electricity. Because British Gas were the prior supplier, it means that the contracted supplier, Engie aren't able to take over the supplies.

**ACTION:** Cllr A. Ivin to continue discussions with Northern Power and Engie over a potential claim against the council for loss of commission on the electricity.

One Lottery: lottery returns need to have 2 signatures. It was agreed that RFO and Cllr M. Howells will be the 2 signatories.

## **18.1 Correspondence**

A letter has been received from Usk and Graben-Neudorf Partnership Association thanking UTC for the donation towards the Twin Town visit.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 6.00pm

**NB: Next meeting potentially in Room 6 due to bookings. Public may join online.**