

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Hybrid Meeting to held at Sessions House and via Teams conferencing on Monday 13th July 2026 at 6.00pm

MINUTES

Present

Chair: Cllr K. Peacock,
Cllr M. Howells, Cllr A. Ivin, Cllr D. Harrison, Cllr G. Howells, Cllr A. Snellgrove, Cllr D. Richards,
County Cllr T. Kear,
RFO: Damian Nash,
Clerk: Angela Morgan

6.0 To accept apologies for absence.

None

6.1 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

6.2 To disclose personal and prejudicial interest in items of business listed below

Cllr K. Peacock declared an interest in Item 6.7a regarding rental interest from MS Laura-Anne Jones

6.3 County Councillors participation

Co Cllr M. Howel

Little Mill Road Closure: A472 resurfacing works Thursday 16th of July to Friday 16th August, road closure will be 09.30 - 15:30.

No63 Bus Route will be maintained but will only go directly to Cwmbran via Caerleon.

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Rights of the River: Cllr Howells has seconded a motion for a charter on the Rights of the River; gives a right to flow freely, biodiversity and free from pollution to maintain a healthy catchment and allows for representation and proper representation. This was voted for by MCC.

Litter and Dog Fouling Officers: are in post for 6 months to go around the hotspots in towns of Monmouthshire. Officers carry bodycams and can issue fines.

Cardiff Pride: attended with MCC group. Other LAs were also represented in the march.

Nursery Places: admissions are now open

Nature Isn't Neat: MCC is promoting a more relaxed approach to grass cutting to support Biodiversity.

Active Travel Consultation is open for the public until 30th August available via MCC website

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Co Cllr T. Kear

Post Office: No update

Usk Bridge Update: no update.

Maryport St North Car Park Lighting: MCC have changed their contractor; information to follow.

Active Travel WelTAG Scheme: (Burrium Gate to Castle St.) work to be completed by April 2027

Potholes: demonstrations of Pothole Pro and Bobcat have been observed and use of Magic Tarmac to be viewed.

Dog Fouling: additional signage in Bridge St - no update.

Parking Wardens: across the county there has been a concerted campaign and a spike in tickets issued. Four Ash St and New Market St problems appear to have been resolved and a reinforcement of conditions of parking outside One Stop

Maryport Street: traffic-monitoring loops were installed to track speeding at the south end, they have now been laid towards Adrain Court.

Abergavenny Road: Evidence produced that the average speed is marginally down, the number of cars speeding between 30 and 60 mph has increased. Acceptance that the road narrowing under the railway bridge isn't working, proposal (subject to consultation) for alternative solutions.

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Proposals for a buffer zone for 50mph to 30mph to 20mph on entry into town from Abergavenny.

RLDP: Pedw have gone back to MCC with a list of questions following the consultation. This may or may not be resolved by the current council before election 2027.

6.4 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th June 2026

APPROVED

6.5 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 8th June 2026

Concerns raised about the build-up of pebbles and vegetation on the riverbed and how this may affect flow of the river and flooding. NRW are aware and are monitoring the situation and are not considering it a concern. Bridge Survey previously promised has not materialised.

Post Office closures need to be raised with MCC officers.

Item 4.7 Events: CADW open doors event moved to 20th Sept and John Frost Play moved to 26th September

6.6 to review the following policies:

❖ Press, Media & Publicity

RESOLVED: The policy states all press releases, reports, articles, and updates intended for publication must be submitted or checked and authorised for accuracy by the Clerk before release.

6.7 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Office Rental Agreement: An annual rent including utilities, payable monthly, an insurance and service charge monthly. Service charge covers heating, security and cleaning of shared areas.

ACTION: another meeting needed to finalise agreement and costs of services

6.7a To resolve office rental applications

Resolved: rooms 2 and 6 were allocated - Recruitment Services & IT Consultancy Business
Cash Access – too much footfall and vehicles driving through, too far from town centre
MS Office – no political parties, UTC & Sessions House is impartial

6.7b To resolve utility supply for Cottage Rental

- three suppliers to give quotes for gas submeter
- convert to all electric, with new supply from the road (approx. £12,000)
need to have authority from Heritage

ACTION: Contact Heritage to discuss options

Replastering: Quote received for communal areas

RESOLVED: Quote accepted

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6.8 To receive the monthly Finance report for June 2026

All online payments were sanctioned and bank reconciled.

All payments approved

Ongoing issues with **SITGroup**

EE mobile contract due to expire – set up independently

First quarter was discussed around figures that need clarification. Importance of maintaining a robust reserves policy and suggestion of setting up reserves policy for the cottage.

External Audit: sent to Audit Wales. Notices have been posted on website and noticeboards.

Christmas Lights: new proposal, budget is available but installation costs may bring further costs

British Gas: increase due to new infrastructure levies

ACTION: check contract

Donation: £50 to Usk Young Farmers – sponsorship for Welsh Air Ambulance

6.8a Resolve allocation of budget provisions

- 4194 Usk Plan + Design project £12,000.00

- 4906 Community Projects + Clock Maintenance £8,275.00 (this budget was a balancing figure input)

UNRESOLVED

6.8b To resolve payment of gardener through summer

RESOLVED – agreed to engage for 4hrs a month

6.9c To approve Mayoral Chains Quote

RESOLVED

6.9 To receive any Planning Applications:

No new planning applications received

MCC planning has deferred decision on the Usk Nursery in Twyn Square

7.0 To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk

Detailed summary of the consultation will be presented to the group bringing forward suggested improvements.

Changing Places toilet project is progressing. Presentation was received by Limbrick's and Peter Hayes construction has been contracted. Project to start October subject to planning.

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

UTFTC: presentation at the hub by University of West England Architect students and the National Emergency Briefing Film was screened for residents.

Civic Society: hosted an Alfred Russel Wallace day and talk from Professor Luke Parry

Singing Club: concert for Mayor's Appeal 19th July

Repair Café: to take an August break

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Teddy Bear's Picnic: successful event; thank you to the mayor for attending

Usk in Bloom: judging has taken place and was a positive report. Thanks to UTC for their support on the day and for the financial support.

7.2 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Cllr D. Richards

Green Top Market Summer Fayre – issues identified; lack of stalls, stall quality, lack of hot food. Some Local businesses noted an increase in trade. To request a confirmation of stalls for future markets.

Lines Tap Room event successful, James has requested August date approval

7.2a To approve Pub by the River

RESOLVED

Choral Festival: thanks received from the team and a donation will be made to Sessions House Restoration Fund.

Christmas Market: 10 volunteers from UBSE. UTC to pay for road closure

Lottery: Annual income now over £1,000

Digital Display: investigate display format for lengthening time of display.

7.3 To discuss Solar Farm updates

A formal public consultation is now live to be responded to by 20th August

7.4 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

No update

7.5 Allotment update

- Resolve Health & Safety issue

ACTION: Replace the gate post

7.6 To discuss future projects in the town

Pook Lane: no update

ACTION: Cllr Ivin to contact the prison

Co-op Walkway: project ongoing, quotes have been requested

7.7 Street cleansing

Agreement has been signed by both parties

7.8 District Nurses Parking

Parking spaces are now in use. MCC have billed UTC

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8.0 Christmas Lighting Proposal

Contract is due for renewal. Suggestions to look at other companies for prices.

8.1 Twinning Signs

No update

8.2 Usk Church in Wales Primary School

Cllr Allan Snelgrove was appointed as the new Minority Authority Governor for Usk Primary School

8.3 Matters of Information

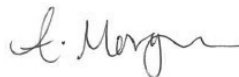
Clerk to be on annual leave for last 2 weeks of September

8.4 Correspondence

Request from Tony Kear as to why Conservative leaflets have been removed from display table at Sessions House.

RESOLVED: no political leaflets to be displayed by any party or Independents

Date of next meeting: Monday 14th September 202 6.00pm



Town Clerk