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| <p>Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 at 7.15 pm.</p> <p>Present: Cllr's H Andrew (Chairman) J Kibble (Deputy Chairman) M Mills, L Weaver, C Thomas, C Weston, O Lewis, W Beaven, G Stephenson.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 35 - Apologies</b> - Cllr D Jones - unable to join via Zoom</p> <p><b>MINUTE 36 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>MEMBERS of the public were invited to speak.</b></p> <p>A resident requested minutes to go on the Notice Board as library was not open as well as website.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 37 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>Cllr Andrew requested Councillors to keep their comments as brief as possible as it was a lengthy agenda.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 38 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were agreed by members Chairman unable to sign the minutes at this time.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 39 - MATTER ARISING</b></p> <p>a) Cllr Lewis wished to raise his objection to the length of the agenda and for it to be noted.</p> <p>b) Cllr Beaven enquired if any correspondence had been received re extension of pavements. No correspondence received as yet.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 40 - REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Hayes had sent his apologies for the meeting.</li><li>• Cllr Lewis expressed his disappointment that Cllr Hayes was not able to attend, advising he received remuneration for being a County Councillor and the town should be better informed.</li><li>• Town Clerk reminded members that as a County Councillor, Cllr Hayes was not summoned to attend he was invited by the Council.</li></ul> <p><b>MINUTE 41 – HIGHWAYS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Lewis reminded members that the issue of road closure at Sutton Lane had not been addressed. Cllr Thomas reminded members that Sutton Lane was in fact not being closed.</li></ul> | <p>Agenda</p> |
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- An altercation regarding attitudes took place. Cllr Lewis requested that it be noted in the minutes. Along with his dissatisfaction regarding systemic failures of governance of the town council and wished to make public aware of this.
- Cllr Kibble reminded Town Clerk re BT Cover on Station Road. Town Clerk advised she had made a considerable amount of phone calls regarding this since December 2019 and had been assured in July 2020 this would be completed. Further calls will be made. Cllr Kibble suggested maybe Cllr Hayes should be contacted.
- Cllr Kibble asked again about the state of the road at Rhydwhyman. This issue had been raised at the February meeting and Powys CC advised. Town Clerk will contact again.

TC

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**MINUTE 42 – FINANCE**

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| BACS | Neighbourhood Angels to Crier    | 100    |
|      | Gaskells Waste -                 | 3.72   |
|      | Gaskells Waste                   | 28.43  |
|      | Viking – In & Paper              | 39.91  |
|      | JDH Business – Internal Accounts | 480.00 |
|      | Hafren Services – August 19      | 720.00 |
|      | SLCC – Website Accessibility     | 144.00 |
|      | G Smith – Expenses               | 106.82 |
|      | Salary                           | 669.40 |
|      | HMRC – Tax                       | 39.60  |
| D/D  | Positive Energy                  | 38.40  |
|      | BT – Phone                       | 35.04  |
|      | <b>Destination Montgomery</b>    |        |
| BACS | Craven Design & Print-Postcards  | 162.00 |
|      | Salary                           | 374.00 |
|      | Dr C Weston                      | 211.99 |
|      | S Gilder – Exp                   | 64.30  |

Resolved to accept invoices for payment.

Following Internal Auditor’s report, it was RESOLVED to:

- Employ a VAT specialist re partial exemption
- Seek guidance from External Auditor regarding Town Hall valuation
- Accept figures provided by Internal Auditor
- £80 had been added to Cashbook
- Town Clerk will receive training regarding Financial Statements
- Financial Statement Agreed

Annual Return had been delivered to Cllr Andrew for signature at the meeting and was duly signed following discussion and agreement from Councillors. Photograph taken.

**MINUTE 43 – PLANNING**

Discussion under Terms of Reference Agenda Item 15.

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| <p><b>MINUTE 44 – TOURISM</b></p>   |                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Kibble outlined information provided in Tourism Minutes.</li> <li>• Cllr Andrew advised there had been an outbreak of Covid 19 in the near vicinity.</li> </ul>   |                                  |
| <p><b>MINUTE 45 – FINANCE COMMITTEE</b></p>   |                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Mills advised minutes had been sent to Councillors</li> <li>• Committee receive a monthly Cashflow Forecast</li> <li>• Town Clerk will complete Budget Report for September meeting</li> <li>• Cllr Lewis suggested forward planning for the Precept possibly October</li> <li>• Cost for opening toilets had been reviewed. A Risk Assessment would be undertaken by Cllr’s Mills and Beaven. Toilets could be open following the next meeting and re-assessed in October.</li> </ul>          | <p>TC</p> <p>MM &amp;<br/>WB</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Lewis requested a breakdown of costs involved with the transfer of the Town Hall to the MCBPT including legal and consultancy fees. Town Clerk will provide these figures for September Council meeting.</li> <li>• Cllr Mills requested £100 towards the planned event which will include VE Day within the Food Festival. Cllr Thomas advised this event may not go ahead as at the moment it was not compliant. AGREED £100 if this event goes ahead as planned and is compliant.</li> </ul> | <p>TC</p>                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Memorial at The Pound was cleaned and tidied by a resident. It was agreed the current volunteer and whoever subsequently takes on this task receives an Honorarium from Memorial Bank Account.</li> <li>• Town Clerk had provided costs for Sanitizer Dispenser. Cllr Kibble suggested that this should be sourced locally and costs for this be obtained, members agreed these would not be required.</li> </ul>  | <p>TC</p>                        |
| <p><b>MINUTE 46 – POLICIES</b></p>  |                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfortunately, the incorrect version of the Complaints Policy had been provided for the meeting (due to the number of copies circulated) it was suggested that any amended copies should be marked as such.</li> <li>• AGREED to Review and agree final policy in August.</li> </ul>   | <p>TC</p>                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final edition of Health &amp; Safety Policy will be circulated by Cllr Kibble for agreement at August meeting.</li> </ul>  | <p>JK</p>                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Lewis advised we would need to have a Children and Safeguarding Policy in place, Cllr Thomas reminded members that she had provided a list of documents from OVW prioritizing documents, following a discussion a vote was taken to discuss this policy at September meeting. Cllr Lewis will submit this document for the meeting</li> </ul>   | <p>OL</p>                        |
| <p><b>MINUTE 47 – PROPOSAL RE COMMITTEES</b></p>  |                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Thomas had written a proposal on how members are selected for Council committees offering three suggestions. This paper had been viewed by Councillors some of which were not happy to discuss the paper in full, considering it non-urgent business.</li> </ul>  |                                  |

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| <p>This paper will be considered again before re-election to committees takes place, prior to Annual Meeting 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Councillors considered an Asset Committee was needed for a number of reasons, this will be discussed at the September. Cllr Stephenson will put something together for September.</li> </ul>  | G  |
| <p><b>MINUTE 48 – TERMS OF REFERENCE-PLANNING COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Clerk advised Council do not have an AGM they have an Annual Meeting. This reference will be changed.</li> <li>• Resolved to accept the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee which will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting.</li> <li>• As a planning application had been received it was agreed to elect members for this committee.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Thomas, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Lewis and Cllr Kibble agreed membership of the committee. Cllr Beaven will attend when required.<br/>Cllr Kibble thanked Cllr Beaven for her help in writing the Terms of Reference.</p>   |    |
| <p><b>MINUTE 49 – WEBSITE ACCESSABILITY GUIDELINES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Clerk had attended the course and it was clear that Montgomery website needed attention particularly on colour of TEXT of which some were pale blue.</li> <li>• An Accessibility Statement was required to be placed on the website</li> <li>• Funding was difficult for 2020-2021 this would need to be considered in 2021-2022 Precept.</li> <li>• It was agreed Town Clerk would contact web provider and agree a date to discuss along with Cllr Stephenson.</li> </ul>  | TC |
| <p><b>MINUTE 50 – PUBLIC TOILETS</b></p> <p>Covered under Finance Committee</p>   |    |
| <p><b>MINUTE 51 – PLAY PARKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group had met with advisor at the National Lottery and Cllr Kibble advised Town Council would need to be lead name on the funding application.</li> <li>• It was proposed to request £100,000</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble had also been in discussion with PCC planning dept about the best way to approach planning permissions, and understand the approximate costs, which depended on the size of the area.</li> <li>• Cllr Weston advised VAT implication would have to be considered.</li> <li>• Cllr Weaver asked if disposal of the old equipment had been considered as this would be very costly. Cllr Kibble advised this had been considered.</li> <li>• Prior to going ahead assurance is needed that the land definitely belongs to Town Council.</li> </ul> | JK |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Stephenson had been looking into this, but had no specific evidence.</li> <li>• Cllr Weaver had a photocopy of Conveyance from DHG Salt and PL Marriott to the Mayor and Burgesses regarding 2 pieces of land in the parish of Montgomery dated 1962 with an addendum dated 1990 between Town Council and Craigdam Developments.</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble advised the group are very resourceful and will be able to raise funding towards planning. Cllr Mills suggested it may be possible for Clos Tan y Mur fund to help. Planning could only be submitted if it was supported by fund raising.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Play Parks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proper Risk Assessment would be required prior to opening, Cllr’s Kibble &amp; Weaver will meet to carry this out.</li> <li>• Opening will be discussed at August meeting following agreement of the Risk Assessment</li> </ul> <p><b>MINUTE 52 – THE BRADES</b></p> <p>a) Cllr Lewis advised he was not comfortable discussing this via this platform</p> <p>b) Cllr Thomas had provided a document she had drafted for the council to consider. Following the response to the letter drafted in March, which was received after the last council meeting in June, Cllr Thomas had met with a number of the officers from Powys CC in a virtual meeting. She had stressed to the officers that she had not been formally authorised to attend this meeting, and that authorization would be sought from the council should any further meetings be arranged.</p> <p>c) Cllr Lewis advised Cllr Thomas that she had not been sanctioned by council to undertake this role and subsequently was in breach of the Code of Conduct. Cllr Lewis was extremely annoyed and advised that it had been agreed at a previous meeting to invite Powys CC for a site visit and attendance at the council meeting to discuss. Visits were not possible due to the Covid 19 situation.</p> <p>d) Cllr Lewis continued to repeat the issues raised with Cllr Thomas and advised on several occasions he would take the matter further through the appropriate channels.</p> <p>e) Cllr Thomas explained that she had made her report available at the first Council Meeting possible.</p> <p>f) Cllr Mills commended Cllr Thomas action and the progress she had made on Council’s behalf as the situation had been going on for a number of years with a number of people getting involved including Russell George AM’s office.</p> <p>g) A number of Councillors were uncomfortable having this discussion via ZOOM and commented that it was inappropriate, in particular the confrontational and repetitive way it was conducted.</p> <p>h) Cllr Stephenson advised it did not matter if you were not face to face both meetings need to be good.</p> <p>Council authorized Cllr Thomas to continue the work she had begun with Powys CC.</p> | <p>JK &amp;<br/>LW</p> <p>TC</p> |
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| <p>Following discussions, Cllr Kibble suggested another Councillor should assist Cllr Thomas in carrying this forward with Powys CC. Cllr Thomas welcomed this and Cllr Stephenson proposed Cllr Lewis and he agreed to work with Cllr Thomas on this issue.</p> <p>Council requested Town Clerk to write to Russell Georges office asking him to take the matter forward of deliberately causing the property to become unfit for human habitation in order to avoid Council Tax.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 53 – CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The Crier had requested information for coffee mornings and of playgrounds. It was agreed Cllr Weston could tell them to use the same text as previously regarding coffee mornings and write a line about council doing risk assessment and discussing potential opening on 6th August of toilets and play areas.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 54 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA</b></p> <p>Councillors agreed to hold a additional meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 pm this would be to discuss Covid 19 related issues, planning application Sutton Lane and other necessary issues if they arise. Items not already raised with the clerk needed to be provided in advance of the agenda being issued and Clear information is required in advance of the meeting as a prolonged meeting is not required.</p> | <p>CW</p> |
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