

Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7.15 pm.

This meeting was recorded.

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

MINUTE 208 - Apologies

Cllr. D Jones – Work Commitment

MINUTE 209 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations

No requests to speak from members of the public

MINUTE 210 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Cllr Andrew advised there would be a 5minute break at approximately 20.30 hours
2. Cllr Andrew reminded all councillors and members of the public that they were not allowed to make recordings of the meeting.

MINUTE 210 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Minutes - 25th March 2021

RESOLVED to approve minutes,

MINUTE 211 – INFORMATION FROM THOSE MINUTES

- Apology letter for Allotment holders in Tan y Mur had been circulated prior to this meeting. Agreed at a previous meeting.
- Two councillors had attended a Powys CC meeting and were advised there could be assistance for council's providing public toilets, this would not be retrospective.
- The issue of Business Rates was raised at the meeting but no meaningful answer was received.
- Bollards rather than fixed signs can be used for the Charter Market on Thursdays.
- Website team are in the process of arranging a meeting

MINUTE 212 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

No Report this month

MINUTE 213 – HIGHWAYS

- A question was raised regarding a road closure sign near Princes Street/Chirbury Road, as there did not appear to be a road closure in place
- Cracked manhole cover in Market Square has been reported to Powys CC.

MINUTE 214 – FINANCE

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

BACS	Hafren Services -Cleaning – Feb	301.50
	Hafren Cleaning - March	315.00
	G Smith - COSH Cabinet	193.30
	Salary	1177.70
	HMRC – Tax & NI	252.00
	Gakells Waste – Euro Bin	28.55
	Universal Fire – Alarm	355.20
	Hafren Dyfrdwy – Water	141.06
D/D	Powys CC – Business Rates	683.25
	BT – Phone	2.16
	ICO – Registration	35.00
	EDF – Electricity	77.00
	EDF – Electricity	35.00

RESOLVED to approve invoices for payment

- Update on additional signatures for bank account. Original document had been signed by proposed new signatories and should have been signed by present signatories.
- Zurich Insurance quote for 2021/2022 - AGREED.

MINUTE 215 – TOWN HALL

- Market traders using the Town Hall had spoken with Town Clerk to advise they were extremely disappointed with council's proposal to close the Town Hall Easter – September. Fruit and Vegetable stall in particular were concerned as the heat in Summer could spoil a considerable amount of their produce. It was proposed to take this back to the market group for consideration.
- A letter had been received from Mr. Jones, firstly to clear up the six - month rule for Councillors if they fail to attend meetings. Initially, in March 2020 the rule was very clear that the first meeting for attendance in Montgomery's case would be April 2020.
- These rules were updated by Welsh Government to include dispensation for any member who did not have access to meetings via electronic devices or had work related issues.
- It is quite possible some meetings may continue to be held on Zoom for the time being.
- Town Clerk will check if an upgrade would be needed to join Zoom via mobile phone.

Cllr Lewis internet connection lost

- A financial projection of costs had been provided to councillors as a comparison for employment of an operative against contract cleaner. At present the contract cleaner worked one hour per day opening and cleaning toilets seven days per week plus two hours cleaning the lower floor after market. It was proposed that an employed person could work fourteen hours per week at approximately the same cost.

Cllr Lewis re-joined the meeting.

- Issues were discussed regarding payments and how hours worked by an employed person could be more beneficial to the council.
- Suggestion was made that Staffing Committee would consider a suitable job description and title for the role for the next council meeting in May.
- Financial costs will be reviewed again using the living wage suggested by Government.

Cllr Lewis internet connection lost

MINUTE 216 – TOURISM

- Notes from the meeting had been circulated to councillors by the Chairman of Tourism.
- ToR will need to be re-considered if the group continue to hold meetings without administration from the Town Clerk,
- Cllr Lewis re-joined the meeting

MINUTE 217 – PLANNING

21/0703VAR

- Application for a variation to the original condition put on a few houses at Mortimer Road designated for affordable housing.

No objections

21/0516/HH

- Erection of detached garage.
Plas Newydd , Montgomery

No objections

MINUTE 218 – ALLOTMENTS

- This item regarding increase in allotment rent was not considered important at this time. It was suggested that maybe this should be discussed prior to the Precept to give allotment holders notice of any increase in rent.
- An issue was raised regarding how much council were expecting to collect from allotment holders 2021/2022 It was expected that the amount raised would fall short of the amount expected from the Precept.
- An issue had been raised by a resident of Church Bank who regularly provides water for that allotment, she has asked permission to place a gate at the bottom of her garden to allow access and is also willing to provide this at her own cost. There are three other houses that have gates leading to the allotment.

The resident has spoken to Powys CC to gain permission for this.
AGREED

Break five minutes

A conversation took place during the break whether costings for the bar should have been discussed under Town Hall. Also, a discussion regarding the many type of boiler that may be available to council including electric and ECO. All councillors would be included in the discussions after the break.

Further Town Hall issues will be discussed in private session.

MINUTE 219 – CELEBRATION OF LIVES LOST

- As there were a number of people who may have unfortunately lost a relative or friend during the pandemic (not necessarily from Covid 19) it was suggested that a town event could be held to remember those people.
- Possibly organise a working party and bring back ideas to a future council meeting. AGREED
- A further suggestion was made to link a PAVO reward for the town, to celebrate lives lost and the community spirit of Montgomery at the same time.
- A check should be made with the Church and Chapel to make sure they have not planned similar.
- Cllr Kibble will organise the help required.

MINUTE 220 – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MEETING

Monty Hour has organised a Hustings for 29th April

MINUTE 221 – CORRESPONDENCE

Mini Monty's – Request to use the Playing Field for a Teddy Bear's picnic, Town Clerk had replied advising this would be acceptable.
ICO – Councillors have not had sight of this prior to the meeting.

JK

MINUTE 222 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Play Park, Face to Face Meetings, Dog Bins, Telephone Box,

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

DRAFT