

Usk Town Council

The Sessions House, Maryport Street Usk NP15 1AD

Hybrid Meeting held in Sessions House and via Teams conferencing on

Monday 14th September 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,

8.5 To accept apologies for absence.

Clerk: Angela Morgan.

8.6 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: A resident raised concerns regarding MCC's rewilding policy at the Owain Glyndwr Field; approximately one-third of the field is already left unmown, yet MCC continues to leave additional large areas unmown.

Issues raised: - Dog fouling becomes difficult to detect in long grass. - Safety concerns for children playing - Reduced usable space for Scouts, Brownies and other youth activities
- Resident asked whether the Town Council would challenge MCC's policy for this specific site.

Cllr responded PSPO (public spaces protection order) due for review 2027.

ACTION: chair to contact MCC regarding concerns

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

None

8.8 County Councillors participation

Co Cllr M. Howells

Bridge Street telephone box missed from repainting schedule; now reinstated for next painting season (April–September).

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Newmarket Street bin – depot searching for replacement

Island Play Area – repainting completed; accessible swing and dual parent/child swing installed.

Owain Glyndwr toilet door – bottom section perishing; reported

Priory Street drains – blocked; reported

Twyn Square lighting faults – repaired within 5 days

Olway Bridge (A472) – rusting through; reported

Usk Bridge -flowers growing into bridge structure – roots penetrating; reported

Conigar Walk - Broken bench reported

Fence by vets – reported

Chepstow Road nr allotments, vegetation encroachment – requested clearance

School Parking - Complaints received regarding illegal parking outside school; enforcement notified and headteacher contacting parents

Active Travel - Drop-in session held; online consultation open until 28 September

Bridge Traffic Lights - Sewer connection works for Woodside properties; temporary lights delayed until Thursday; will be manned at peak times

Community Grants - Back-to-school essentials grant available (£200)

Litter Enforcement - Officers active; majority of fines issued for cigarette littering.

R2 Jumbliana – Welcome to the new retro shop recently opened on Bridge Street

Chain Bridge landslip – drop-in session scheduled 30th September at the Chainbridge Inn

New bus timetable from 1 September; additional Saturday night service on No. 60.

Co Cllr T. Kear

Usk Bridge - awaiting response from MCC regarding next meeting; recent vehicle hits reported

Abergavenny Road - following agricultural concerns, MCC widened flexible posts to 4 metres

Post Office - Positive news expected regarding opening hours; details confidential until finalised

Weeds and grass cutting - Motion submitted by Cllr Tony to MCC for a countywide review (similar to pothole review). Motion rejected by Labour administration.

Pothole Review - Draft report prepared; due to be presented to MCC in September

RLDP (Replacement Local Development Plan) - Examination underway with regards to Burrium Gate (8 September – 6 October)

Policing - Local PCSO Chris has left for British Transport Police; no replacement yet.

Concerns raised by residents around lack of police attendance to reported incidents.

ACTIONS: - Cllr Tony to raise at Police & Crime Commissioner meeting. - Town Council to send formal letter requesting update on local policing provision.

8.9 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th July 2026

APPROVED

9.0 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held 13th July 2026

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9.1 To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 30th July 2026

APPROVED

9.2 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 30th July 2026

Query: were Minutes of Extraordinary meeting on 29.06.26 reviewed on 30.06.26? – Yes

9.3 To receive a report from the Sessions House Management Committee

Cllr K Peacock

Safety Checks within Sessions House

- Alarm and Fire Service- Quarterly maintenance carried out
- Intruder Alarm – 6 monthly maintenance carried out
- Men's toilet: reported leak from cistern and floor safety; investigation required

Painting – R 6 completed, R2 glossing work to be carried out, Back toilet completed

Office Rental Rooms 2 and 6, rentals to start 14th Sept and 1st Oct respectively

Kitchens – investigate a price to reduce to one kitchen and rent large out as office

Future Events and Bookings shared

Cottage – not to go all electric as previously agreed. **RESOLVED** gas and electricity supplies to come from existing supply with submeters

First Aid Kit – updated

Cleaning – reviewed; councillors happy with service from cleaning company and the current keyholder arrangements

Clerk's Leave – office cover by councillors

Health and Safety and Risk Policies need to be established

ACTION: Clerk to initiate this

9.4 To receive the monthly Finance report for July 2026

All payments and income reviewed; bank reconciliation to 31 August without any issues

Reserves - £10,000 ring-fenced for cottage utilities and rental preparation

Invoice Approvals - Road closure invoices for Remembrance Day & Christmas events approved.

Medical cover (paramedics) for Christmas event approved.

Allotment gate invoice approved

Clock maintenance invoice approved (to be reimbursed by MCC)

Mobile contract for Clerk to be reviewed

Cottage Electricity usage to be undertaken

Lottery prize rollover mechanism to be reviewed

Pay award of 3.3% approved for Clerk and RFO

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9.5 To receive any Planning Applications:

DM/2026/01062: 12 Mill Street Usk NP15 1AN

Provision of first floor accommodation over an existing rear single storey extension to a terraced house.

Council recommended approval

9.6 To receive an update on the Improvement for Usk

Steering Group to meet this Wednesday; councillors encouraged to attend

Public Realm meeting 7th October. A meeting 24th August, detailed summary of consultations.

Architects presented revised proposals:

- Clock to remain in centre of Twyn Square, slight repositioning only
- Bridge Street pinch points reduced from two to one
- Maryport Street top end to remain open to vehicles
- Rerouting option to be documented for future reference

ACTION: Co Cllr T. Kear to ask for presentation to be circulated to councillors

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

Co Cllr M. Howells

Repair Café - Recent session quieter; next session to be held at school; assembly visit planned; "pull-apart" table for children to experiment with gadgets. Walk Wheel Cycle Trust attending with bikes.

Singing Club - Recruiting new members; meets 7.30pm at Sessions House.

Save the River Usk - Angela Jones attended Parliament; 160 MPs supporting water reform campaign.

Civic Society - Alfred Russell Wallace Walk – Sunday 11.15am from Sessions House.

David Collard – funeral Monday 21 September, 2pm at Chase Burial Ground; gathering 2.15pm at Castle Tithe Barn afterwards.

Men's Shed - Planning confirms shed is permitted development the hub; certificate required.

Twinning Association - Meeting cancelled; considering double-header exchange in 2027. An intern from Graben-Neudorf recently spent 2 weeks in Usk and enjoyed her visit.

Usk in Bloom - Attending Wales in Bloom ceremony – 16th October, Talgarth.

UBSE - Christmas on Bridge Street 29th November. There has been a positive volunteer turnout from businesses and stallholder interest is strong. Craft Renaissance arranging stalls.

Three Salmons supportive; coordinating with hotel event.

Entertainment being arranged: Santa & reindeer, choirs, Usk Town Band. Next meeting: 30 September

Road closure has been booked by UTC.

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9.8 To receive a report from the Events Committee

Committee have not met since last FC meeting. Next meeting 30th September

9.9 To discuss Solar Farm updates

Correction of previous report; there was not a public consultation, it was an informative public meeting.

10.0 To receive an update on the proposed pump track

No update; awaiting MCC officer meeting

10.1 Allotment update

Cllr D. Richards

Three plot holders contacted regarding neglected plots. One responded wishing to continue; two unresponsive. Deadline to be issued before reallocating plots. Dispute to be discussed in confidential session.

10.2 To discuss future projects in the town

Co-op Area - Awaiting clarity on town cleansing arrangements before progressing

Pook Lane – Awaiting engagement from Prison; representatives returning from leave

Funding – Cllr M. Howells to compile a 'wish list' of environmental jobs for MCC

10.3 Street cleansing update

A detailed discussion was held regarding MCC's proposal to alter the agreed contract.

Original contract: 4 half-days + 1 full day per week; MCC proposal: 3 full days, relying on current street cleaner (MCC employee) to cover Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Concerns: Contract was heavily negotiated; changes inappropriate without formal renegotiation. Current Streetcleaner role must remain additional, not replacing contracted staff. Bank holiday coverage unclear.

RESOLVED: Council unanimously agreed to retain the original contract (4 half-days + 1 full day).

ACTION: Clerk to notify MCC. Confirmation that there will be no additional charge for the current streetcleaner.

10.4 Christmas Lighting Proposal

Three companies have been contacted to provide proposals; one is too busy, another wishes for more info and the third has not replied.

More meeting with Festive to take place.

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10.5 Twinning Signs

No update; waiting on material choice and installation options.

10.6 Twyn Square Clock update

Wednesday 16th Smiths of Derby to service the clock and Enerveo to provide the cherry picker

10.7 School Transport

Issues Raised:

- Severe overcrowding on No. 60 bus.
- Children standing for 45 minutes.
- Elderly passengers unable to sit.
- Safety concerns.
- MCC provided 7-day bus passes to pupils, increasing load.
- Dedicated school bus (service coach) under-utilised.

Council Concerns

- Long-standing annual problems.
- Inconsistent safety standards between school buses and public buses.
- Travel time exceeding guidelines.
- Poor planning despite MCC knowing pupil numbers in July.

County Councillors' Actions

Cllr T. Kear requested chair of scrutiny committee to review:

- Allocation process
- Safety standards (varying between dedicated transport and public transport)
- Travel times
- Cost modelling
- Policy inconsistencies

Cllr M. Howells wrote with concerns: outcoming in 14 pupils moved from Newport No. 60 bus to the dedicated school coach, freeing seats.

RESOLVED: Formal letter to MCC School Transport Team to be drafted highlighting safety, capacity and planning concerns.

10.8 Lorry Watch

Four new volunteers expressed interest.

Process: record reg number, date, time, direction; submit to Trading Standards.

90% of lorries are legitimate; approx. 40–50 per day not permitted.

Safety guidance: volunteers should not take photographs or make themselves visible targets

ANPR options discussed; MCC exploring feasibility.

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10.9 Matters of Information

None

11.0 Correspondence

- letter re Castle Inn
- letter re lorries and unsafe loads
- letter re weeds

ACTION: Clerk to respond to letters

Item to be taken in Committee

- letter re allotments

ACTION: Clerk to reply to letter from plot holder

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th October 2026 6.00pm



Town Clerk