

Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7.15 pm.

**This meeting was recorded.**

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

**MINUTE 123 - Apologies**

No apologies

**MINUTE 124 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Weston – Item 13 Publicity & News Team

**MEMBERS of the public were invited to speak.**

**MINUTE 125 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Cllr Andrew advised Senior Citizens Party in January 2021 had unfortunately been cancelled.
2. A group of residents are working on a virtual New Year event.
3. There will be a low - key Christmas Lights switch on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks, were given to all organisers for putting a sparkle into a different Christmas switch on.

**MINUTE 126 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

RESOLVED to approve both sets of minutes, no amendments requested.

**MINUTE 127 – INFORMATION FROM THOSE MINUTES**

1. **Minute 101** - Lowered Pavement – e mail received advising Powys CC would be looking into this.
    - 1a Bus Stop – E Mail sent, no reply as yet.
  2. **Minute 106** – The Brades – Requested Town Clerk to contact Powys CC for updates following their recent meeting with Welsh Government
- AGREED

**Cllr Jones joined the meeting**

3. **Minute 108** – Town Hall – Town Clerk had spoken with Mr. Humphreys who felt a Structural Engineer was not required. Cllr Weaver advised he felt a Structural Engineer should have viewed this originally. Town Clerk had taken more photographs and sent them to the loss adjuster who advised in her opinion the cracks shown were due to age.
4. Live Streaming of the Remembrance service was much appreciated.

TC

TC

<p>5. Suggested a sign should be placed by the Euro Bin to advise no fly tipping. Powys CC had advised they would send signs for this.</p> <p>6. <b>Minute 110</b> – Council page on the website now links to What’s on Calendar. A filter category of council or civic has also been placed on What’s On calendar. Need to advise publicity team of any meetings for them to be included on the calendar.</p> <p>7. <b>Minute 119</b> – BT had been contacted and council have until end of the end of financial year to make a decision whether to purchase phone box.</p> <p>8. Breakdown of renewed costs for various building works had not been received.</p> <p>9. A reply had been received from Tennis Club. Suggesting cones could be placed outside the property.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 128 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>Cllr Hayes advised that the Powys CC committee had today held their AGM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the motions was to tighten restrictions on puppy and kitten trading.</li> <li>• A contentious motion to keep gyms open during future lockdowns.</li> <li>• Motion to embrace the victim support hate crime charter which was well supported.</li> <li>• Some months ago, it was reported on the improvement of Social Services, since then a monitoring visit had been undertaken meaning Welsh Government had now ceased their monitoring of Powys Social Services</li> <li>• Training for officers at Powys CC undertaken last week with Welsh Government about problem properties in Powys using them as case studies and The Brades was one of those case studies. A further meeting with the council could be possible shortly.</li> <li>• 20’s plenty campaign. A motion had been put forward to facilitate a 20 mile per hour speed limit.</li> <li>• Welsh Government are looking at piloting 20-mile speed limits in various towns across Wales. WG want different types of location to enable them to refine their guidance to roll this out in 2023. Guidance for local authorities is expected shortly. Cllr Hayes will keep council informed.</li> <li>• Past plans for Forden Road site have included remodelling of the junction and this must be continued in further applications.</li> <li>• Council were reminded that 25<sup>th</sup> November was White Ribbon Day when public were encouraged to speak out about gender- based violence. Cllr Hayes would be happy to discuss with interested parties the work undertaken by Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre.</li> <li>• Mention was made of an e mail received by a member of the council regarding the recent resurfacing of Pool Road. (Discussion under Highways).</li> </ul> <p><b>MINUTE 129 – HIGHWAYS</b></p> <p>1. Complaints had been received about the sub-standard material used on Pool Road.</p>	<p>Agenda</p>
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<p><b>RESOLVED</b> to approve invoices for payment  Town Clerk requested permission to attend a Virtual Practitioners Conference, 22-25<sup>th</sup> February 2021. £75 + VAT</p> <p><b>AGREED</b></p> <p><b>MINUTE 131 – TOWN HALL</b></p> <p><b>Market</b> – CT, JK and DJ held a meeting as agreed to discuss the Charter Market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markets can be held outdoors but do not have a right to create any space for that market without Highways authorization. Ongoing.</li> <li>• Market Traders are allowed to find their own space outside on Thursday market. Trading on any other day could attract a fee of a traders licence at £400 pa.</li> <li>• The group reviewed the work undertaken by Development Officer when she visited several markets in the area.</li> <li>• A market coordinator maybe asked to help with erecting and dismantling stalls etc. as part of their role.</li> <li>• Group will wait until further information is gathered before giving a further report.</li> <li>• Decisions need to be made in future how Montgomery’s market is operated.</li> <li>• A question was asked if thought had been given to promotion of the market. Nothing arranged at this time.</li> <li>• Mention was made of continuity of traders.</li> <li>• Council had agreed kitchen would be closed at the last meeting. Market traders advised that any mess left in the kitchen was not done by them.</li> <li>• Supply of water for traders was discussed. Councillors were informed that there was a supply of hot and cold water in the toilets and in the cleaning cupboard. It was suggested Council could supply water in containers, Councilors were reminded about single plastic use.</li> <li>• A check will be made regarding drinking water with Health &amp; Safety/Environmental Health Powys CC.</li> </ul> <p><b>BREAK 20.35-20.45</b></p> <p><b>Market Liaison</b> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be discussed by the market group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency use of Town Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School reviewing emergency policy and Town Hall was considered as a suitable place to use in an extreme situation. School Governors agreed by council will liaise with their committee and advise the outcome at January 2021 meeting.</li> <li>• Suggested a list of key holders be made available to all.</li> <li>• It was suggested the Head Teacher could hold a key. School Governors will check if this is required at their next meeting. A key safe was suggested costs will be sought.</li> </ul>	<p>CT</p> <p>JK&amp; WB</p> <p>TC</p>
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<p>from the actual plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– the severely affected proximate property, Oakfield Cottage, is not shown at all on the plans</li><li>– there has been no consultation with neighbours. We recognise this is not obligatory but given the nature of the site would have been appropriate</li><li>– no site notice has been posted so neighbouring properties were largely unaware of the proposal.</li></ul> <p>The Town Council would respectfully ask that the Planning Officer makes a site visit as it is difficult to truly appreciate the challenges of the site and proximity of neighbouring properties without.</p> <p>The existing workshop has been used for storage of a commercial nature and the site never residential but there appears to be no change of use submitted for this site.</p> <p>Following comments from the Built Heritage Officer on previous iterations the proposal has been moved slightly away from the Listed wall and an HIA produced but both house size and height have been substantially increased rather than reduced in size as requested. The roof will now be very visible from a number of perspectives, (including Montgomery Castle?) and impacting adversely on the neighbouring properties.</p> <p><b>Design</b></p> <p>CADW Conservation principles state: <i>the quality of design and execution must add value to the site and its setting.</i></p> <p>This is patently not the case here. The house bears no relationship to its early Victorian neighbours in either design or construction materials and does nothing to add value to either the constrained and dark site or the setting of the neighbouring Listed Old Gaol Gatehouse where there will be an adverse impact on the courtyard from the rendered wall of the proposed dwelling. The roof is to be of steel which is completely incongruous in this area and the steep pitch does not reflect the immediately adjacent properties. The roof will also be clearly visible, particularly in autumn and winter months, from Castle Hill.</p> <p>This proposal is within the Conservation Area and the Town Council considers that special regard should be given to maintaining visual integrity.</p> <p>The building almost fills the cell yard making this a cramped site with virtually no usable outdoor space and limited natural light.</p> <p>There have been no attempts to incorporate low energy features which should be a pre-requisite for any new build.</p> <p><b>Amenity</b></p> <p>Due to the height of the proposal there will be considerable loss of light to the gardens / courtyard of, predominantly, Oakfield Cottage but also Oakfield Lodge and a completely unacceptable overlooking and loss of privacy to long established properties.</p> <p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>Although not specifically a material planning consideration the Town Council and residents have concerns regarding the construction phase of any property on the site given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– the very close proximity to 7 existing properties causing noise and disruption</li><li>– unusually poor site access through the small doorway in the Listed wall</li><li>– difficult, potentially dangerous, access for large construction vehicles on Gaol Road with right angled turn to the property and generally increased</li></ul>	
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<p>traffic on this narrow residential road. There is no alternative access available.</p> <p><b>Ecology</b> There is believed to be a bat roost on the site, either in the trees or potentially the workshop itself, and residents are aware of large numbers of bats in the immediate vicinity. The trees on the site are certainly part of a bat commuting corridor. The Town Council would suggest it is expedient to obtain an independent survey. Thank you for giving Montgomery Town Council the opportunity to comment on these applications</p> <p>Comments were gained from residents verbally and written. Confirmed that residents had also sent comments to Planning at Powys CC Committee were thanked for their thorough work on this. RESOLVED to forward to Planning at Powys CC.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 134 – COMMUNITY NEWS TEAM</b></p> <p>Cllr Weston left the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Destination Montgomery funding has come to an end and this has an impact on contracted work undertaken by the Community News Team. Council would have to support taking this role forward.</li><li>• The role includes coordinating the news activity and bi monthly meetings, weekly County Times submissions, Website and What's On. The Consultants loss would be considered striking.</li><li>• There is a budget set in the Precept for News/Events.</li><li>• Issues were raised with regard to payment. Monthly invoices are received at the moment and paid through DM.</li><li>• Town Clerk agreed to check on the legalities of employing a self-employed consultant/sole trader who also happened to be a Councillor in order to ensure council were compliant. AGREED</li></ul> <p>Cllr Weston returned to the meeting</p> <p><b>MINUTE 135 – TOURISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Kibble wished to advise that Tourism had signed up to Helo Blod scheme which meant they could get a certain amount of translation from Welsh to English or vice versa. It is working well and worth any groups looking into this.</li><li>• Can Do number seven has gone out widely to communities and local business.</li><li>• Wonders of the Borders film will be screened in Spring.</li><li>• Contact had been made with Montgommery in France.</li><li>• Hungarian video has gone well with a substantial number of views and the response has been amazing.</li></ul>	<p>TC</p>
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**MINUTE 135 – SOLUTIONS FOR POOR BROADBAND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

- Letter had been received from Rural Development Officer regarding the above. Cllr Stephenson is happy to take this forward along with local infrastructure with British Telecom.
- Will publicise for community comments.

AGREED.

- Agreed to check on other service providers regarding new contract.

Gwil S

**MINUTE 136 – ASSET WORKING GROUP**

- A discussion had taken place regarding scanning certain documents, it was suggested that £100 could be spent from the budget this year. This will be referred to Finance Committee in December.
- Cllr Kibble asked for hedge cutting to be undertaken at Gaol Road. Town Clerk advised she had been in touch with the contractor but had not received a reply.
- Playground group will apply for funding for a piece of equipment for Gaol Road playground. AGREED

Gwil S

**MINUTE 137 – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THIS MEETING**

Senior Citizens Party, New Year, Christmas Lights, Tree by Post Office, Publicising Street Lighting forms, Broadband issues, Euro Bin Town Hall.

**MINUTE 138 – CLOS TAN Y MUR**

- Councillors who are Trustees need to set a meeting for the Clos Tan y Mur Fund. Statements will be obtained, this will allow Trustees to consider any funding available and a meeting will be arranged in the New Year.

**RESOLVED**

‘In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960(2) the Town Council resolves that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.’

**MINUTE 139 – NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT**

E mail received asking for this item to be discussed in private session.

An unknown person had been leaving dog faeces on this business' doorstep and he/she felt this could be a vindictive act.

Councillors were sorry to hear about these problems, council would like to think this is not a targeted campaign but carelessness and thoughtlessness.

Powys CC should be contacted requesting support with this but the difficulty is that people are not willing to report these actions.

Dyfed Powys Police have been contacted regarding this.

A video camera could be purchased and set up to help, or a covert camera installed temporarily by the Police.

Cllr Thomas & Cllr Mills left the meeting as they needed to attend an alarm call.

Suggested that Social Media is used to advertise there are dog bins for disposal in town.

Police may have posters they can put on lamp posts.

Letter from council to advise his/her concerns have been noted.

**AGREED**