

Minutes of Montgomery Town Council meeting held on Thursday 25th July 2019 at 7.15 pm in Montgomery Town Hall, Broad Street, Montgomery.

Present: Cllr H Andrew (Town Mayor) Cllr J Kibble (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors: M Mills, D Jones, L Weaver, Cerys Thomas, W Beaven, D Jaunzens, O Lewis

Mr Jeremy Thorp advised that old garages in Tan y Mur could be a suitable place to have electric charging points, he will progress this further and keep council up to date.

MINUTE 47 – APOLOGIES

Cllr C Weston – Holiday

MINUTE 48 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Thomas – Old Reservoir

Cllr O Lewis – Old Reservoir

MINUTE 49 – MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Andrew reminded Councillors meetings should finish by 22.00 hours of late meetings had been finishing very late.

MINUTE 50 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved to approve the minutes of 27th June 2019 which were signed by the Chairman.

It was proposed that draft minutes would be sent out as soon as possible before the following meeting.

Councillors who wish to make amendments should advise the Chairman as speedily as possible.

AGREED

MINUTE 51 – MATTERS ARISING

None

MINUTE 52 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No Applications

MINUTE 53 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hayes had apologized he was not able to attend the meeting but had sent a report as stated below

(a) Cllr Hayes had re-established contact with Nat West and will be discussing the possibility of mobile banking returning to Montgomery.

(b) Russell George AM is pressing Powys CC to institute a court case requiring the owner to undertake repairs at The Brades.

Concerns were raised that Cllr Hayes had spent a lot of time attempting to get these repairs over the last few years and were disappointed that it could not be compulsory purchased.

(c) Cllr Hayes had spoken with Mr. P Davies Cabinet Member for Highways and discussed the following:

(d) **Need for pavement at Caerhowel.** – This is recognised, but the physical constraint is tight and this is unlikely to be funded soon in the current capital situation. Planning permission to develop the former caravan site adjacent Graham's Garage includes a pavement.

(e) **Caerhowel Cottage.** - Flooding issues which have been partly remedied.

- (f) **Sutton Lane.** - The poor condition of the lane (barely passable) is a subject of ongoing complaint by both Mr Jones of Court Calmore and the wider community. Mr Jones has laid stone and scalping's from time to time to ease the worst of the situation. Prospects for remedy are not good, given that the weight of traffic carried would probably damage the road again within a short time of resurfacing.
- (g) **Pavement, Station Road.** - This is a long-standing issue which would require substantial shoring (with acquisition of additional land for earthworks) to remedy. Investment is not likely at present, but development of the Verlon land could provide opportunity, possibly under s26.
- (h) **Give Way Signs New Road** – Recognised that these are needed. A good chance this will be authorised.
- (i) **Chirbury Road** - Discussed provision of 30mph roundels fixed to lamp posts. Cllr Hayes is hopeful this will be authorised. Regularisation of the legal 30mph limit out to current derestriction signs would be possible as and when a Traffic Regulation Order is required elsewhere in town, but unlikely to be initiated otherwise. However, Portfolio holder shares the view that the lighting spacing legally defines the speed limit
- (j) **Blocked gullies**, Mortimer Road, foot of Conduit and elsewhere, recognised these need to be cleared out. I expect this work to be authorised
- (k) **Direction signage on Pound** - Approaching from Arthur St, there is no destination signage. Suggestions will I think be brought forward but there may be an issue with visual intrusiveness.
- (l) **Lantern at foot of Conduit.** - Oliver Lewis raised this with me, having written directly to the Conservation Officer asking for PCC to take responsibility for renovating the lantern. The portfolio-holder has discussed this with officers of the street lighting department. Their view is that the lantern is not in the ownership of PCC and the portfolio-holder is not prepared to take responsibility for it. The presumed owner is Powis Estates, along with the stone walling on which it stands. The power supply was disconnected some months ago at the request of the Town Council; the cost of doing so was not recharged to Montgomery TC, as a gesture of goodwill because of the bus-stop signage issues ongoing at the time. The portfolio-holder told me that for cost reasons he would not be willing to provide a new power supply in order to relight the lamp, but that the Town Council has power to provide street lighting, although it would need to do so with the permission of the owner of the structure.
My own view is that it would be a benefit to the townscape if not only the lantern but also the stone walling with embossed stone plaque were to be restored. The Town Council may want to discuss the feasibility and means of achieving this with the Civic Society and Powis Estates.

MINUTE 54 – HIGHWAYS

1. Cllr Jaunzens felt even though several consultants view various issues with highways there is very little funding for repairs but it does seem that some areas have more services than others.
2. Cllr Kibble had spoken with Powys regarding the tree in Tourist Information area and they have agreed to assess the tree. Cllr Kibble will e mail clerk.
3. **Parking on pavements** an elderly resident with a sight impairment was finding it very difficult to walk along from her home to the Post Office due to cars parked on the pavement at the garage. Cllr's Andrew and Thomas agreed to speak to the garage owner to ask if he would help guide residents should they require his help.

MINUTE 55 – OLD RESERVOIR

Cllrs Thomas & Lewis left the meeting

1. A question was raised if the lamp or the reservoir wall were listed

2. Contact Debra Lewis raising concerns regarding the wall's safety especially if it is a listed structure.
3. Town Clerk had spoken to Mr. Morris at street lighting and he had advised that Powys would not be in a position to re-instate the light the electrical wiring was very old lead type and it would need a completely new supply.

Councillors returned to the meeting.

MINUTE 56 – TOWN HALL

1. Cllr Mills proposed that if councillors agreed toilets could now be open to the public seven days a week, Hafren Cleaning Services could provide daily cleaning. This matter was discussed and it was agreed by a majority to go ahead with this service using monies retained for Brown Signs. Cllr Thomas Abstained.
2. Town Clerk will speak to Hafren Services to see if they could open the public toilets at 08.00 or close the toilets at 18.00.
3. Cllr Mills advised that council have received a £10K grant towards the platform lift.
4. It was agreed to hold a meeting on 13th August to discuss the budget and lease.
5. It was agreed to allow £300 for Town Clerk to purchase a new fly killer

MINUTE 57 – TOURISM

1. Minutes from the last meeting had been circulated
2. Cllr Kibble thanked Haydn and Jane for keeping tourism area clean and tidy.
3. It had been suggested that the plaque could be placed on a wooden surround, costings are being sought.
4. Cllr Kibble had asked Civic Society if they would be willing to help during the literary festival 2020.

MINUTE 58 – DESTINATION MONTGOMERY

1. It had been agreed to hold a special market on the first Thursday of the month this would include more traders and a Community Café. A willing stall holder would be asked to help set this up in return for non-payment of rent.
2. Banners and shopping bags had been purchased to promote the market.
3. Destination Montgomery Officer had requested permission to use the on line calendar for promotion of the Town Hall. Town Clerk did have reservations on how this information would be used and the implications of Data Protection. It was agreed the Cllr Mills would ask DM officer what type of information she intended to use.

MINUTE 59 – DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Cllr Beaven asked council to endorse the group and participate in training, some councillors have already attended a training session and other councillors were willing to undergo training. Agreed

MINUTE 60 – FOOTBALL CLUB

1. Cllr's Andrew and Weaver along with Town Clerk had met a representative from the club who advised that the club would like to start a junior section at present the playing field is not suitable due to uneven surface. The club are looking into different options including a G7 pitch. Following a discussion Councillors were pleased with the idea of junior football but concerned it would be taken out of public use.

2. Parking was a problem on match day and needs to be stewarded more efficiently.

MINUTE 61 – WEBSITE

Costs had not been obtained as yet

MINUTE 62 – MONTGOMERY CASTLE

1. Cllr Lewis along with other residents is starting a group Friends of Montgomery Castle, who will fund raise to improve Castle grounds.
2. It was agreed to invite Cadw and Powis Estates to further meeting to discuss the footpaths at the Castle.

MINUTE 63 – WHITEGATE POOL

1. Cllr Kibble and Cllr Weaver had met with Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust to discuss various issues with the area.
2. Cllr Weaver had obtained a quote for hire of JCB at £250 per day the work to build an alternative to the present bridge would take approximately three to four days.
3. Quote for tree work of £510 was AGREED

MINUTE 64 – PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

It was agreed to have a small group to discuss the playground inspection in more depth. Cllr's Andrew, Weaver and Kibble will arrange a meeting.

MINUTE 65 – ALLOTMENTS

Town Clerk had arranged a meeting with allotment holders to start an allotment group.

MINUTE 66 – CROWD FUNDING

Cllr Mills advised £800 had been raised so far.

MINUTE 67 – TOWN TWINNING PROPOSAL

Cllr Lewis advised that there was a similar sized town called Montgomery in Vermont which was on the Canadian Border. It was agreed for him to make informal links following agreement of wording for Town Clerk to send.

MINUTE 68 – FINANCE

BACS	Bowen Consultants	960.00
	Kings Nurseries – Hanging Baskets	204.00
	Gaskells Waste	102.92
	Hafren Cleaning Services	213.60
	Davies Roberts & Bowen – Builders	28585.08

	Philip Humphreys	4500.00
	SLCC – Conference	96.00
	Viking – Stationery	19.13
	Gilbert Davies – Solicitor	480.00
	Gwynfor Humphreys – Survey	960.00
	Salary	782.40
	G Smith – Expenses	149.18
	HMRC – Tax & NI	80.90
D/D	BT – Internet	105.84
	Positive Energy – Electric	62.81
Cheques –	37 H Andrew – Plants TIC	16.60
	36 R Emberton – Benches	376.72
	35 Return Deposit	105.00
Destination Montgomery	Salary	744.70
	HMRC	7.53

RESOLVED to accept the above invoices for payment.

MINUTE 69 – CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was noted

MINUTE 70 – REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL BODIES

Cllr Kibble will circulate
Estyn report very good for school

MINUTE 71 - COMMUNICATION FROM THIS MEETING

As above

MINUTE 72 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Dog Bags
Cemetery Fees – Cllr Beaven