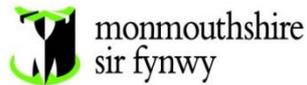


# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Monday, 9 March 2026

## Notice of meeting

### Taxi and Regulatory Committee

Tuesday, 17th March, 2026 at 12.30 pm,  
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK

#### AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	To confirm minutes of previous meetings:	
3.1.	23rd February 2026 - Rights of Way	1 - 4
3.2.	27th January 2026	5 - 6
4.	Exclusion of Press and Public	7 - 8
5.	Review of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Licence	9 - 12
6.	Review of a Hackney Carriage Proprietor Licence	13 - 16
7.	Report Appendices	17 - 220

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr**

# MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Tony Easson	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Alistair Neill	Gobion Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martin Newell	Town;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sue Riley	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Park;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

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### Welsh Language

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# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Our purpose

To become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

## **Objectives we are working towards**

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced.
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop.
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in.
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued.
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.

## Our Values

**Openness.** We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

**Fairness.** We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

**Flexibility.** We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

**Teamwork.** We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

**Kindness:** We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.



## Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

**Meeting of Taxi and Regulatory Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Monday, 23rd February, 2026 at 2.00 pm**

### Councillors Present

County Councillor Tudor Thomas (Chairman)  
County Councillor Jayne McKenna, (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Jane Lucas, Jayne McKenna, Alistair Neill and Martin Newell

### Officers in Attendance

Julian Sanders, Solicitor  
Gavin Pugh, Assistant Rights of Way Officer  
Richard Ray, Paralegal  
Ruth Rourke, Countryside Access Manager  
Wendy Barnard, Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES:** County Councillors Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards, Sue Riley, Dale Rooke and Jackie Strong

### **1. Declarations of Interest**

Julian Sanders, Solicitor, declared an interest as a player/member of Usk Cricket Club and took no part in the meeting.

County Councillor Jane Lucas was unable to attend the site visit, attended part of the meeting but was unable to vote.

County Councillor Tony Easson attended part of the site visit then took no part in the meeting as he would be unable to vote.

### **2. HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 119 PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER, FOOTPATH 1 USK (Usk Athletic Club)**

The legal position was explained, then the report and a PowerPoint slides were presented by the Countryside Access Manager and Assistant Rights of Way Officer to set out the details of the case.

It was explained that the report had been compiled to act within the approach to be fair, impartial and operating the principles of natural justice. It set out the full background, legislation, policy, objection and other evidence in respect of a request for an order to be made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 for Public Footpath 1 Usk. Its purpose is to assist Members of the Taxi and Regulatory Rights of Way Advisory Committee to decide as to whether an order should be made to divert part of Footpath 1 Usk and to inform all other interested parties.

In deciding whether to make an order the Authority is exercising a power, not a duty. If decisions are objected to, they may be tested at an inquiry, hearing or by written representations by an Inspector appointed by Welsh Government. Decisions must be readily justified under the criteria of the relevant Acts.

The Committee needed to consider the legal tests and decide whether or not the authority should make an order to divert Footpath 1 Usk; making of the order enables the public consultation to commence.

The Council can only confirm the order if it is unopposed. In making the decision, the committee is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity. Decisions should only take into account the statutory tests and objectives, and the product of the consultation carried out. The decision should be based on evidence and the Committee was reminded that it should be satisfied that the application meets its statutory test.

Order making is a two-stage process for a diversion order under the Highways Act. There are separate legal tests to satisfy for the making of an order and then for its confirmation. Once an order is made, it's subject to public consultation and is advertised, and the public may make objections and representations, if any objections or representations to an order are made and not withdrawn, the Council may not itself confirm the order. If it still wishes to see it confirmed, it can refer it to the Planning Inspectorate or Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) for confirmation. The inspector may only confirm the order if it's satisfied that the test for confirmation is met.

Under the Highways Act a two-part test should be met to allow the authority to make an order. The new path must join highway to highway and must be substantially as convenient to the public. A diversion order has the effect of extinguishing an old path and at the same time creating a new path. The Highways Authority can then create an extinguished path under section 119 if it is in the interests of either the landowner or in the interests of the public.

Under the Act, various tests have to be met to allow the confirmation of an order. These are primarily that the new path must not be substantially less convenient. It is subtly different to the making test, and about the effect which the diversion would have on the enjoyment of the path to the public. The effect on any land served by the existing rights of way and the proposed footpath should also be considered. Finally, the committee should consider the material provisions of any rights of way improvement plan that's been published by the authority.

(County Councillor Jane Lucas left the meeting at 14.17)

Following the presentation, Members were invited to ask questions.

A Member, noting that the safety of visitors, walkers and those not familiar with the game of cricket was paramount, asked whether spectators would still be able to watch cricket matches as normal if the footpath were diverted. He was assured that was the case.

In response to a question, the Member was advised that the Committee would not be considering an application for a pump bike track at the current time.

A Member asked if the applicant could be required or advised to clearly mark the pedestrian route across the car park, so that vehicles do not block it and pedestrians and wheelchair users can move safely. It was advised that if the path order is successful, the path should be marked to give clear indication to people who would perhaps not be aware that there is a new path there and to try and ensure that it doesn't get blocked. It is also an offence to obstruct the highway, so if anyone were to intentionally block the public right of way, if it were to transfer onto the proposed alignment, there are powers that can be used to prevent that, even if it is a temporary, not a permanent obstruction.

Councillor Alistair Neill asked why the process had taken nearly three years to reach this stage and whether the Council could look at ways to deal with similar matters more quickly in future.

In response, it was noted that the progression of the application had been delayed due to difficulties in obtaining timely and complete responses from the initial objector following the first consultation in September 2023. Significant time was required to seek clarification of the objection, relay this to the applicant, and await the Athletic Club's formal consideration through its committee processes. A further pre-order consultation in early 2025 also required responses from statutory bodies and user groups, several of which were received only after extended chasing. Officers advised that, under rights of way legislation, any unresolved objection prevents a case from progressing, and limited engagement from the objector consequently prolonged the process. It was confirmed that, while regrettable, such delays are inherent in the statutory framework and not within the Council's discretion to shorten.

In summing up, the Chair made the following observations:

- Members had visited the site and fully understood the proposal.
- All consultees, except for one objector, had raised no objections, and that the legal requirements appeared to have been satisfactorily addressed by the applicant.
- The remaining objection had been considered and issues relating to safety and public well-being—such as the risk of injury from cricket balls, muddy and slippery ground conditions, and the movement of grounds maintenance machinery—had been convincingly mitigated through the proposed diversion.
- Usk Athletic Club's amendments provided both a grass path and a compacted stone surface to improve accessibility, including for wheelchair users.
- The evidence presented was balanced and comprehensive, and that no further issues had arisen to prevent the Committee from proceeding to a decision.

**Upon putting the motion to the vote, the Committee unanimously resolved:**

**That the Licensing and Regulatory Rights of Way Advisory Committee authorise the making of the diversion order for Footpath 1 Usk under Section 119 Highways Act 1980 as set out in the report, and to confirm the order if no objections are received.**

The meeting ended at **3.06 pm**

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# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3b

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Taxi and Regulatory Committee held  
at the Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Tuesday, 27th January, 2026  
at 10.30 am

**PRESENT:** County Councillor Tudor Thomas (Chair)

County Councillors: Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards,  
Simon Howarth, Jane Lucas, Jayne McKenna, Alistair Neill,  
M. Newell, Dale Rooke and Jackie Strong

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Linda O'Gorman	Principal Licensing Officer
Julian Sanders	Solicitor
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Councillor Sue Riley

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

#### **2. Review Of Annual Licensing Fees For Financial Year 2026/2027**

We considered the Authority's Licensing Fees for the Financial Year 2026-27. The report was presented by the Principal Licensing Officer. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

[https://youtu.be/Mxks1B0MLbQ?si=ydR9\\_BS5cqqxRIXg&t=64](https://youtu.be/Mxks1B0MLbQ?si=ydR9_BS5cqqxRIXg&t=64)

Following the question and answer session, the Chair asked the Committee to vote on the recommendations outlined in the report, as follows:

In favour of the recommendations	-	6
Against the recommendations	-	3
Abstentions	-	0

We resolved:

- (i) To approve the fees set out in the report, entitled "Schedule of Licence Fees for 2026-27", subject, where relevant, to any required public notice.
- (ii) That any objections, duly made, regarding fees for the grant of licences for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles be brought back to the Taxi and Regulatory Committee at the earliest opportunity for due consideration.

## **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of Taxi and Regulatory Committee held  
at the Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Tuesday, 27th January, 2026  
at 10.30 am**

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Taxi and Regulatory Committee Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record.

### **4. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 10.00am.

**The meeting ended at 10.58 am.**



## TAXI AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

### PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE**

**REPORT BY: TAYLOR WATTS**

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

**EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:**

The report contains information relating to a particular individual.

**FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:**

There is a public interest for the process to be open and transparent when councils consider the fitness or suitability of a street trading consent holder.

**PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:**

The report includes sensitive personal information relating to the licensee.

**MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:**

My view on the public interest test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a Public Authority for decisions taken in relation to the licensing of hackney carriage/private hire drivers this must be balanced against the fact that the report contains sensitive personal information about the licence holder and correspondence they have had with the authority which must remain exempt from publication.

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering whether to exclude the press and public from the meeting when this agenda item is being considered.

**RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:**

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

**Signed:**

**Date: 26/02/2026**

**Post: Licensing Officer**

---

I accept/do not accept the recommendation made above.

*Frederick*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

# Agenda Item 5

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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