

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Extraordinary Meeting, as called by the Chair,
held in Sessions House
Friday 29th May 2026 at 9.00am

MINUTES

Present:

Chair: Cllr K. Peacock,

Cllr D. Richards Cllr M. Howells, Cllr A. Ivin, Cllr D. Harrison, Cllr G. Howells, Cllr A. Snellgrove,
County Cllr T. Kear,

Clerk: Angela Morgan.

Apologies:

RFO: Damian Nash

Chair began the meeting by apologising to the council for upsetting members by the way she spoke; she was upset and embarrassed by the fact that the most recent UTC/MCC draft agreement had not been shared with all prior to the meeting.

Councillors were advised that this must not happen again, all documents and conversations need to go through the clerk.

1.1 To reach a decision over the adoption of the Partnering Agreement for the provision of maintenance and management of street scene services.

Amendments to be made to notes from the meeting dated 22.05.26

Cllr A. Ivin wished for addition of the following:

- Points made under Alison Ivin's name were not her personal comments, but issues around the contract; Cllr A. Ivin's comments should read: there is a need to understand the quantum; do UTC require 22.5 hrs a week. It had been agreed that a walk around town would be undertaken to determine this.
- Nigel explained about the towns' service of bin emptying was stopped but places like Little Mill still get a scheduled service free of charge. Other LAs don't have that, eg Torfaen, Caerphilly, MCC is unique in charging towns for bin emptying. Moral responsibility has been changed so that Town Council's need to pay for bin emptying.
- Code of Practice – This is a MonCC decision, not adopted by other county councils in the area, MCC will provide reactive service only to the towns in Monmouthshire, outside the towns they continue on scheduled services, such as Little Mill that have 2 bin-emptying a week
 - 'Nil charge' needs to be added to the additional works.
 - Refer to schedule 1 as Baseline Services rather than defining some of them
 - Bin emptying by 'toilet cleaner' does not need defining

Other councillors were satisfied with the notes.

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Contract was reviewed a page at a time:

Cllr A. Ivin reviewed the latest version against her copy

- RPI being notified in December has been deleted as requested
- Timings changed to 4 half days, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs and a full day on Friday
- Under support for events 'additional charge' to be removed, as work will take place during their hours

Resolved: Councillors voted that 'additional charge' is deleted, which had been agreed by MCC

- Under Baseline Services, Litter bin emptying has been removed from Alison's version
- Emptying the litterbins in Maryport St North Carpark at weekends – request that the phrase 'by the toilet cleaner' is removed.

Resolved: Councillors voted to leave it as it is.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Richard Clements with the above amendment and to ensure numbering of the document is adjusted.

Chair put the contract to a vote.

Council **resolved** to adopt the Street Cleansing Partnering Agreement with MCC

Cllr A. Ivin requested that she could make a statement about her vote:

The contract's better than it was. As a result of going back and arguing in terms of different clauses. The landscape of this is that Mon CC have said that no other party can work on their assets; effectively, they've introduced the monopoly situation throughout the county. That we have to use them for street cleansing.

By withdrawing the scheduled bin emptying in the town and in every time in Monmouth, Mon CC have devolved, the cost of emptying bins onto the town council. All they'll provide in the towns is reactive service. That's a large motivator for MCC to have the town teams, because in effect, it's devolving the cost of a service down onto the town councils and that's something I object to quite strongly in terms of protecting the town's money.

I also have issues in terms of quantity; MCC are insisting on us, having 22 and a half hours, it was three days, it's now that time over five days. It's noticeable that Caldicot, which is a larger settlement only has 12 hours and am concerned that we haven't done enough to identify whether we need 22 and a half hours. And having said that, once you see a clear that they won't, Offer anything else. So again, we've got a provision that they created a monopoly. They've withdrawn a county level service. And they're saying, we can only have 22 and a half hours and nothing less. Um, the recent spruce up in the town by Mon CC involved, 42 hours work and allowing for being emptying, I think that's just over two weeks of our new Town Team. We are not allowed to have the flexibility to have weekend working within this 22 and a half hours because the staff will be on MCC terms and conditions. And so, in effect, we're not able to have the flexible service when we must need it, which is on weekends, certainly, for bin-emptying.

Fundamentally, it's not a contract for services where MCC have to provide us with the service, we're underwriting staff time and so we're taking the risk in terms of TUPE, in terms of illness up to a certain point.

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Bearing in mind, that each member staff is probably entitled to about eight weeks leave, we'll have 16 weeks where we only have one person.

I feel that we're in the position where we're faced with no choice, but to take on the town team. I don't feel that it's been a partnering arrangement with MonCC; I think we've been funnelled to a place where we are left with this solution or nothing. And none of us can be in a place where the town has nothing.

Meeting was closed at 09:45

Angela Morgan



Town Clerk
Proper Officer