


Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Hybrid Meeting held in Sessions House and via Teams conferencing on Wednesday 14th January 2026 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, Cllr A. Snellgrove,
County Cllr T. Kear,
RFO: Damian Nash,
Clerk: Angela Morgan.

18.2 To accept apologies for absence.

None

18.3 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 Public present

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

None

18.5 County Councillors participation

County Cllr M. Howells

Prison Absconder: Cllr urged public not to approach any absconders. The issue was dealt with swiftly. Governor, Rob Denman has zero tolerance and prisoner will not be returned to the open prison at Glascoed. The prisoner was near the end of a 9yr sentence and has been returned to a closed prison.

Town Bins: The bin outside the Legion is not to be replaced as public are using it for domestic and personal waste. The bin on Pontypool Rd near Island Park will be replaced.

Castle Wood Shared Ownership: The bidding closed on 9th January 2026; there are 9 applicants.

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Potholes: Members discussed the ongoing deterioration of road surfaces due to frost and water ingress. Councillors were offered help to use the Monmouthshire app to report those found around the town, or town or by residents.

Broadband: Residents experiencing poor broadband were encouraged to contact Building Digital UK or explore Welsh Government independent funding programmes. Starlink was noted as now being significantly cheaper and capable of providing ~300 Mbps in rural areas.

Some residents have successfully accessed grants to support installation.

Usk Bridge: Contractors remain on site until Friday to repair the damaged wall. Three-way traffic lights are in place. Works involve protective measures for the lime mortar and may be weather-dependent. The road closure order runs until the 20th January, though delays occurred due to the Little Mill closure requiring temporary reopening.

Usk to Caerleon Road: closures this week until 20th January 9.30am-3.30pm.

Flood Wall: A resident has proposed a flood wall from the school to Adrian Court. Council noted the idea is technically possible but unlikely to meet government funding criteria due to the low number of properties at risk. A response has been sent to the resident.

Railings Incident: A child was injured after falling onto spikes on the wall surrounding the chapel in Twyn Square. As the wall is privately owned, MCC cannot intervene directly.

ACTION: Council agreed to write to the property management company to make them aware and suggest safety improvements.

County Cllr T. Kear

Speeding on Abergavenny Rd: Ongoing dialogue continues between residents and MCC regarding a recorded 1 mph reduction and other traffic-calming measures.

Parking on the give-way markings near the bridge was confirmed by MCC to be a criminal offence, enforceable by police.

Usk Bridge Update: A significant multi-agency site meeting took place at 9am on the day of the council meeting.

Attendees included:

- Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment, Catrin Maby
- Chief Officer for Infrastructure, Debra Hill-Howells
- Head of Neighbourhood Services, Carl Touhig
- Road Engineer for Highways, Chris Mirchell
- Traffic & Road Safety Officer, Graham Kinsella
- Principal Heritage Officer, Molly Edwards
- Flood Risk Engineer, Ross Price
- Gareth Edwards, resident and retired solicitor and representatives from Usk Town Council and Llanbadoc Community Council.

Historic issues were reviewed, including previous Capita Symonds study (six options were assessed and "do nothing" was the recommendation followed).

The current issues included repeated bridge strikes, HGV movements, air quality, and heritage constraints. Heritage constraints remain significant due to the bridge's Grade II* listed status.

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Options discussed included altering road traffic orders, installation of permanent traffic lights, adjustments to the footpath and altering or “kinking” the wall to reduce tail-swing impacts. There are limitations as to what can be done due to its Grade II* Listed status.

MCC officers indicated that moving the corner of the wall back a few feet may be possible if all other options are exhausted. Debra Hill-Howells will put a note together and circulate within a month.

Maryport St North Car Park Lighting: ongoing discussions about the potential of putting additional lighting near the disabled spaces at the pathway to the Co-op are positive.

Active Travel WeITAG Scheme: MCC has requested funding from the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Fund for the next phase of the Active Travel route, aiming for infrastructure to be built in yr 2026–27. Draft designs, from Burrium Gate to Castle St and Twyn Square, by Madeleine Bose, MCC Active Travel Officer, included widened paths and improved connectivity. Public consultation, drop-in sessions and school engagement will take place.

District Nurse Parking: Due to Aneurin Bevan Health Board’s Level 4 emergency status, spending has been frozen. MCC has agreed to release two additional parking spaces adjacent to the four owned by the surgery. Council may need to consider contributing funding if required; £500 is needed to fund the marking of the spaces.

Blestinium Drive: A complaint received from residents about behaviour and littering has been dealt with by the Housing Association.

18.6 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th December 2025

Two corrections:

Item 17.0: Issy should be spelt Izzy

Item 16.1: Monmouth Rd Crossing. Item should refer to drainage on the road near Burrium gate not the crossing near the school.

Minutes APPROVED

18.7 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 8th December 2025

None

18.8 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Cllr K. Peacock

Asbestos Update: Awaiting a response from CASA as to how to deal with elements of their report.

Cottage Boiler and Gas Supply: Cottage boiler has been serviced; awaiting formal results and a Landlord certification before rental. An investigation has been undertaken to locate gas entry point and install shut-off valve and meter.

Sessions House Heating: A trial of reducing the heating of SH building has proved unsuccessful; system returned to 17°C in the day.

Radiators: Sessions House radiator valves to be sourced by Phoenix Aircon with a view to adding thermostatic controls as not all radiators are functioning effectively.

There is currently no thermostat installed for the right side of the building; one required. Engineer noted that one boiler could serve that side of the building if alternated periodically, but both are old.

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Events and Bookings:

- Come and Sing event and Filming Company used the courtroom last weekend.

Gwent Young Farmers scheduled an event for Saturday.

- TalK Event booking confusion resolved; they will pay for 1hr for a no-show as refreshments and room had been set up.

- Mayor’s fundraising concert planned for 11th April at St Mary’s Church; performers to be finalised before ticketing.

18.9 To receive the monthly Finance report for December 2025

Cllr A. Ivin / RFO Damian Nash

Benefit in Kind study currently underway regarding the cottage rental and PAYE.

December financials reviewed.

The request from a member of the public has been answered and completed.

An alternative Security company is to be contracted for Fire and Security Systems.

Next year’s budget has been finalised and sent to MCC; there will be no increase to Precept for 26/27.

Requirements for releasing emergency funds for a repair to be investigated.

The internal audit will commence early as a full audit is required this year.

19.0 To receive any Planning Applications:

DM/2025/01544

1 Conigar Crescent Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1RX

Proposed conversion of loft space to create additional bedroom and shower room.

APPROVED

DM/2026/00024

The Old Chapel Twyn Square Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1BH

Proposed change of use from office to nursery

OBJECTIONS:

- Traffic and parking pressures in Twyn Square

- Insufficient outdoor space for children

- Concerns regarding safety of railings and wall

NOT APPROVED

19.1 To receive a report from the Biodiversity Committee

Cllr D. Richards/A. Morgan

Section 6 Biodiversity Report has been completed by the clerk, submitted to SLCC Biodiversity Team, and published on the council website.

Council formally ratified the report.

Action Plans and evidence gathered over the next three years will inform the next statutory report in 2028.

19.2 To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk

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It has been agreed that the best place for the Public Consultation is the Grange, as it is central and has parking nearby.

Proposed dates: 13th & 14th February 2026.

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

Usk in Bloom have their AGM on 19th January – all welcome

19.4 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Events Committee did not meet in December

Planning is underway for The Mayoral Fundraiser with Risca Male Voice Choir and Drew Morton for 11th April at St. Mary's Church.

19.5 To discuss Solar Farm implications

Total Energies have asked for an extension to their pre-app application. They are continuing to survey in the area and are getting a flood assessment done and are reviewing road traffic orders. A Community objection group has produced a transport plan. Concerns have been raised about access to the site and HGV movements, including through Bridge Street. Three local authorities are involved. An application is expected later in the year.

19.6 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

No update

19.7 Allotment update

Two new enquirers have been added to the waiting list.

19.8 To discuss future projects in the town

Pook Lane: no updates at present. Chris Waterworth is working on a design.

Co-op walkway: Diane to meet with Dave Hodgson to discuss possibilities.

19.9 Street cleansing and bin emptying

Street Cleansing: An email from Nigel Leaworthy has confirmed that no third party can carry out work on MCC's assets.

Chair proposed a meeting with MCC team. Cllr A. Ivin requested that we are told the 'baseline' service to avoid confusion between the terms Statutory and Enhanced and to identify what the Baseline service that MCC provide entails. Baseline provision has been confirmed as litter collection, hedge cutting, mechanical sweeps and reactive cleansing.

Three options were discussed as possibilities on top of the baseline provision, an ad-hoc reactive service, a dedicated service or a timetabled service.

Concerns Raised included TUPE liability if dedicated staff are assigned, lack of flexibility in fixed-day contracts, the need for clarity on legal implications, to pay only for enhanced services (not baseline work) and the need for reliability during peak seasons and events.

Council agreed that Cllr A. Ivin liaise with MCC's legal team to discuss agreement options.

ACTION: Cllr Allison consult MCC Legal regarding contract wording and TUPE implications.

ACTION: Meeting to be arranged with MCC (Nigel) once legal advice is obtained.

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Dog Waste Bins: Robert (MCC operative) currently empties bins as a goodwill arrangement.

The two bins at the Athletic Club are to be removed; one bin to be installed at the end of Mill Street, the other at the Roger Edwards Field. Athletic Club will contribute financially to one.

ACTION: contact Merlin to add two extra bins to their collection route.

20.0 Bins outside No49 update

MCC have contacted residents regarding improper bin storage.

ACTION: Clerk to continue following up every two weeks until resolved.

20.1 Council Training 2026

Clerk shared training options with councillors. Free places were taken up for Code of Conduct, Understanding the Law, and Health & Safety modules.

20.2 Arrange an Emergency Procedures meeting

Recent flooding highlighted the need to reinstate the Emergency Procedures Committee.

Meeting arranged for 28th January 11am.

MCC Flood Team and NRW to be consulted regarding updated modelling and evacuation planning.

Sessions House Security: Discussion on alarm call-out responsibilities for council buildings:

- First responder: Chair
- Second: Cllr M. Howells
- Third: Cllr D. Harrison
- Fourth: Steph (keyholder)

ACTION: RFO to contact Churches to terminate their services.

21.3 Matters of Information

Nan Roderick was presented with flowers from the Mayor and Council on her 100th Birthday.

A request from a Llangybi resident has also been sent for the mayor to attend one of their resident's 100th. Mayor has been in touch with Llangybi Council.

21.5 Correspondence

A letter from Buckingham Palace has been received requesting a nomination for a deserving individual to attend The King's Garden Party in May.

Chair proposed Cllr G. Howells, this was approved.

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th February 2026 6.00pm