

Minutes of the ZOOM meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 7.15 pm.

This meeting was recorded.

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

MINUTE 113 - Apologies

Cllr. D Jones – Poor health and the inability to join online meetings
Cllr C Weston - Illness

MINUTE 114 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations

No requests to speak from members of the public

MINUTE 115 - CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thanks to everyone for attending the Remembrance Services which were very moving events at The Pound and later in the afternoon at the County Memorial. Thanks also to Mr Hodgson for organising the events.
- Town Tidy team continues thanks to Cllr Harper and all the volunteers.
- Christmas Lights switch on will take place on 28th November with the usual festivities.
- Christmas Journey will be held on 16th December, three gold wrapped gifts are needed for the King's, these will later be placed in the senior citizen's raffle.
- Winter tea party will be held on 15th January 2022 14.30 – 16.30 on the upper floor of the Town Hall. This will be a ticketed event of about fifty senior citizens, entertainment will be provided. Help with this would be appreciated.
- Lottery bid for the play park had not been successful, only one in seven were successful this time as funds were low. Team were advised it was an excellent bid and they could bid again reducing the cost.

Chairman advised she would be slightly changing the agenda by placing MCBPT as a separate item at the end.

MINUTE 116 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Minutes – 28th October 2021

RESOLVED to approve minutes.

<p>MINUTE 117 – INFORMATION FROM THOSE MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel – Anodyne response received, as the community was below two thousand. This has been logged again as the criteria are likely to be wider in future. • Dog Waste – Bags and two small trial dispensers have been placed, one by the Notice Board in Broad Street and the second one in Maldwyn Way. • Litter Bin – New litter bin has now been placed in Broad Street, the old wooden bin and plastic bin will be removed. As there was only one key supplied which is thought to be a meter key further copies will be sought. Following a conversation with the Powys CC operative, when he advised permission for the new bin had not been authorised, Town Clerk spoke to a manager at highways regarding this and advised, an e mail had been received in September 2021 granting permission. Powys CC are now satisfied with the new bin and expressed the view that a number of bins in Montgomery may be removed due to costs. • Highways – Drains in Princes Street remain blocked Powys CC have been notified twice. • Loose Railing by the Castle has now been fixed • Arthur Street – Brambles have been cleared by TTT. • Water Housing – Contact again • Benches – Ongoing, awaiting photographs. • Cycles – that MTC would have authority to sell with OVW • Snagging List – Councillors have been liaising with Architect. • Radar Lock – Has been ordered • Town Clerk – This post has now been advertised. 	<p>RH, MM</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
<p>MINUTE 118 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process which may have led to Churchstoke School being closed, has now been halted. It was found that a significant number of children were attending school across the border in England, who could have been educated in Churchstoke. This could be a significant issue which may affect funding for other border schools. • Extensive discussions have taken place with regard to traffic in Hendomen, Police have ascertained that most motorists have legitimate reasons for driving down this access only road. Thirty mile an hour signs have now been erected. Police will visit farmers in the area to advise of access only requirement. • Street lights will now be lit with new cost-effective bulbs. All street lighting will now be operational although part night lighting will remain. • It was highlighted that the road near Salt Bridge was badly damaged and needed urgent attention. 	

MINUTE 119 – HIGHWAYS

- Concern was raised regarding lighting at the junction with Forden Road and Station Road.
- Pot hole between Central and The Pound needs attention
- Station Road and Gaol Road-road seems to be changing surface is breaking.
- A further training session has taken place for Speed-watch.
- Road at the side of the Town Hall is breaking up.

JK

MINUTE 120 – FINANCE

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

D/D	Powys CC – Bus Rates	682.00
	EDF – Electric	113.40
	EDF – Electric	92.16
BACS	Salaries	1223.64
	HMRC – Tax & NI	89.00
	Gaskells Waste	72.72
	Mr Pym the Plumber – New Boiler	6921.53
	Smith of Derby - Clock	294.00
	Eric Neville	55.74
	Montgomery Crier	200.00
	Andrew Evans – Grass Cutting	497.83
	Dr C Weston	362.50
	R Bunner & Son	10.50
	Glasdon UK – New Waste Bin	863.95

Invoice list had been provided to Councillors.

Draft minutes had been forwarded to members

Allowance payment for recycling site will be discussed at Precept meeting

Cashflow will be updated and copied to Councillors with up-to-date Precept figures.

Agreed– Monday 13th December 17.30. providing Cllrs Weston and Jones could attend. If Cllr Jones is unable to attend the face-to-face meeting it will be held via ZOOM.

RESOLVED to approve invoices for payment

MINUTE 121 – TOWN HALL

Draft minutes had been forwarded to members.

- Fire Alarm had not been renewed during refurbishment as first believed. This issue will be discussed with the original provider of the alarm. Certificate is being sought.
- A project manager had been paid to look after the refurbishment and a number of unsatisfactory issues need to be raised with him.
- A suggestion was made to contact PAVO regarding fire brigade checking the alarm system.

MM

TC

RH

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall committee have made a number of recommendations as per their minutes and will request clarity from the Solicitor on two items in particular. • Propose Town Clerk contacts the Solicitor with queries raised from the proposed amendments to the lease from the trust and any other matters arising. 	<p>TC TC</p>
<p>MINUTE 122 – TOURISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literary Festival permanent home will be Montgomery. • Hungarian Day will be 14th May 2022, to unveil plaque. • Rotary cross Wales walk will be third Saturday in June 2022. • There could be something every month in Montgomery. A town for all seasons. • Notice Board at The Pound is locked, it has been proposed to replace the lock with a magnet. AGREED • Illyria has been provisionally booked for 2022. AGREED to go ahead with the Shakespeare Play in 2022. Risk Assessment and permissions will be actioned by Cllr Mills. 	<p>JK RH MM</p>
<p>MINUTE 123 – POWIS ESTATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powis Estate meeting paperwork had been provided to all councillors. 	
<p>MINUTE 124 – PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very constructive meeting with councillors and residents had taken place in the Town Hall to discuss the Forden Road development. They do have serious concerns regarding the proposed exit onto New Road. There are a number of planning conditions to discharge. A further meeting will be arranged with the parties involved. 	
<p>MINUTE 125 – COMMUNITY PLAN</p> <p>Working group met to discuss this and decided on a three-pronged approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One – A questionnaire will go in the Crier after Christmas, then the group can gather what the issues are for people. • Two - Following receipt of completed questionnaires face-to-face consultations can be held. • Three – An action plan that can be consulted on and produce a five- or ten-year plan. <p>Community Groups – PAVO have officers who support community groups, the aim is to get together as many community organisations who wish to come and have discussions with them. In the New Year the group will hold a Community Fair where people can gain information on groups in their community. Montgomery has fifty-one community groups and organisations who are still quite active.</p> <p>It was suggested that it may be possible to obtain funding from PAVO to help with the community plan questionnaires.</p>	<p>RH</p>

<p>Interest in funding for this has also been logged with Powys County Council on a number of occasions.</p>	
<p>MINUTE 126 – RECYCLING CENTRE</p>	
<p>Mr Stephens who has kept the site clean and tidy for a number of years has retired and the role has been taken over by Mr Beddoes. Resolved to forward a thank you letter.</p>	<p>TC</p>
<p>MINUTE 127 – PLOT OF LAND AT FOOTBALL CLUB</p>	
<p>There is a small plot of land between the start of Maldwyn Way estate and the changing rooms at the Football Club. Would it be possible to plant some of the free fruit trees ordered from Newtown in that area? It may be possible to plant four in that space.</p>	<p>JK</p>
<p>A conversation will also be held with the Football Club</p>	<p>RH</p>
<p>MINUTE 128 – CEMETERY FEES</p>	
<p>This issue has been ongoing for a number of years. Russell George’s office has also looked into the fees charged in Powys and the result has been the same. It appears Powys CC has not addressed any of the specific questions. It may be possible for Russell Georges office to make a comparison in fees charged throughout Wales.</p>	
<p>MINUTE 129 – ALLOTMENTS</p>	
<p>Vacant allotment had not been re-let. This will be advertised on the Notice Board and Facebook also a copy of the notice will be made available to Councillors.</p>	
<p>MINUTE 130 – VMRC</p>	
<p>A copy of the self-explanatory notes from the meeting were made available to councillors. There were two excellent presentations both from PAVO and the Wildlife Trust.</p>	
<p>MINUTE 131 – NEW LITTER BINS</p>	
<p>A paper had been presented showing the details of a proposed new bin which would include a stub plate for cigarettes, along with costings for ten further new bins over the next two years. A budget of £1,750 ex VAT was suggested for 2022/2023. Some bins need to be replaced urgently; consideration must be given to Powys CC proposals to remove access bins throughout Powys. It was suggested to view the website where previous street furniture had been purchased.</p>	

MINUTE 132 – MCBPT

- Notes had been received from the Chairman of the Trust following a very positive meeting. A number of questions have been answered and approved.
- Trust have suggested drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding and this was welcomed by councillors.
- Councillors are far more comfortable with the transfer of the lease as a good understanding has been reached between both parties. Members were reminded that discussions had started three years ago and had not been rushed.
- A further meeting between the MCBPT and representatives of the council has been suggested to tie up any loose ends with the lease.
- There are a few items that need to be updated within the lease by the Solicitor.

Proposed - Town Council are minded to go ahead on this basis and acknowledge the concessions made and are happy to move forward. 5 for 3 abstentions.

Proposed – It is councils’ intention to move towards this for the new financial year 1st April 2022. 5 in favour, 3 against.

A proposal was made to suggest to the Trust that the break clause was changed from five years to two years in the initial lease in order that any new council would be able to change their mind if they felt things were not going well with the Trust. 2 in favour, 5 against 1 undecided.

Town Hall committee suggested that members take the Solicitors advice regarding the public toilets and have a separate Service Agreement drawn up by the solicitor.

Members were thanked for their various contributions toward the discussions on this matter

MINUTE 133 – WORKING GROUP

A question was raised, would any member be interested in looking at the Platinum Jubilee bid? Or any ideas.

There appears to be a lack of anything like Meals on Wheels or similar.

Cllr Beaven will look into the criteria for something like this.

Lunch club in Montgomery has diminished along with a few other groups, possibly due to Covid.

MINUTE 134 – COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MEETING

Follow up on Community Plan consultation, Dog waste bags.

MINUTE 135 – CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Montgomerie in Normandy including a map.

WB

MINUTE 136 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA	
---	--

Play Park. New Operative Recycling Site, New Bins update,	
--	--