

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 9th February 2026 at 6.00pm



Town Clerk

MINUTES

Present

Chair: Cllr D. Richards,

Cllr M. Howells, Cllr A. Ivin, Cllr D. Harrison, Cllr G. Howells, Cllr A. Snellgrove,

Cllr K. Peacock via Teams,

County Cllr T. Kear,

RFO: Damian Nash,

Clerk: Angela Morgan.

Chair of Monmouthshire County Council, Mary Ann Brockelsby (joined the meeting at 6.25pm*)

21.6 To accept apologies for absence.

None

21.7 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: Does the council have any current grant applications in place for the upkeep of the Sessions House? Chair replied that there are currently no applications in place. One Lottery scheme is raising funds for Sessions House. The last grant from Cadw was in 2023/24.

Resident suggested that council investigate National Lottery funding.

Comment 1: Resident concerned that No.49 bins are still on MCC land and that the owner is using a disabled bay to unload. County Cllr Kear to inform enforcement officers.

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

None

21.9 County Councillors participation

Co Cllr T. Kear

Usk Bridge Update: No update following site visit. Bridge has sustained a further hit this month; blockwork has been pushed out. MCC have been informed.

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Maryport St North Car Park Lighting: site meeting has been held by MCC officers, no update at present.

Active Travel WeTAG Scheme: no update.

District Nurse Parking: Situation remains the same with ABHB funding; Council may need to consider contributing funding of required paintwork and signage. £500 is needed to fund the marking of the spaces.

ACTION: Add to Finance Agenda

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

Usk Development.

Co Cllr M. Howells

MCC Budget: Public survey is live. Meeting at Hub on Wed 11th February.

Garden Bin Registration: This is now open at a cost of £55/bin. It can be renewed online, via phone 01633 644644, online or at the Hub.

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.

Usk Air Quality Management: this has been revoked; information in town noticeboards. Comments and objections to be received by 1st March. Nitrogen levels have been below for 7 years. Monitoring will continue.

Hedge cutting: A reminder that this needs to be done by 1st March before the nesting season. Keep active travel routes clear for wheelchair users.

Care and Repair Cymru: Benefits for all over 60's in private or rental accommodation. They give free house checks and advise on building and blue card applications.

Penperlleni: A crossing is being installed. Traffic lights will cause traffic congestion from now until 27th March.

22.0 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th January 2026

19.0: Councillors agreed that further comments on Planning are stated as 'Recommended for Approval' rather than 'Approved'.

19.9: Baseline services should include ground maintenance and grass cutting.

22.1 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 14th January 2026

Update on Improvement for Usk public consultation has changed to 15th & 16th May.

22.2 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Cllr D. Richards

Asbestos Update: awaiting quote from CASA to encapsulate and add signage.

Roof and Water Ingress: price received from Taliesin. Council are putting out to tender for two other quotes.

Heating: request has gone to Phoenix Aircon for a quote to install thermostatic controls to radiators.

Security: Churches have agreed to terminate agreement with no cost.

Events: 8th Feb: Friends of Usk held a celebration for Roger Galletley with a memorial bench which was very well attended,

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

18th Feb: Usk Civic Society Lecture – The Giant Salmon Mosaic by Stephanie Roberts.

Warm Spaces Grant: successfully obtained from MCC for u3a groups to meet free of charge. There may be a surplus, which RFO will investigate. U3a has been informed.

SLCC Greater Gwent: Council have agreed to support the hosting of their next 2 meetings.

District Nurses: council agreed to allow them free use of Room 6 whilst their current building issues are resolved.

Cottage: Clerk looking into gas supply. A broken downpipe causing water ingress into the lounge is to be fixed by Roy along with a few other minor issues in the Sessions House.

22.3 To receive the monthly Finance report for January 2026

RFO D. Nash/Cllr A. Ivin

Payment in Kind: Initial escalation to payroll provider has been completed. A follow up is needed.

Churches: have agreed to terminate the arrangement.

Online Payments & Receipts: all signed off.

Reconciliation: completed for January with no issues.

Street Cleansing Contract: Meeting with MCC was positive and Alison will be contacting a legal representative of MCC to gain some clarity on technical issues and legalities of the contract.

Greater Gwent Clerks: There will be no charge for their meetings as Angela is part of that organisation.

Enerveo: Christmas Light fittings a check has been made that their charge for 2025 is the same as 2024, as quoted; it is.

Warm Spaces Grant: conditions of grant to be met. Query around monies being carried forward or invoices backdated.

ACTION: RFO to contact MCC to verify grant conditions.

Reserve Policy: this needs to be reviewed with earmarked reserves put into place, particularly around Sessions House.

Roof: 2 additional quotes need to be sourced.

ACTION: Clerk to source quotes.

*** Chair welcomed Mary Ann Brocklesy to the meeting***

22.4 To receive any Planning Applications:

DM/2025/01604

Manon Interiors, 12 Twyn Square, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1BH

Application for a change of use from A1 to mixed use class A1/A3.

Recommended for Approval

County Cllr T. Kear informed council that he has called the below application in, there have been a significant number of complaints.

It will now go before full planning committee at MCC.

DM/2026/00024

The Old Chapel Twyn Square Usk Monmouthshire NP15 1BH

Proposed change of use from office to nursery.

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

22.5 To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk

Co Cllr T. Kear

Update on Improvement for Usk public consultation has changed to 15th & 16th May.

There is a meeting for councillors with MCC at 10am on Wednesday 11th February.

Grant: There is a recommendation going forward for the application to be accepted in relation to the rebuild/refurb of the toilet block in Maryport St North carpark. Positive news; £250,00 should be going forward for the redevelopment of this site; 50% from Transforming Towns and 50% from Pride of Place (UK Govt initiative). Work needs to be completed by March 2027.

Chair of Monmouthshire County Council, Mary Ann Brockelsby spoke at the end of the meeting about this, the funding from Welsh Government to be allocated to Usk has been a long time coming. MCC have championed that Usk has qualified for this.

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

Cllr M. Howells

Usk Together for the Climate: The Sustainable Vision for Usk 20590 presentation will take place in the Autumn.

Doing Kind: a not-for-profit organisation are putting on a Repair Café on Sunday 8th March, 10am – 1pm in the Memorial Hall.

Men's Shed: at the hub, still in negotiation. Primarily to address loneliness in men.

Co Cllr T. Kear

Usk In Bloom: Preparations for this year are underway. Chair Dave Williams has stood down, Tony Kear will stand in for next 12 months while a successor is found. Wales in Bloom will also continue following the sad and sudden death of its Chair.

Council approved the payment of £750 to support UiB in the hosting of WiB Celebrations and Awards.

22.7 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Cllr M. Howells

Christmas events including **Bridge St** and the **Panto** were discussed, all of which were successful as shown by the survey.

Carol Sing-Along by Usk Singing Club raised £214.00 for the Mayor's Appeal.

Carol Singing at the Co-op raised £210.00

Come and Sing event by Drew Morten raised £517.00 for the Sessions House Restoration fund.

60's night - Drew Morten planning for this at the Three Salmons for the Mayor's Appeal.

St David's Day Concert on 1st March is sold out – organised by Friends of Usk.

Mayor's Thank You Event will be on 20th March - a celebration of achievements by groups and residents of the town.

Christmas on Bridge St: meeting with UBSE arranged for 18th Feb to discuss future Christmas events.

Green Top Markets to hold 2 markets in the square in Spring (29th March) and Autumn.

Pop Up Pub by the River: James Morgan has requested to run 2 events later this year.

Oktoberfest: discussions between James Morgan and Twinning Committee are planned for an event in September '26.

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Mayor's Fundraising Concert on April 11th at St. Mary's Church with Risca Male Voice Choir and Drew Morten's Band.

22.8 To discuss Solar Farm implications

Co Cllr T. Kear

Council to consider impact of HGV vehicles/construction transport through Bridge St and over the Bridge turning left. If planning was granted this route would be in contravention of the Road Traffic Order that is currently in place. A meeting has taken place between highways officers of the three counties; Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Newport. The statutory public consultation has been delayed until Summer 2026. The planning application window has been extended to December 2026.

22.9 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

Cllr M. Howells

Plans are progressing; a further meeting has been had with Sports Wales, Welsh Cycling and MCC. Tree works have commenced following a commissioned survey which revealed poor subsoil and defective trees causing safety risks. Replacement native trees that are suitable for these conditions will be planted as part of the pump track landscape plans. Negotiations with the National Grid around the electricity lines are ongoing around the liability of safety to the existing site. View is to move the current pylons which could cost around £11,000.

23.0 Allotment update

Cllr D. Richards

We can now offer all those on the waiting list a plot from April 2026. Letters will be sent to current and applications by 1st April

23.1 To discuss future projects in the town

Pook Lane Development: Cllr A. Ivin is in discussion with Chris Waterworth over designs for a boardwalk.

Co-op Walkway Development: Cllr D. Richards has met with Dave Hodson (Landscape Gardener) and David Williams (Usk in Bloom) to develop ideas for a concept design in the area alongside the Co-op which is currently unkempt. Finance Committee agreed the funding of £350 for the plans. MCC have been asked if they have any objections to the development; there have currently been none. Discussions around the boundary of Co-op and MCC.

ACTION: Council agreed for a land registry request. Cllr A. Ivin agreed to raise this.

23.2 To discuss fly-tipping of domestic waste

Weekends prove to be a time when public drop bags of domestic waste into and around litter bins. Yellow bags of hygiene waste are also being left by litter bins, particularly on the bridge near Bridge Mews. Cllr M. Howells has contacted MCC to find out if these have an advice leaflet or signage for the bins. Cllr D. Richards has been collecting surplus waste around bins on Sundays.

ACTION: Cllr M. Howells to create a social media post to advise residents of waste types and collection information and that the litter bins are not for domestic waste.

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

23.3 Street cleansing and bin emptying

Meeting held with Nigel Leaworthy and David Cox was very positive.

ACTION: follow up meeting to be arranged after Cllr A. Ivin has engaged with MCC legal team.

23.4 Bins outside No49 update

accordance with Land Registry, the business is placing their bins on their own property. Questions still around the other side of the boundary wall.

A member of the public spoke up at this point, claiming that he did not accept that the land does not belong to MCC and that the bins are a public eyesore.

ACTION: Clerk to reshare information with councillors for clarification.

ACTION: Cllr A. Ivin to raise a Land Registry request.

23.5 Council Training 2026

Councillor Training dates are shared on a regular basis, councillors to book through the clerk.

23.6 Update from the Emergency Procedures meeting

Clerk is currently updating the Emergency Procedures prior to the next meeting which is to be set in due course.

23.7 Matters of Information

Usk Short Mat Bowls: Cllrs M. Howells and Cllr D. Richards have met with the Usk Short Mat Bowls committee upon their request. The club is growing and they would like to have a purpose built, larger venue in the town. They have put forward some proposals and will be managing future progress on this themselves but are looking for the support of the council.

Bridge CCTV: following the site meeting held at the bridge, C Cllr T. Kear contacted MCC and the Police. CCTV has been reinstated. It is now up and running, based in the former Police Station and may be taken over by MCC systems in due course.

23.8 Correspondence

The **Defib** at Burrium Gate has been used and replacement pads are needed asap.

Post Office: comment from a resident that Usk needs a full time Post Office; unable to send post Tuesday to Thursday. Fundamentally, it's down to usage and funding. Discussions around unreliability of the current opening hours, and lunchtimes closures. Lunchtime is a crucial time for customers. If it's not open, it won't be used.

ACTION: Co Cllr T. Kear to contact Richard Drinkwater to arrange a meeting.

Drone Signage: Prison has requested if they can put some signs up around the town. Councillors agreed not to have street signage on this.

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