

Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 6th August 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr's H Andrew (Chairman) J Kibble (Deputy Chairman) M Mills, L Weaver, C Thomas, C Weston, O Lewis, W Beaven, G Stephenson.

MINUTE 55 - Apologies - Cllr D Jones - unable to join via Zoom

MINUTE 56 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MEMBERS of the public were invited to speak.

No Questions

MINUTE 57 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cllr Andrew advised Councillors there would be a small Remembrance Service at The Pound for VJ Day should they wish to attend.
- Cllr Andrew commented - It has become apparent in recent weeks and months that some councillors are unhappy about the way that unpleasant emails are being sent amongst councillors and staff. As a council we should all work together and treat other as we would expect to be treated ourselves. He suggested that all Councillors should re-familiarise themselves with the code of conduct, which all have read and signed.

MINUTE 58 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting 23rd July 2020 were agreed by members following corrections. Chairman unable to sign the minutes at this time.

MINUTE 59 - MATTER ARISING

1. Cllr Stephenson advised a date had been set for Website Accessibility discussion.
2. Cllr Kibble advised that Town Clerk had indeed been in contact with BT for a number of months to no avail. This matter needs to be progressed.
3. Town Clerk had forwarded an e mail advising works at Rhydwyman were being dealt with by Powys CC.

MINUTE 60 - REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- No Report

<p>MINUTE 61 – CO-OPTION</p>	
<p>Correspondence received from Mr Rob Harper requesting co-option to the council. Mr Harper’s details had been forwarded to all Councillors. Resolved Mr Harper would join council at their September meeting following signing of Declarations of Acceptance.</p>	<p>Papers</p>
<p>MINUTE 62 – HIGHWAYS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two complaints via e mail had been received with regard to Sutton Lane. • Cllr Weaver had also written a short background regarding that area. 	
<p><u>E Mail from Powys CC</u></p>	
<p>In the short term, proposals are to provide plainings from work due to be carried out by Caerhowell Bridge within the next 2 weeks and to compact it. Mindful that there are safety issues there and the authority has a duty to maintain the road. Signage is also scheduled to be installed.</p>	
<p>Longer term, further discussions are required regarding the supply of stone so that the road can be built up and tar sprayed. They are also mindful that the road impacts on very few residents. It will be included in the capital programme next year but with Mr Jones' input.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Weaver advised tar spraying directly onto compacted stone would be a waste of resources • Cllr Kibble advised Town Council will monitor this. • Cllr Lewis requested Town Clerk to reply to residents e mails advising of Powys CC reply. 	<p>TC</p>
<p>MINUTE 63 – FINANCE</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested permission for authorized signatories to confirm invoices for payment in August. Town Clerk will supply list of payments to Councillors. Agreed in Principle. 	<p>TC</p>
<p>MINUTE 64 – MINUTES</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the public had requested at July meeting that Minutes of the meeting be displayed in the Notice Board as well as the website. AGREED. 	<p>TC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Lewis expressed his concern that Town Hall committee had not met since 2018 as the Town Hall was the council’s single largest asset. In fact, Town Hall Committee’s last meeting had been July 2019. These minutes will be shown as Draft Minutes on the website marked as such. 	<p>TC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Lewis also considered Town Hall Committee should meet to discuss the ongoing negotiations with the MCBPT, Cllr Thomas advised she understood that the Town Hall Committee felt that negotiations and decisions were now for discussion with full council, as the Town Hall committee had no delegated powers, and the matters under consideration were for the whole council to determine. Cllr 	

<p>Lewis requested this addition to the minutes and stated ‘council were not able to determine these matters adequately because of the failures of governance associated with the Town Hall transfer.’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was suggested that September meeting should be live streamed.• Cllr Weston was not happy to advertise the weblink via Facebook. Although details of the meeting would be posted• Suggested that a poster should be placed in the Notice Board in large print advising public have the right to attend council meetings via ZOOM as well as face to face. <p>MINUTE 65 – PLANNING</p> <p>20/1121 Tree – Wych Elm Tree School Bank No objections Cllr Kibble advised that normally Tree applications do not appear on the planning portal.</p> <p>P/2017/1289 Pwll Farm Hendomen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The siting of the access point directly opposite the entrance to The Harland, provides an ideal passing place for large vehicles and our concern is this will further encourage this sort of traffic, and exacerbate the problems described by residents in their submission to the Town Council’2. The cathedral style window may, at certain times of day, and at different times of the year may reflect the sun and provide a ‘mirror ‘effect. We would request that non reflective glass is used for this window3. That while the wildlife management plan includes translocation of hedgerow, because of the high level of failure of such works that a plan be included to mitigate this, by re-planting afresh. That the construction activity should be confined to the hours between 8am and 6 pm to avoid unreasonable nuisance to neighbours4. That damage caused to an already fragile road surface is made good by the contractors at the end of the process5. That any security and external lighting should be designed with minimal impact on neighbours and wildlife. <p>Proposed to support as above Cllr Mills, Cllr Beaven.</p> <p>MINUTE 66 – POLICIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complaints Policy Final Version - Resolved to accept the policy as received with Agenda. It was identified that a Complaints Committee was required2. Cllr Thomas advised that naming the Clerk as designated Health & Safety Officer without consultation would have implications regarding her time and job description and this would need consultation.3. Health & Safety Policy – Cllr Kibble advised Town Clerk had been consulted with regard to this policy.	<p>Policy Team</p>
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Town Clerk advised she would definitely require training with regard to this. Cllr Lewis advised any serious reservations should be communicated to her Line Manager. This policy should be in place. 5. Cllr Thomas Proposed this policy should be approved with the amendment that Council will approve a designated Health and Safety Officer and that the policy would be refined for the next meeting. Approved 6. Suggested that meetings should be recorded to make it more efficient 7. Associated documents should be linked on the website. 	<p>TC</p>
<p>MINUTE 67 – COVID 9 RELATED PROBLEMS</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Mills advised that he and Cllr Beaven had completed a Risk Assessment for the Public Conveniences. Cllr Mills had cordoned off a cubicle in the ladies’ toilet and a urinal in the gents. Bilingual signs had been produced by Cllr Thomas and were already displayed along with inspection report to be completed daily. 2. Volunteers had offered to organize a Rota for cleaning the toilets but councillors felt this was not appropriate and that employing a local person via a contract which had proper associated risk assessments in place was preferable. 3. It was agreed to contact the cleaning service used previously and request they undertake to clean every morning seven days per week. 4. Cllr. Lewis was concerned about the costs for this, as the budget had been affected by closure, and lack of income. 5. Enquire if volunteers would be able to undertake regular checks and report any problems to Town Clerk or a Councillor. 6. ONLY outside entrance will be open, internal door MUST remain closed. 7. Cleaning Service will be asked to provide Risk Assessments for their employee. 8. As per the July minutes this will be reviewed in October. 	<p>AGENDA OCT</p>
<p>PLAY PARKS</p>	
<p>Risk Assessments had been completed by Cllr’s Weaver and Kibble. Bilingual signs have been produced by Cllr Thomas. Advisory Notices are placed within the play area. Cllr Kibble will monitor the play areas. These will be open on Saturday 8th August 2020.</p>	
<p>Break for 10 minutes at 20.35 hours Resume at 20.45 hours</p>	
<p>MINUTE 68 – THE BRADES</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Lewis requested this be included - that this was a non - urgent agenda item and objected on procedural grounds. 2. Cllr Thomas made a statement regarding the Brades and Cllr Lewis replied to that statement. <p>Cllr Thomas advised she would leave the meeting along with Cllr Lewis.</p>	

3. Cllr Beaven was saddened by the outcome and the potential loss of Cllr Thomas expertise.
4. Cllr Stephenson felt they should continue to work together and advised in his opinion, there were issues with the whole council.
5. Cllr Hayes requested permission to speak to advise that there was a meeting scheduled in a week's time and he had reservations having both of the Councillors at that meeting as it would show Montgomery Town Council in a poor light.
Also, Cllr Lewis had invited Russell Georges office to attend the meeting
6. Cllr Kibble advised Cllr Lewis had been put into a difficult position, Cllr Thomas had a lot of information and she was loath to lose that.
7. Cllr Hayes thanked the Chairman for allowing him to speak and advised if the meeting goes ahead next week other Councillors would not be up to speed. It was important not to lose sight of the issue and it may be prudent to defer the meeting to a later date. Councillors felt it was not productive to have a long delay. It was suggested to arrange a meeting in September following the council meeting.
8. Cllr Weston advised the meeting could be deferred in a valuable way but she didn't feel knowledgeable enough about the Brades.
9. Cllr Beaven proposed Cllr Kibble as a representative which she accepted Members AGREED.
10. Cllr Kibble proposed Cllr Beaven as a representative to which she also AGREED.
11. Cllr Kibble suggested the Town Clerk should attend the meeting to take notes.
12. Cllr Hayes advised he would contact the Officers to arrange a date but could not promise an early date. Cllr Hayes wished to know if this meeting should be widened to include Russell George members agreed this would be appropriate.
13. It was agreed to draw a line under this matter in order to make progress.

Cllr's Thomas & Lewis returned to the meeting

14. There had been some confusion regarding discussions at the meeting in February: -

For clarification AGREED Minutes February 2020

1. **Cllr Lewis and Cllr Thomas had undertaken some research into the legalities of this and it was possible that Powys CC had not followed all due process. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas would draft a letter to Powys CC.**
2. **Once clarification and a response to correspondence is received council will request Powys CC to visit the site along with the owners of the property.**

Cllr Weston advised she had felt relieved when Cllr Thomas offered to draft the letter.

MINUTE 69 – CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Weston will notify Facebook regarding opening of Play Area.

Public Conveniences will open 10th August, cleaned once daily and monitored by volunteers if possible.

Bob Jones has requested a letter of thanks to the person who trimmed trees in Broad Street (Cllr Lewis to provide name of person)

Write to Mrs. Pugh thanking her for her years of service to the Crier.

MINUTE 70 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Town Hall

20's plenty idea

Safe Guarding (Policy)

Complaint Committee TOR and appointments

Assets Committee TOR and appointments

Town Hall Finance

Precept

Allotments

Accessibility Website

Policies for approval