

# ***Usk Town Council***

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

**Hybrid Meeting held at Sessions House  
and via Teams conferencing on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 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,  
County Cllr T. Kear,  
RFO: Damian Nash,  
Clerk: Angela Morgan.

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

None

### **26.4 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.*

Comment 1: Resident concerned that No.49 builders are parking in disabled bays. Cllr Howells has been in touch with MCC to check that permission for parking there has been allowed. He is awaiting a response.

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

None

### **26.6 County Councillors participation**

Co Cllr T. Kear

**Post Office:** During Easter week they were closed resulting in 10 days with no opening. The new contract came into place on 23rd March; pre-arranged annual leave ahead of the contract changes resulted in closures.

The new contract should show significant changes to opening hours with no closures.

**Usk Bridge Update:** Meeting with MCC officers today. Various proposals were considered, including contacting Welsh Water regarding the watermains pipe on the bridge.

# *Usk Town Council*

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

The main consideration is to review the bank by the steps with a view to dropping the bank to a level that could result in a clearer line of sight and look at moving signage. Another meeting will be held in 4 weeks.

**Maryport St North Car Park Lighting:** no update

**Active Travel WelTAG Scheme:** Funding has been approved and finalised drawings will come to UTC and a public consultation will follow, in May, after the Senedd elections. The proposed funding budget of £800,000 has been reduced to £460,000.

**Potholes:** MCC has agreed to Cllr Kear's motion (formal proposal that is legally binding) to look at alternatives to process of potholes repair. Constructive discussions have been had over JCB Pothole Pro and a demonstration has been agreed.

There are 3 repairs under Highways Act 1980; emergency repair, repair of temporary repair and the major resurfacing of the road. Meeting was positive with new MCC officer, Chris Mitchell, bringing an open-minded approach. There will be more money available with a report due in September.

An acknowledgement that councillors take the brunt of complaints. Other aspects such as resurfacing are also being addressed.

**Dog Fouling:** Sue Parkinson is mindful that there needs to be signs in Bridge St but not to 'over sign'. Business owners have noted that there aren't any in the middle of Bridge St.

**Parking Wardens:** concern that Cllr Kear heard an enforcement officer say that it was ok to park on the double lines outside One Stop. He will contact Dan Fordham MCC over this.

**Police Matters:** (1) A continuing issue of drink, drugs and violence in the affordable flats area of Burrium Gate. This has not been reported on the Monthly Police news release. Neighbours are concerned. Cllr Kear has been asked to write to the CEO of Monmouthshire Housing.

(2) Reports of a homeless male, camping and sleeping around the town, intimidating females and staff at Co-op. Police are aware and he has been taken in by the police overnight. The individual has refused help. Clerk has reported to 101 and the Community Officer, Chris Watkins. They have replied with assurance that they are fully aware of his behaviours and actions and are monitoring the situation and will have officers in the area as a result. Police responded to a resident request at 2am. Residents are avoiding Pook Lane where a pop up tent has been pitched. Cllr Kear has emphasised the point that Violence Against Women is their key priority and telling a female resident to fill in a form is unacceptable.

**RLDP:** decision has been deferred from July this year to March 2027.

Co Cllr M. Howells

**Chainbridge:** Funding has been approved from Welsh Govt, some from MCC. Spring schedule has been delayed due to county pressures such as flooding. Drop-in sessions are proposed for businesses this April. It may be possible to carry out work without closing the bridge, this is still under consideration.

**Congratulations:** to all residents, councillors, volunteers and businesses for Usk being declared the best place to live in Wales by the Sunday Times. Thanks go to Janet Mundy who conducted the interview and tour of the town with the journalists/awards team.

**Rural Housing Enabling Officer:** David James has requested that he speak to full council. Date to be arranged.

# *Usk Town Council*

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

**Senedd Elections:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May in the Centenary Hall (Scout Hall). Anyone over the age of 16 is eligible to vote. 6 members from each of the 16 super constituencies will be elected. Usk is in the Sir Fynwy Torfaen region.

## **26.7 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Item 24.2 Potholes – amend 'proposal' to 'motion'.

## **26.8 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

None

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

Cllr K. Peacock

**Asbestos update:** Quote obtained from CASA, awaiting other quotes

**Roof & water ingress:** Taliesin to visit to take measures to repair roof

**Wall at front of building:** Deposit received, Harry Gibson not able to fix until July. Clerk to contact another service provider.

**Painting:** Library – Paul Webb has quoted for £2,850.00; Mr. Galletley has offered to pay £2,000.00, Request went to Finance for £850.00.

**Office Rentals:** Room 2 will be available soon. Committee agreed to bill for April if room hasn't been emptied. Room 6 is to be advertised as an office rental. Carpet needs to be laid.

**Gardener:** Mike Allen has retired. Cllr K. Peacock has contacted Issy Jones who will tend for £50.00 a month starting April.

**Events:** 15<sup>th</sup> April – Repair Café PAT, 15<sup>th</sup> April – Usk Civic Society Lecture Max Moebus 'The Old Railways from Chepstow to Monmouth and beyond' 7.30pm.

**Bookings:** 9<sup>th</sup> May Wedding

**Cottage:** Windows are being repaired.

**ACTION:** Clerk to continue chasing Gas and Electricity suppliers for isolated services.

## **30.0 To receive the monthly Finance report for March 2026**

No issues with bank reconciliation and review of payments and receipts.

Street Cleaning: Drafted agreement received.

**ACTION:** Clerk and Cllr Peacock to contact MCC regarding some ad hoc services.

Draft Year end: surplus of £61K more income over expenditure. There are a few more accruals to go through, ending in provisionally £55K surplus.

Debtors and creditors were discussed and a few outstanding bills raised will be raised in the 25/26 accounts.

Tenancy: Beaufort leaving 31<sup>st</sup> March, however, will be charged for April as room has not been cleared.

Sponsorship: £100 agreed for Usk Show

Merlin Dog Waste Contract: signing of contract deferred for 1 month as may be impacted by street cleansing contract.

Repair Café: £256.35 donation agreed.

Cottage: Council Tax to be paid monthly.

**ACTION:** Citizen's Advice request for funding to be added to next finance agenda.

# ***Usk Town Council***

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

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

### **DM/2025/00880 25 March 2026**

Proposal: Proposed refurbishment of existing flats and ground floor shop with demolition of existing out-building with new extension to form additional 3nr 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, NP15 1BG**

Council decided to withdraw their recommendation for approval based on the additional information provided since their decision on the 5th August 2025. They wish to see the issues raised by neighbours and local groups properly addressed including Heritage harm (wall demolition, loss of burgage plot definition, conservation area impact) and amenity impacts (new staircase, overlooking, intensification of use).

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

MCC are planning on putting boards outside the Co-op. There will be a dedicated website with concept designs and information on the public consultation and survey. The public consultation will go live on 15<sup>th</sup> May for three weeks, closing on 7<sup>th</sup> June. After the 2-day public event at The Grange, boards will be moved to the Sessions House. Paper copies will be available at the consultation event and at subsequent drop-in locations.

Councillors to offer time to 'meet and great' with locals at the event.

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

Cllr M. Howells

Usk Civic Society: Lecture by Max Moebus on Wye and Monmouthshire railways Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April

Usk together for the Climate: engaging with Usk Scouts to walk around the town to collect their views, and meeting for Balsam Bashing in June.

Save the River Usk: meeting today to update residents on recent data. Hustings to take place at the Kings Arms in Abergavenny Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Men's Shed: They are now a constituted group with a bank account and are meeting every Thursday at the Hub. They do not have a shed at present.

Repair Café: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at Usk Memorial Hall.

Dog Fouling Awareness Days: 16<sup>th</sup> April in Abergavenny, 9<sup>th</sup> July in Usk.

Usk Choral Festival: 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July – tickets now on sale online or from UTC office

Usk Open Gardens: 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June, Usk in Bloom are getting prepared.

Usk in Bloom: meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 6pm, planting session 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

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

Cllr M. Howells

Reviewed recent events:

Repair Café: opened by the mayor, it had a successful start with 37 items repaired,

The Mayor's Thank You Celebration: this was successfully attended. Thanks to Tim Southern for the music, Clare Cooke for the food and James Morgan for the bar.

# *Usk Town Council*

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

## Upcoming events:

Usk Panto Players Spring Show: 10 tickets left for 18<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm, Usk Memorial Hall,

Family Day: MCC to host a Family Event on Owain Glyndwr field on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May.

## Survey to business for the Christmas on Bridge St Event:

19 respondents; 10 on Bridge St, 3 on Twyn Square, 6 from elsewhere.

Over 3 quarters said they felt the event was a benefit to Usk

Over a half said it boosted their income

Over one third said it did not affect or boost their income.

Over one half prefer Bridge St to the Square, 1 suggestion to do both.

All businesses on Bridge St say they prefer to have it on Bridge St.

Three quarters said they would or may join a collaborative group for the event.

Over two thirds said they would not be available to provide volunteers.

Almost two thirds said they would or might be willing to contribute financially.

Tourism: online promotion for Visit Usk this Spring has had 18,000 views.

Mayor's Tree Challenge: Challenged by Christian Eheim, Mayor of Graben-Neudorf, Mayor Diane Richards will be planting a Flowering Ash in the Owain Glyndwr field this Wednesday.

## **30.5 To discuss Solar Farm implications**

No update from the developers. The planning backstop date is at the end of December. The Action Group are raising funds to get a Flooding Assessment done.

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

Two designs to be chosen from and the final design will be taken to planning.

## **30.7 Allotment update**

Cllr D. Richards

Letters to go out to plot holders this month for the payment of annual fees.

2 new tenants. Another plot has become available following a tenant's passing. This will be offered to those waiting.

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

Co-op Walkway: proposed plan to cost between £5k and £8k. Design to include bespoke benches, planters and lighting. Dave Hodson has a proposed area for planting Wallace Garden plants.

Council to consider funding this at future meetings. Work to include consultation with MCC officers and Usk in Bloom. This will also link in with Carpark Lighting Design from MCC.

Pook Lane: Correspondence from Chris Waterworth includes background work on flooding to the area and concept designs. Information will be circulated to councillors to review before next meeting. Cllr A. Ivin will follow up on discussions with Rob Denman, HMP.

## **30.9 Accident at Llantrisant/Blossom Lodge**

On 9<sup>th</sup> March a lorry lost control, leaving the carriageway and destroying the access point to Blossom Lodge, part of Adrian Court. Significant damage was caused, though there were no injuries.

Cllr M. Howells is in conversation with neighbouring ward councillor, Fay Bromfield, with a view to getting the road speed reduced.

# ***Usk Town Council***

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

This request has been previously rejected due to the limited number of residences on the that road. Even though the road is used by walkers and cyclists, it is not an Active Travel route.

Council decided not to support a petition until data was available. Fay has requested speed loops are installed to collect data.

**ACTION:** request to MCC to collect data.

## **40.0 Street cleansing**

UTC to convene a meeting to discuss the updated agreement that was received today.

## **40.1 District Nurses Parking**

UTC have agreed to fund the legal agreement and line marking of the spaces next to the Dr spaces, Maryport St carpark N.

**ACTION:** clerk to contact Dan Fordham

## **40.2 Twinning Signs**

**ACTION:** Highways to be contacted to request the erection of three new signs at the entrances to the town.

## **40.3 Mayoral Chains**

No update

## **40.4 To accept proposals for nominations for Chair 2026/2027**

Cllr A. Ivin proposed Cllr K. Peacock, seconded by Cllr M. Howells,

Cllr D. Howells proposed Cllr G. Howells as she had a democratic mandate, Cllr G. Howells declined.

Cllr K. Peacock accepted.

## **40.5 To accept proposals for nominations for Deputy Chair 2026/2027**

Cllr A. Ivin proposed Cllr D. Harrison, seconded by Cllr K. Peacock

Cllr D. Harrison proposed Cllr A. Ivin, Cllr A. Ivin declined

Cllr D. Harison accepted.

## **40.6 Matters of Information**

Sessions House has been lit up in blue for Parkinson's.

The Mayor's Charity Event – music by Risca Male Voice, 400 WHAT and Angela. £2,618.00 was raised.

Mayor thanked Tony and everyone involved.

Usk Cricket Club: all dogs to be kept on leads; new signage to be erected.

Diane thanked everyone for supporting her this year.

## **40.7 Correspondence**

None

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 6.00pm