

Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 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, O Lewis, G Stephenson, R Harper

#### **MINUTE 74- Apologies**

Cllr. D Jones – Work Commitment

#### **MINUTE 75 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations

**No requests to speak from members of the public**

#### **MINUTE 76 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Town Tidy Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September meet at the Town Hall, brooms, litter pickers bags and bins are available.
- Arany plaque has now been placed in Arthur Street near the entrance to the Castle. Thanks to Powis Sawmills for an excellent job. Looking at the Hungary day for May 2022, awaiting confirmation of date.
- A request has gone in the Crier for more community garden volunteers and any excess plants other gardeners may have.
- Town events are beginning again. A community picnic took place which was very successful. Thanks to everyone for their help, also in particular the show committee. Raffle raised £270 which will be split between the play park and Mayors Charity.
- Town Crier attended a competition at Ilminster representing Montgomery. Town Crier has also been honoured by being asked to join the executive committee of the Town Crier's Guild.

#### **MINUTE 77 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

Minutes – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

RESOLVED to approve minutes.

#### **MINUTE 78 – INFORMATION FROM THOSE MINUTES**

- Princes Street uneven pavement has been dealt with
- Debris at Caerhowel Bridge has been removed
- Contact was made with residential accommodation in Market Square and visitors staying at the hotel have been requested to use the car park.
- Countryside Service have now responded and the bridge near Burnt House is on their priority list to be done before this winter.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle hire will be placed on October’s agenda</li> <li>• Pavement at Manor Close has been repaired very promptly</li> <li>• No response from Internal or External Auditor</li> <li>• Town Hall boiler is due to be installed first week in October</li> <li>• A meeting has been arranged with Powis Estates to discuss various items.</li> <li>• Town and Community councils are now expected to do an annual environmental report, County Councils have had to do this since 2019. Montgomery Town Council does have an Environmental Policy and Biodiversity action plan in place. Welsh Government will be providing guidelines</li> <li>• Litter bin has been ordered.</li> <li>• Footpath volunteers have started again and have cleared the path to the monument.</li> <li>• Visitors have commented via Mid Wales Tourism how much they like the trees on Broad Street.</li> <li>• Councillors were made aware that there was a water drain, a mains sewer an electrical junction under Mortimer Road garden at the far end.</li> <li>• Speed-watch training will be going ahead shortly.</li> </ul>	<p>AGENDA</p>
<p><b>MINUTE 79 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Council has gone back to business critical due to increase in Covid infections. This will put increased pressures on them going forward.</li> <li>• Winter pressures on health and social care tend to start around November through to February.</li> <li>• Highways engineers propose revised signage at Caerhowel Railway Bridge junctions along with road markings requesting motorists to slow down.</li> <li>• Local County Councillors usually meet with Police every six months and this took place on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Report for the period May – September for Montgomery area was, there were forty - six incidents compared to fifty in the previous period.</li> <li>• There has been a recent Police presence at Hendomen in relation to people breaching the access only restriction. Residents were disappointed that Police were only talking to the offenders and not fining them. Police protocol requires them to do an education visit first, they are intending to do an enforcement visit in the next few weeks. Police will circulate to all farming businesses in the area to remind them of their obligation to respect the access only status of Hendomen Road.</li> <li>• Mid Wales growth deal includes prospectively, if agreed by UK and Welsh Government £24 million for restoration of the Montgomery Canal. This could bring great economic benefit and tourism to the area.</li> <li>• Community Catalyst, Heather Maling who mentors people that may wish to set up a care micro - business has been invited to the Town Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> October, she will be able to provide advice along with CREDU who are a care service in Powys.</li> <li>• A question was raised regarding the restoration of the canal and linking communities for environmentally friendly, health and wellbeing of travel.</li> </ul>	<p>AGENDA</p>

<p>Joining communities to the canal would be a positive thing to include in a business case.</p> <p><b>MINUTE 80 – HIGHWAYS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following a meeting to discuss Traffic Restriction Orders with Powys CC Highways, a comprehensive paper had been provided for councillors.</li> </ul> <p><b>A decision was required for the following two items</b></p> <p>(1) to agree the proposed measures to go forward with the aim of increasing road safety in Montgomery, Hendomen and Caerhowel and in preparation for 20mph restriction zones.</p> <p>(2) to delegate responsibility for decision on minor amendments in communication with Highways to Cllrs Andrew, Harper and Kibble to expedite implementation.</p> <p>It was made clear in the proposal that there would be no costs involved for Montgomery as the work entailed would be part of the Forden Road development.</p> <p><b>Proposal to accept item (1) Cllr C Weston, seconded Cllr G Stephenson.</b> Resolved by all councillors present to accept this proposal.</p> <p><b>Proposal to accept item (2) Cllr W Beaven, seconded Cllr L Weaver</b> Resolved by all councillors present to accept this proposal to designate any minor amendments to Cllrs Andrew, Kibble and Harper. Thanks to Cllr Hayes for organising the meeting with Highways.</p> <p><b>Parking on Maldwyn Way</b> Defer to October Meeting</p> <p><b>Dog Waste Bags</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns were raised that bags may be not be used considerably.</li> <li>It was suggested an initial trial in Maldwyn Way near the football and recreation ground for six months. Propose to purchase bags up to £50 and trial as suggested in Maldwyn Way. <b>AGREED.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Bench for Maldwyn Way</b> A request has been received to site a bench which had already been approved for Whitegate Pool onto Maldwyn Way. This will be placed facing the football club on the grassed area. <b>AGREED</b></p> <p><b>MINUTE 81 – FINANCE</b> All councillors had been provided with a list of invoices for payment.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1592 1200 2013"> <thead> <tr> <th>August</th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>D/D</td> <td>BT internet</td> <td>109.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Powys CC – Council Tax</td> <td>682.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>EDF Energy</td> <td>8.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>EDF Energy</td> <td>23.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Viking – Stationery</td> <td>63.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>One Voice Wales – Training</td> <td>60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>R Harper – key</td> <td>8.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Powis Estates – Gaol Road Play Area</td> <td>26.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Andrew Evans – Grass Cutting</td> <td>497.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Dragon Hotel</td> <td>154.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	August			D/D	BT internet	109.80		Powys CC – Council Tax	682.00		EDF Energy	8.12		EDF Energy	23.32	BACS	Viking – Stationery	63.80		One Voice Wales – Training	60.00		R Harper – key	8.50		Powis Estates – Gaol Road Play Area	26.00		Andrew Evans – Grass Cutting	497.83		Dragon Hotel	154.40	<p>AGENDA</p> <p>TC</p> <p>Haydn Gwil</p>
August																																		
D/D	BT internet	109.80																																
	Powys CC – Council Tax	682.00																																
	EDF Energy	8.12																																
	EDF Energy	23.32																																
BACS	Viking – Stationery	63.80																																
	One Voice Wales – Training	60.00																																
	R Harper – key	8.50																																
	Powis Estates – Gaol Road Play Area	26.00																																
	Andrew Evans – Grass Cutting	497.83																																
	Dragon Hotel	154.40																																

	Hafren Cleaning	855.00	
	G Smith – Expenses	74.59	
	Salary	682.90	
	Mid Wales Tourism – Membership	90.00	
	Gaskells Waste	38.22	
Cheque	Welfare Fund	126.09	
Sept	BT	74.40	
	EDF Energy	69.75	
	EDF Energy	86.71	
	Powis Sawmill – Plaque	200.00	
	Gaskells Waste	38.22	
	DRB Builders (VAT)	530.00	
	AHGTC – Town Crier	35.00	
	Hafren Dyfrdwy – Water	120.24	
	G Smith – Expenses	105.77	
	Hafren Cleaning	360.90	
	Philip Humphreys	354.08	
	G17 – Website	35.00	
	Salaries	1505.32	
	VMRC – Subs	200.00	
	Dr C Weston – Publicity	350.00	
	Andrew Evans – Grass Cutting	497.83	
	Eric Neville – Town Hall Supplies	42.40	
	Powys CC – Bus Rates	682.00	
	Service Charge	18.00	
DM	Salary	187.05	

**RESOLVED** to approve invoices for payment

- Draft minutes have been circulated to councillors.
- Draft Reserve Policy will be considered by this committee and taken to October’s meeting for approval by finance and full council.
- Procurement fraud section will be placed on the Financial Risk Assessment.
- If a partnership with other groups is formed, conflict of interest should be considered and how individuals declare those interests in a similar way to councillors.

**MINUTE 82 – TOWN HALL**

- Draft minutes have been circulated to councillors.
- **MEETINGS** - Following a directive from Welsh Government regarding hybrid meetings, this meeting had continued on ZOOM. Future meetings must be given consideration.
- Clarification had been gained from a meeting attended by the chairman that meetings must have the ability to be heard but not necessarily to be seen. One Voice Wales is looking at the issue and will offer recommendations.

TC

TC

- Finance and Town Hall meetings are held back-to-back and worked well on ZOOM. Resolved to hold both of these meetings on ZOOM for the time being.
- Town Clerk was requested to make enquiries regarding meetings elsewhere which would include up to date conferencing facilities.
- If all councillors wished to meet in person, it would not contravene any rules.
- A longer-term solution would be to have a mobile solution in Montgomery which would allow tele conferencing plus other items. This would possibly require grant funding.
- October meeting will be held on ZOOM and costings will be provided and decision made moving forward.
- **BLINDS LOWER FLOOR** – A market trader has offered to fund a blind for the window on the lower floor. At certain times of the year the direct sunlight affected his produce. Town Hall committee will consider this at their next meeting. MCBPT will also need to approve this decision.
- **BANNER & SCARECROW FOR FUNDRAISER** – Scarecrows will be placed all around Montgomery, maps will be provided and entries cost £5 each. This is to raise monies for playgrounds. AGREED Town Hall can be used.
- **AGREED** to hold an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss lease of the Town Hall only on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 17.30 hours.

BREAK 10 minutes

#### **MINUTE 83 – TOURISM**

- Could events or item of news be passed to the Community News Team to allow them to be advertised on various media? An events list had been maintained for a few years now and information would be appreciated.
- What's On will be produced again in 2022.
- It is planned to hold quarterly meetings between Tourism and Destination Montgomery members.
- Project with South West Shropshire is now registered as CIC, £50,000 has been received from Shropshire Council and Powys CC will be contacted shortly to ask if they would put any funding into that project.

#### **MINUTE 84 – PLANNING**

- **THE CONDUIT** - In May meeting a potential planning issue was raised at The Conduit. This has now been checked by planning officers who have determined there is no breach of any planning conditions or any requirement for any further planning application.
- **APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE-LITTLE GALLERY** - Although councillors had been made aware of this application, official notification had not been received in time for this meeting. Would this meeting be amenable for Planning Committee consider the application, circulate their considerations to councillors and following

<p>approval, response would be forwarded to Powys CC.? AGREED  A comment was made to ask members of the planning committee to consider this application in a positive light as businesses in town should be encouraged. Chair advised members could not pre-empt the outcome of a committee discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PARKING TAN Y MUR</b> – This application had been returned by Planning. Application was for parking area at Tan y Mur, removing two lengths of hedgerow one of five metres the other four metres, to make a car access goes across an area of car parking at the bottom of Tan y Mur. As Powys CC have advised this area belongs to the council, permission is required by this council. Concerns were raised regarding loss of hedgerow continuity in both cases it would make a large gap into existing hedgerows. Concern that it may set a precedent for other residents doing likewise. Other residents had previously made enquiries and had been refused permission. There could be an issue crossing a public footpath.</li> <li>• Council is not minded to allow that use of the car park, they have concerns that it will cross a public footpath and concerns there would be nine metres in all of hedgerow removal and loss of a car parking space. AGREED.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>MINUTE 85 – CEMETERY FEES</b></p> <p>This issue has been going on for three years and responses have not answered the questions raised. A suggestion was made to invite the portfolio holder to attend a ZOOM meeting to answer the issues directly. AGREED</p>	<p>TC</p>
<p><b>MINUTE 86 – ALLOTMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Clerk had written to allotment holders in Tan y Mur whose allotments were raising concerns. One allotment is now ready for a new tenant but the other two allotment holders have assured that they will and have been working on their allotment and wished to keep them.</li> <li>• Tan y Mur and Church Bank allotments will be visited prior to the next meeting and a report will be available for council.</li> <li>• There are differing views on how an allotment should look.</li> </ul>	<p>OL</p>
<p><b>MINUTE 87 – COMMUNITY PLAN</b></p> <p>Group have met and do have a plan of action they, will be looking for volunteers within the community. Enquiries have been made with regard to funding for displays or printing etc, expected from Powys CC, but it has not been forthcoming as yet.</p>	
<p><b>MINUTE 88 – VMRC</b></p> <p>VMRC’s last meeting was with Peter Morris the professional lead for planning, this was an extremely interesting meeting. Third party representations are still an issue for town and community councils, GDPR, lack of resources to properly redact. Everything now is electronic. Clerk’s can request all communications for</p>	

a particular planning application but they often arrive after the planning decision has been made.

Town Clerk can request notifications from the Planning Portal within a radius of Montgomery, so every time something goes on the portal Clerk would be notified.

Comments were also made about some very poor applications.

LDP is up for review, this will be a complete rewrite in 2022.

**MINUTE 89 – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MEETING**

Town Tidy, other items have already been noted.

**MINUTE 90 – CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence

**MINUTE 91 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Cemetery Fees

Blinds Town Hall

Reserves Policy

Assets Group ToR

Check Finance ToR

Updates from Powis Estates Meeting

Disabled Toilet Radar Lock

Cycles for decision.

Mowing Regime

Climate Emergency letter

Rubbish under highways

Coffee Morning for TH

Benches and trees

Staffing