

Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 28th October 2021 at 7.15 pm.

This meeting was recorded.

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

MINUTE 92 - Apologies

Cllr. D Jones – Illness
Cllr M Mills - Holiday
Cllr L Weaver - Holiday

MINUTE 93 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations

No requests to speak from members of the public

MINUTE 94 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New equipment will be trialled ready for a hybrid meeting in November
- Thanks to all those who took part in the town tidy, special thanks to two residents who undertook extra tidying in Princes Street.
- Scarecrows have been absolutely splendid, with lots of families enjoying them.
- Remembrance Service will take place at The Pound on 14th November, there will not be a church service this year. The service at The Pound will be livestreamed. Refreshments will be available following the service.
- Seniors party will take place in January 2022, this will be an afternoon tea and entertainment.

Cllr Lewis joined the meeting

Cllr Kibble thanked Councillors for the pleasant, courteous and purposeful meetings over the last few months.

MINUTE 95 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Minutes – 23rd & 29th September 2021

RESOLVED to approve minutes.

MINUTE 96 – INFORMATION FROM THOSE MINUTES

- The report from the Active Travel Group had come out for consultation and surprisingly Montgomery was not on the map or mentioned in terms of active travel. It was agreed to write advising Montgomery is interested in this active travel route.

JK

- Dog waste bags have arrived
- Partnerships and declarations of interest, maybe something for the Trust to consider as there are a number of business interests within the group.
- Town Clerk had purchased a speaker to assist with hybrid meetings.

MINUTE 97 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor was unable to join the meeting due to technical issues.

MINUTE 98 – HIGHWAYS

- It has been reported that nearly all of the drains along Princes Street appear to be blocked.
- A loose railing has been reported toward the Castle on Kerry Road,
- A question was raised regarding rubble and timber left near a property on Pool Road. This is being investigated.
- Brambles are overhanging on Arthur Street; this appears to be an annual issue.
- There have been several vehicles damaged due to road users who do not take care, particularly when road work signage is not removed following road works. Cars parked on pavements is a problem for pedestrians and disabled.
- Water housing in the vicinity of Maldwyn Way allotment has been damaged.
- A suggestion was made to have a bench in the small garden area in Arthur Street following a number of requests for more benches. Other locations were also suggested.
Councillors were asked to take a photo of suitable areas and forward them to Cllr Stephenson.
Consideration will be given to the placement of various benches.
- Cycles purchased some years ago through grant funding are no longer in use. Advice will be sought if council are allowed to sell these cycles.
Proposal - council would be minded to sell the cycles locally if allowed.
AGREED.

TC

JK/OL

TC

Gwil

TC

MINUTE 99 – FINANCE

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

BACS	Davies Robert Bowen – Builder	4705.31
	Montgomery Weddings – Service	120.00
Chq	D Stephens – Honorarium	500.00
	Mayor’s Allowance	700.00
	Gaskells – Waste	38.10
	Andrew Evans – Grass Cutting	497.83
	Salaries	1223.44
	R Harper – key	8.50
	G Smith – Expenses	152.99
	R Bunner – Town Hall	8.70
	Eric Neville – Repair Dishwasher	192.00
	PPL/PRS- Music Licence	214.05

	HMRC	104.67
	BT – Internet	109.80
	BT Phone – Phone	37.20
	EDF - Electric	76.45
	EDF Eectric	96.56

RESOLVED to approve invoices for payment

- Draft minutes have been circulated to councillors.
- Reserve Policy had been forwarded to councillors for approval. A discussion to place regarding level of reserves required and it was agreed 50-75%. Proposed to accept the policy. **AGREED**
- Initial precept figures had been prepared by RFO and forwarded to councillors. These will be updated, discussed and agreed ready for a separate meeting in December.
- Terms of Reference Finance. **AGREED**

MINUTE 100 – TOWN HALL

- Minutes had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.
- A speaker had been purchased ready for hybrid meetings. This will be tested prior to November meeting.
- Quotes had been received for the repair and or replacement of the fire alarm.
Following an in-depth discussion, it was agreed to gain independent advice.

BREAK 10 minutes

- Feedback from MCBPT – It was suggested that Town Hall Committee at their next meeting have the latest lease in hand to ensure the points raised were considered thoroughly.
- Toilets had been discussed at a previous meeting and a proposal had been made regarding the management going forward. At the extraordinary meeting a further different proposal had been put forward. Both proposals need to be considered carefully prior to agreement.
- MCBPT will be checking with PAVO with regard to how ownership of the toilets would affect grant application.
- As there are elections in May 2022 a question was raised should the transfer take place prior to that? Should townspeople decide?
- Council will invite MCBPT to a joint meeting to discuss the way forward. This meeting will not have an agender.
- Snagging list has not been completed to satisfaction. Back doors are considered unsatisfactory and draft excluder is not fit for purpose. Project Manager will be contacted.
- Separate Meter for toilet. – quote has been noted for future reference.
- Radar Key Toilets – It was agreed to purchase a radar lock for the toilet door.
- Toilet outer door has been damaged. This door is not considered fit for purpose Photos will be taken of the doors and Project Manager will be contacted.

TC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blinds on lower floor – Hooks for hanging drapes is being trialed on the upper floor. If this is successful it may be possible to drape a curtain over the window on the lower floor on market day. • Coffee Mornings – Following discussions regarding restrictions and time remaining in 2021, it was agreed to advise in the Crier and Facebook that coffee mornings would restart in the New Year if possible. 	<p>TC</p>
<p>MINUTE 101 – TOURISM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last meeting was a joint meeting with Destination Montgomery. • Salient points-Destination Montgomery has now come to an end there is some money remaining. Bank account will be kept open and there will be a new chairman. • Future meetings between Tourism and Destination Montgomery will be held quarterly. • Monies remaining will be set aside for specific projects which have been identified and which will continue to support the Arwain programme. Development Officer will write a final report. 	
<p>MINUTE 102 – ASSETS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference had been forwarded to councillors for perusal prior to agreement. • It is important to note what council’s assets are and there is still a lot of work to do on that. • It was pointed out that the committee need to meet more than seven days prior to a council meeting in order to present any items for the agenda. 	
<p>Propose to accept the terms as amended and for the group to form a committee.</p>	
<p>AGREED</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defibrillators – A member of the public had suggested signage to show where the defibrillators are situated, as visitors or residents may not be aware. This will be taken forward by Assets Committee. • Mowing Regime – Consider bio-diversity for some areas. • Junior football club had advised, the playing field was in a very poor condition and it really required a different mowing regime. Agreed to have a discussion with the contractor regarding this and bring forward any proposals. • Any change in contract and budget required will be discussed at the Precept meeting. 	<p>GWIL</p>
<p>MINUTE 103 – PLANNING</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application former Little Gallery, Broad Street. – Chairman read out the bullet points on the minutes of the planning meeting. Comments AGREED. • Forden Road – All salient points had been provided through the Press Release. • Correspondence had been received from residents regarding this application and they do have concerns with some points. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As there are a number of planning conditions it was suggested Planning Committee liaise with Barcud. Committee will meet, collate and forward residents views and concerns. AGREED <p>MINUTE 104 – CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Letter received from MEG. - Council is making effort to be environmentally responsible. Proposed letter will be signed and sent.</p> <p>MINUTE 105 – POWIS ESTATES</p> <p>It was a useful meeting. Main interest of discussion was Village Green at Maldwyn Way. This will be an agenda item for November.</p> <p>MINUTE 107 – ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>Both sites had been visited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One plot on Tan y Mur was in a poor state and the tenant has decided not to continue due to family circumstances. This will now be advertised via Facebook and Crier. <p>MINUTE 108 – VMRC</p> <p>VMRC had not met in October. On 17th November a guest speaker from Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust will be speaking on Bio Diversity and connecting communities. This will be held in Town Hall.</p> <p>MINUTE 109 – STAFFING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Clerk has indicated she will be retiring at the end of March. Letter of resignation has not yet been submitted. An advert will be placed to recruit a new Town Clerk in the meantime. An agreement has been made that the present Town Clerk will remain as Responsible Financial Officer until audit is finalised. It was suggested the market be separated to make a small post to include collecting rent and promotion of the market. Staffing Committee need to finalise the job description and advert to ensure it is suitable. Proposed that Staffing Committee carry this forward. Applications will be e mailed to the Town Clerk. Councillors will have the opportunity to forward questions for the interview. Process has to be within the correct guidelines. <p>MINUTE 110 – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MEETING</p> <p>Coffee Mornings, Benches, Allotment, Senior Citizens, Cycles, Staffing.</p>	<p>AGENDA</p> <p>CW</p>
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MINUTE 111 – CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

Chairman would like to send letters of congratulation to people who do something fairly outstanding. There are three people this month.

MINUTE 112 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Community Plan

Community Groups – re-establishing

Litter Bins

Re-cycling Centre

Plot of land Football Club

Cemetery Fees