Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 28th May 2020 at 7.15 pm.

MINUTE 1 - Apologies - Cllr D Jones - unable to join via Zoom

MINUTE 2 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Thomas – Letter concerning Lease for Town Hall

MINUTE 3 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements

MINUTE 4 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting 23 April 2020 were agreed by members Chairman unable to sign the minutes at this time.

MINUTE 5 - MATTER ARISING

 Cllr Weston advised a mention was made in April's meeting about the Mile Marker at Pool Road. Cllr Thomas advised she had spoken to Dr Welton and this item was not repairable but was being kept at the Old Bell. A Mile Marker situated at Church Bank was in Cardiff being repaired.

Cllr Thomas advised she would enquire about a possible date for its return

Cllr Mills had also mentioned in April's meeting that the Covid 19 Business Resilience monies had been released, Town Clerk had checked and these monies were not available to the Council

MINUTE 6 - REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 1. Cllr Hayes advised that 400 vulnerable staff at Powys CC had been given 12 weeks leave, absence was 8% and many staff had been redeployed. Depots were now doing essential work.
- 2. Business rate relief had been applied to a number of businesses.
- 3. A sign stating Sutton Lane was unsuitable for motor vehicles would be erected.
- 4. Information and updates regarding Covid 19 were on Powys CC website.

MINUTE 7 - HIGHWAYS

- 1. BT had still not replaced the manhole cover in Station Road, TC will contact again.
- 2. It was noted that Fly tipping was happening again at Recycling Site, Cllr Weston will post on Social Media and Cllr Thomas will do a poster

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MINUTE 8 – FINANCE

BACS	Eon Electricity	163.32
	Gaskells Waste	28.43
	Churches Fire	467.40
	HMRC	39.60
	Salary	669.40
	G Smith – Expenses	21.59
D/D	Positive Energy	60.93
	BT Internet	105.84
Cheque	H Andrew – Mayors Allowance	700.00
	Destination Montgomery	
	S Gilder – Expenses	56.20

Resolved to accept invoices for payment.

It was agreed to pay Zurich Insurance for insurance cover 2020/2021

MINUTE 9 – ALLOTMENTS

Allotment holders from Tan y Mur allotments joined the meeting. Spokesperson for the group advised that:

1. Access to Allotments in Tan y Mur should be restricted to allotment holders only, people were walking through the allotment and in the present pandemic in particular this was not considered safe practice.

Agreed to place notices on both gates advising allotment holders only. Place locks on gates if necessary.

2. Untidy allotments that had been left unkept

Grass had been cut by the group.

3. It was also advised that produce had been stolen from allotments and fly tipping had taken place

4. Following items discussed January/February minutes Councillors were asked to verify comments.

Alternative uses for the allotments had been discussed and a group of Councillors had spoken with Mid Wales Housing. Allotments at Tan y Mur had run at a deficit for many years, spare allotments have been advertised but never fully occupied. Council considered alternative uses for the site, including older people's housing. Any proposed changes to the site would only be undertaken following full consultation with allotment holders, and if an alternative use was found for the site, allotment holders would be offered an alternative site.

Cllr Lewis will contact the allotment group hear their concerns and write a report for the June council meeting.

Management of the allotments will be seriously considered following this report.

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CHURCH BANK

An anonymous letter had been sent to Town Clerk regarding structures being built at the allotments at Church Bank. It was agreed that if Councillors were passing they would view these allotments in a constructive manner. Church Bank will be included in the report by Cllr Lewis.

TC

MINUTE 10 - PLANNING

20/0714/OUT Erection of detached dwelling + vehicular access 3 Severn Close, Caerhowel

Councillors agreed to support as it stands as an outline consent application but wished to make the following comments.

Concern regarding the proximity to a flood plain, erosion of the river bank and sewerage capacity. Cllr Kibble advised the inability to view any third party responses was regrettable.

Reinstate Planning Committee

Cllr Kibble had provided a proposal document for councillors setting out reasons for having a planning committee.

- All plans would initially be discussed by this committee
- Decisions for planning would be made by full council unless the Planning Committee were given Delegated Powers for a particular planning application.
- A smaller group would work on any LDP or large proposals and provide a document to be considered at Full Council.

Cllr Thomas felt this could mean plans were discussed twice.

Cllr Kibble felt that by having this committee it would enable a fuller response Overall, it was felt that a fully balanced view was required and any plans should be ratified at a Council Meeting.

Cllr Thomas proposed that three Councillors should be on the committee and Terms of Reference should be drawn up and agreed at the next meeting of the council.

Cllr's Kibble, Beaven and Lewis were interested to be included on this committee.

Resolved to re-instate a Planning Committee for a period of twelve months (May 2021) Proposed Cllr Kibbe Seconded Cllr Beaven

Committees and members will be discussed at a later date.

MINUTE 11 - MONTGOMERY NEIGHBOURHOOD ANGELS

- Cllr Thomas had spoken with PAVO and they were going to check if Angels needed to be DBS checked.
- PAVO are able to offer a small grant of £250 for this group.
- PAVO questioned whether Angels would be insured within council's policy. Handyman service would not be covered that would be classed as a good neighbour.
- Town Council have agreed to hold monies for this group until required.

MINUTE 12 – SATURDAY TRADING

This item was withdrawn

MINUTE 13 – STANDING ORDERS 2018

Standing Orders had been provided to Councillors.

Resolved to accept 2018 Standing Orders. Prop Cllr Kibble Second Cllr Stephenson

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MINUTE 14 - CHANGE ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER

Town Clerk had provided costings of cheapest provider and the saving would be approximately £40pm.

Resolved to accept EDF as the new supplier.

TC

MINUTE 15 – LEASE-LETTER

A letter had been received from Council's Solicitor showing amendments she had suggested in answer to MCBPT letter.

RESOLVED to agree the amendments

MINUTE 16 – CORRESPONDENCE

None

MINUTE 17 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Medical Practice using Town Hall

Website Accessibility

Policies (Cllr Thomas agreed to prepare a list of policies, and other documents, showing which were mandatory, and which should be prioritised)

Google Drive

Terms of Reference – Planning Committee