

Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 25th February 2021 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, O Lewis, G Stephenson.
R Harper

MINUTE 166 - Apologies

Cllr D Jones – Work commitments

MINUTE 167 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Weston – Planning Forden Road

Cllr C Thomas – Market Square

MEMBERS of the public were invited to speak.

Town Clerk had received an e mail regarding Tidying the area at the Monument, there was some confusion over which monument.

Cllr Lewis thought it may be the land at the Old Reservoir so he had provided an explanation and photograph which will be sent to the member of public. Also requesting further clarity should it be required.

MINUTE 168 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Cllr Andrew advised there would be a 5minute break at approximately 20.30 hours
2. Meeting was expected to finish at 22.15 hours
3. Relevant documents have been received could members be concise and to the point in discussions.
4. Members of the public and councillors were made aware that recordings or photography was not allowed without prior permission as per Standing Orders.

MINUTE 169 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Minutes 28th January 2021

RESOLVED to approve minutes,

MINUTE 170 – INFORMATION FROM THOSE MINUTES

No information

MINUTE 171 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- County Councils budget meeting had taken place today. Council was advised that Council Tax will rise by 2.9%.
- Majority of County Council budget comes from the Welsh Government, over the past few years it has depleted, but this year there had been a 4% increase. Grant support depends on a number of statistical factors i.e., benefits and free school meals.
- Highways will benefit from this.
- Grants have been promised from Welsh Government which were not expected.
- A sum to fund privately owned empty houses back into use under the Safe Warm and Secure Landlord loans to help with affordable housing.
- Increase recycling percentage to 70% by 2024/2025 and reduce landfill to 5%
- Preliminary comments regarding Forden Road/New Road planning application have been made and request has been made to call it into committee.
- Consultation beginning re closure of Churchstoke school.
- Thanks to Cllr Hayes and Powys CC for replacing fence on Bishops Castle Street.

MINUTE 172 – HIGHWAYS

- There have been issues raised regarding a taxi and minibus parked in Market Square. Licensing have been made aware of this.
- Parking is particularly difficult on market day and this will be considered on a future agenda.

MINUTE 173 – FINANCE

All councillors had been provided with a list of invoices for payment.

BACS	R V Williams – Structural Survey	108.00
	T Banks – Return Deposit	375.00
	VMRC -Funds Owing	414.00
	Universal Fire – Alarm Town Hall	756.84
	HMRC – Tax	43.40
	G Smith – Expenses	22.50
	Salary	684.10
	Viking – Printer Ink	49.48
	My Town Media – Grass Cutting Advert	40.00
	Gaskells Waste – Euro Bin	28.55
D/D	Powys CC – Business Rates	974.00
	BT - Internet	105.84
	BT – Phone	70.08
	EDF Electric	77.00
	EDF Electric	35.00

RESOLVED to approve invoices for payment

- Cashflow had been provided for all Councillors to review.
- Forecasted an income of £52,687 and had actually received to date £56k
- Finance Committee had agreed there were sufficient funds to pay for overtime.
- Cllr Lewis – Felt that this was covering of the tracks because money had been earmarked for other projects that had been spent and now the finance committee has advised that cashflow will be allocated to different pots.
- To re-affirm Earmarked Funds will be transferred to a separate account as agreed previously by Finance Committee at the end of March 2021.

MINUTE 174 – TOWN HALL

- Waiting for updated costings on the snagging list
- Post Covid plans were discussed, it may be possible DM may be able to get involved with promotion of the market and Town Hall.
- Bar license has not been resolved at present
- Fire alarm is now working efficiently, a cabinet with log book has been installed next to the fire alarm plus a map of the fire alarm system
- Monthly fire alarm tests will be carried out.
- A question was raised regarding repointing, awaiting new quote from builder.

MINUTE 175 – TOURISM

- Draft Minutes sent to all councillors.
- Hungarian Day suggestions had been forwarded to councillors for information.
- Two thousand each of the five trail leaflets were in the library until they can be distributed again.
- Self - Catering accommodations are receiving a number of enquiries
- Walkers are Welcome have made a grant application to develop some leaflets for bus walks. If this is successful it will give seven further walks.
- Consideration had been given to supporting town business going forward and a number of ideas were considered.
- Members were made aware of a Business Directory with around one hundred entries, all business for which DM held contact details for should be contacted and invited to share their details. Businesses should be encouraged to allow the information to be published. This could have a more prominent position on the website and there is a 'get listed' button on the webpage.

MINUTE 176 – PLANNING

21/0145/TRE Work to tree within Conservation Area. Spar shop, Broad Street
Town Council may have no objection to this proposed work but insufficient information is provided to make an informed judgement. The application requires a clear site plan and report from a qualified tree surgeon. We observe

that it would be unusual to pollard a sycamore and the tree may not respond well.

We consider the application should be resubmitted with sufficient information to assess a proposal in a Conservation Area.

21/0032/FUL Engineering work associated with P2017/1289 Pwll Farm, Hendomen

Montgomery Town Council were unable to identify any material changes to this application and the comments made in our previous responses stand.

21/0069/FUL two external doorways

21/0070/LBC removal of existing 1918 partitions forming internal flats, provide new timber stud walls to existing flats, do refits. Old Gaol, Old Gaol Road.

Montgomery Town Council considered these two applications together as forming part of one overall proposal for refurbishment of the Old Gaol and has no objection to the works proposed.

However, there are significant concerns regarding both parking and manoeuvring space for vehicles given the proximity of three existing dwellings in the Old Gaol complex and access for neighbouring properties. Traffic management at the site requires careful consideration to avoid the possibility of congestion, nuisance and danger to residents.

The Town Council expressed concerns regarding limited parking in response to the original application and would reiterate these concerns. The application should demonstrate there is sufficient off-road parking for the number of bedrooms to be provided and that this parking or access, will not adversely impact on any existing properties at the Old Gaol, Old Gaol Road, Castle Terrace, Chirbury Gate or the well-used footpath to Chirbury Road (which additionally provides access to the rear of a number of properties) or access by emergency vehicles.

Given this is a residential area and, in particular, the very close proximity of the three existing residencies in the complex, Town Council would request that a Planning Condition be placed on construction limiting deliveries to 8am – 6pm daily with no working at weekends or Bank Holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances.

21/0205/TRE works to a number of trees at Tre Llidiart Chirbury Road

Montgomery Town Council fully supports this programme of remedial works to trees within the curtilage of Tre Llidiart.

We commend the well evidenced application that clearly indicates the position of trees and exact work to be carried out contained within the tree surgeon's report.

The above proposals from the Planning Committee were discussed and supported as individual items and will be forwarded to Powys CC as such.

MINUTE 177 – COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Complaints committee had shared proposals which had not been discussed at January’s meeting.

This is a non-controversial document which focuses the council’s attention on fundamental principals which they are asked to take on board.

RESOLVED to endorse these proposals

MINUTE 178– POLICIES

- Need to ensure model policies gained from other sources are suitable for the size of council. Policies can be changed and amended on review.
- A single member of the policies and documents group will e mail documents with a deadline. That person will be the return point for said comments, will maintain version control, and will send a single version to the Clerk for the meeting pack.
- Review dates are at the bottom of the document and will be considered one month prior to the next review date.
- TOR for committees will be examined annually along with any policies that committee has responsibility for

Resolved review documents annually on their review date.

- Each policy should be adhered to and this should be in TOR for the relevant committee.

Resolved

Resolved to have an annual manual to ensure the policies are reviewed.

**Anti - Bulling & Harassment
Equality & Diversity**

Both policies had been forwarded to councillors for consideration prior to the meeting

Resolved to approve both policies

Asset Group – Town Clerk had been invited to this meeting where various ideas were discussed. TOR will be discussed at March meeting

MINUTE 179 – ALLOTMENTS

This is carried forward from January’s agenda, the document had been discussed previously in June.

- Council was asked to consider an apology to the allotment holders.
- Collection of allotment fees, the allotment holders will be advised of the bank details for payment if they wish to pay through the BACS system but will be able to pay by either cheque or cash if they wish.
- A new map has been supplied by allotment holders
- All allotment holders have a copy of their agreement, but this will also be placed on website.

OL

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotment holders had topped and sided the hedge any future expenditure should be considered in the precept.• Allotment holders are considering ideas for a strategy in due course• Subsidence issue has been addressed• Town Clerk will speak to Cllr Jones with regard to his continuing help with allotments• It may be possible to renew a fence at the allotment with monies from Whitegate Pool budget and assistance from footpath maintenance volunteers.• Allotment fees will be discussed at March meeting• It was proposed that Cllr Lewis liaises with allotment holders, along with Cllr Jones.• Cllr Lewis proposed he will draft an apology for March meeting which has been agreed in principle.• Church Bank allotments also need to be included in any decisions• Council was requested to consider an apology to allotment holders• Cllr Lewis proposed he will draft an apology for March meeting which has been agreed in principle. <p>Break 20.43 – 20.50</p> <p>MINUTE 180 – MONTGOMERY INSTITUTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Queries were raised regarding the Governance of the Institute• How are you able to become a member of the Institute, what is the distinction between a member, trustee and officer?• Two councillors had viewed a lot of archived documentation which proved the Institute belonged to this council, including affidavit signed by a magistrate saying this was the case.• Does this have implications regarding management of the Institute?• A matter had been raised regarding AGM this can be conducted on ZOOM.• Trustees are available on the Charity website• Council is legally the Custodian Trustee of the Institute. The Institute operates under a standard governing document. The relationship with the council is formal, council has the right to nominate a member of the council to join that committee and they are a trustee.• For information - council have a similar relationship with Activity Centre and Recreation Association council are Custodian Trustees of that property as well. Council are also Custodian Trustees of the County Memorial as well.• Cllr Beaven as elected member will enquire at the next meeting of the Institute questions raised above.• Archived documents will be reviewed in relation to the Activity Centre.• Assets of interest are being documented at present.	<p>AGENDA</p> <p>AGENDA OL</p>
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MINUTE 181 – REVIEW REMUNERATION FRAMEWORK

Letter asking for councils to assist with the review of the framework
Cllrs noted that the letter received did not make it clear what participation would entail.

RESOLVED to assist with the review

MINUTE 182 – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THIS MEETING

Allotments to be added to website,
Planning for houses on Forden Road. Publication and public meeting will be arranged between Planning Committee members, the Community News Team and Cllr Stephenson"

MINUTE 183 – CORRESPONDENCE

None

MINUTE 184 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Cemetery Fees Cllr Beaven
Markets – Market Group
VMRC – Cllr Kibble
Town Survey – Cllr Lewis
Assets
Allotments
Invite Newtown Town Council representative
To discuss town survey

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS: Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (2) to resolve 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