

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

This meeting was recorded.

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

MINUTE 52- Apologies

Cllr. D Jones – Work Commitment
Cllr O Lewis – Work Commitment

MINUTE 53 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations

No requests to speak from members of the public

MINUTE 54 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Members were reminded to keep succinct and courteous
- When items have been agreed and a proposal has been passed, the six-month rule applies.
- A litter pick around town has not taken place yet, this will be organised when the litter bins are replaced.
- Interviews will take place on Monday for the Town Operative post.

MINUTE 55 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Minutes – 24th June 2021

RESOLVED to approve minutes with amendments as suggested.

MINUTE 56 – INFORMATION FROM THOSE MINUTES

24.06.21 –

- WG intend to make 30 mph zones 20 mph zones in three years' time a consultation is taking place.
- Car parked at Central (TIA) was only there for unloading, they will be aware in future.
- Princes Street pavement has yet to be addressed. Photograph will be provided.
- Caerhowel Bridge – No response. Reported that a National Resources Wales van was parked there recently. Berriew CC received a response to advise the farmer would not allow access to his field until crops had been harvested in August.
- Market Square - Obstructive parking should be reported to the Police for action. No additional signage is expected.
- Hedge at Lions Bank has been done.

- Long grass at the junction of New Road has now been cut.
- No progress on a date for pointing to commence.
- No response from Countryside Services regarding Burnt House
- A member of Powys CC Planning Department will meet with VMRC to discuss a number of planning concerns.
- Dog litter signs have not been ordered.
- No further report on BT phone box
- Cycle hire letters will be delivered shortly, Cycles are being stored by the Dragon Hotel.
- Thanks to Cllr Weston for her financial report and pie charts for website and Crier

MINUTE 57 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Local Government Minister issued a statement advising changes were taking place and from the next election the ward Montgomery sits in will be a new ward of Forden and Montgomery. This ward will have twice the number of electors in it and only one County Councillor.
- A proposal was made at a recent County Council meeting to re-instate a new pest control service. Final decision will be made by cabinet.
- Weed growth has increased and some parts of Montgomery are looking really bad. Local representative has changed and correspondence has not been passed to new rep.
- Controversial issue regarding planning in Hendomen. A group of residents had applied for a judicial review but this will not proceed. There are still a number of issues in Hendomen regarding speed and traffic misusing the road which should be access only. Highways will be placing vehicle counters on this road.
- A question was asked regarding the type of weedkiller used by Powys CC.
- Members were informed spraying had already taken place earlier today.
- Comments were made regarding the road surface on the Forden Road near Stalloe Farm as this could be a risk to road users.

TC

MINUTE 58 – HIGHWAYS

- Two new recruits will be undertaking Speed Awareness training
- After analysing results police have advised the camera van will be in Montgomery more regularly.
- The condition of Forden Road was again reiterated.
- Pavement at Manor Close where there are two stopcocks raised above the pavement are a trip hazard.

TC

MINUTE 59 – FINANCE

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

D/D	BT	74.40
	Powys CC – Council Tax	682.00
	EDF Energy	44.65
BACS	Salary	682.90

	Gaskells Waste	38.10
	HMRC – Tax NI	44.60
	G Smith – Expenses	32.39
	Eric Neville – Toilets	39.56
	Dr C Weston – publicity	175.00
	Hafren Services – Cleaning	684.00
	Andrew Evans – Grass Cutting	497.83
DM	S Gilder – Expenses	24.30

RESOLVED to approve invoices for payment

- Finance Committee had gone through the auditor’s comments, cashflow had been updated and bank reconciliation had been forwarded to councillors.
- A councillor had written a letter to the Internal and External Auditors which had been copied to Chair of Finance, Mayor and Town Clerk. Committee are awaiting a reply.
- Training was also discussed
- A question was raised regarding bank interest – interest rates are low at present but a percentage of funds are held in a savings account.

MINUTE 60 – TOWN HALL

- Chairman went briefly through the minutes
- Three quotes received for the boiler for discussion at the end of the meeting
- MCBPT have more questions some of which had already been answered. Members of the council need to sit down with the Trust to move forward the transfer.
- A meeting will be arranged with chairman of the Trust.
- As Landlords and Custodian Trustees council need to maintain a good working relationship with MCBPT.
- Bar Contract – Councillors had been provided with a copy of the contract. To make it absolutely clear the payment to council would be 30% of the gross takings minus £200.

RESOLVED to approve the bar contract as provided with amendments above.

- A copy of a financial projection with these figures had been provided.
- It was proposed to commence face to face meetings in September, with the caveat that should cases of Covid rise again council should be able to continue with ZOOM or dual meetings. No decision made.
- Contact various parties re video conferencing.

BREAK 10 minutes

MINUTE 61 – TOURISM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief report sent to all councillors, advising what the committee hoped to achieve. • Montgomery leaflet will be updated in the New Year along with the tourism guide. • A meeting with Craig Williams MP regarding Cross Border funding to gain support has been arranged. • Arany plaque will be mounted in Arthur Street as soon as is practicable. Launch, will probably be Spring 2022. Contact Powis Sawmills to arrange mounting. 	TC
<p>MINUTE 62 – PLANNING</p> <p>A new member required for Planning Committee Cllr Harper agreed to undertake this role. AGREED.</p> <p>Minutes for the committee were reviewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powis Estates have agreed they do own what is known as Village Green (Brades Meadow) and at present they do maintain it. Unfortunately, it appears they may not continue to do so in the near future. • If council were minded to lease this area from Powis Estates, it would be a considerable commitment and potentially very costly. Agreed that the Town Council were presently not in a position to take on the lease of this land. TC to write to Powis Estates. • 21/1163/HH – Caerhowel Hall <p>Councillors commended the application for the use of recycled materials and solar panel, also that they had used local contractors. No objections.</p> <p>Terms of Reference – AGREED with highlighted amendments</p>	TC
<p>MINUTE 63 – POLICIES FOR APPROVAL</p> <p>Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Environmental Policy – Both of these policies have been forwarded to Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and Biodiversity Officer at Powys CC Full Council will review both policies annually in the absence of a separate body. This may change if an Assets Committee is agreed in future. Proposal to accept both policies. AGREED</p> <p>A draft Reserves Policy has been forwarded to the Finance Committee</p> <p>Data Protection (update) Proposed to accept the policy. AGREED.</p>	
<p>MINUTE 64 – LITTER BINS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nexus Litter bin is free-standing. This will be ordered as per June’s meeting if Highway’s agree as this model has a larger footprint. • Original contact at Powys CC no longer works for them, awaiting a new contact. • Powys CC would be happy to empty bins for cans only, if they could be reinstated in town to help with litter and recycling. • Blue bins by the Post Office are Trade Waste. 	TC TC

<p>MINUTE 65 – CEMETERY FEES</p> <p>Carry forward to September 2021</p> <p>MINUTE 66 – ALLOTMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed a letter of appreciation would be sent to Mr Beddoes thanking him for his work at the allotment and surrounding area. • Following a visit to Church Bank allotments, it was noted that a security camera appeared to be positioned to view the allotments. A potential safeguarding issue was raised as children often work on the school allotment and also if recordings were being taken a notice should be displayed. It was agreed to contact Police, Housing and the school with regard to this. • Tan y Mur Concerns had been raised regarding the security of the fencing on the allotments. It was suggested that a quote for fencing is obtained and also whips are purchased later in the year for repair of the hedgerow. A farmer owning land adjacent to the allotment would like to see the hedgerow replaced • There are three plots that are not currently cultivated and it may be a good time to send a courteous note asking if they wish to continue to keep the allotment. <p>MINUTE 67 – COMMUNITY PICNIC</p> <p>As there will not be a Montgomery Show this year, a community picnic will be arranged for August 21st on the show field. Planning is going ahead, there will be two or three food and drink stalls available. A TEN application will be obtained for the event.</p> <p>Should toilets be considered necessary they can be hired for £25 per toilet?</p> <p>Parking will only be allowed on one side of Maldwyn Way; the other side of the road will be cordoned off to allow for emergency vehicles.</p> <p>MEG will supply litter bins.</p> <p>A small budget would be required up to £100 – AGREED</p> <p>COMMUNITY PLAN – Funding is still available from Powys CC for undertaking a Place Plan. Chairman requested any volunteers who meet to discuss this during August. Cllr’s Beaven and Stephenson agreed and Cllr Lewis had indicated previously he may be interested.</p> <p>BUSINESS SUPPORT WORKING GROUP – The group have been looking at potential to do anything with the Thermostats site. They have a meeting with a representative from Powys CC, to discuss funding and taking this forward. This will be an exploratory meeting to discuss various ideas and funding.</p> <p>MINUTE 68 – VMRC</p> <p>Various items had been reported</p> <p>Grants have been secured for the toilets in Berriew</p> <p>Clerk for VMRC will be leaving shortly</p> <p>Volunteers will shortly be starting again on footpaths.</p> <p>Powys CC have advised they will be assisting this financial year and possibly</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
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next financial year with public toilets.
Vandalism is taking place in toilets in Powys costing considerable amounts of money.
AGREED to pay annual £200 towards VMRC

MINUTE 69 - HM QUEEN ELIZABTH 11 PLATINUM JUBILEE

Platinum Celebrations will take place first week of June 2022, Mr Boundy has agreed to coordinate a Beacon for the event, he will also assist with a street party as he has all the street furniture in store.
Street closures will be free for the extended weekend. Application forms will be available three months before the event.
A question was asked if school children would be given a gift. This will be discussed at the precept meeting later in the year.

MINUTE 70 – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MEETING

News item re Town Operative. Speed Watch news items. Community picnic in August.

MINUTE 71 – CORRESPONDENCE

Football Club re junior football pitch.
Re bench and trees in Broad Street

MINUTE 72 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Community Plan
20 mph Consultation
Cemetery Fees
ToR - Finance & Tourism
Dog Waste bags
Parking Maldwyn Way
Blinds Town Hall

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

RESOLVED

<p>‘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.’</p>	