



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

<p>Minutes of the hybrid meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 24th February 2022 at 19.15 hours</p> <p>This meeting was recorded</p>	
<p>Present: Cllr's J Kibble (Chairperson), W Beaven (Deputy Chair), M Mills, O Lewis, G Stephenson, R Harper, D Jones, L Weaver</p>	
<p>1. Apologies Cllr H Andrew (Ill-health)</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of Interest Dispensation for Councillors who are Trustees of Charities Councillor Beavan and Mills - declaration of interest on section 9 Cllr Harper is now registered as a member of a charity (Town Hall Trust)</p>	
<p>3. Break for the public to speak <i>No public comments</i></p>	
<p>4. Chairman's Announcements Welcome was extended to the new Town Clerk Helen Royall and thanks was extended to the outgoing clerk.</p> <p>Line management of town operative Steve Horton lies with the Town Clerk. Polite request was raised that all issues are raised with the TC first to ensure consistency.</p> <p>The community survey is out and good number of responses online and in person have already been received. A request to encourage responses as this is an important way to ensure the community has a voice in what the future of the town looks like.</p> <p>March 12th 2022 Community Fair. More than 30 organisations out of the 50 come from Montgomery and the surrounding area. Promises to be a really good day and is the start of the coffee mornings (enquiries are already coming in for these – people who had already had bookings will be contacted first with vacancies then advertised). Requests for help from the Councillors if they are not tied up in the stall. Facebook post as a promotion for members of the public to talk to existing members of the Town Council members to see what is involved and potentially get some interest for future councillors.</p>	



Two Rangers to go to world scout jamboree in 2023 from Montgomery. Out of ten people selected three come from Montgomery which is an amazing achievement. Mayor to write a letter of congratulations.

Thank you for the winter tea. We got excellent feedback from the event.

Best wishes to Councillor Andrews and a get-well card will be sent on the Town Councils' behalf.

5. Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes from 27th January 2022 ran through and no comments.

RESOLVED to approve minutes

6. Information from the minutes

Mowing regimes are under review and maps are being produced. Raised by a member of the public raised a concern around the recording of the mowing regime in regards to biodiversity. Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust WT is going to do a botanical survey in the spring this will inform mowing based on biodiversity with a carefully balanced view on the amenity use of the space.

Fruit trees have all arrived and been planted. Thanks were given to Councillor Harper and the school.

Radar lock has not been fitted and quotes will be gained in order to provide 24-hour access.

Road from the conduit by the TH is getting worse. Highways to be contacted. In addition, there was a plan to meet Chris Lloyd in the town to discuss various actions.

Community grants applied for to cover costs for the second phase of the survey and third phase of the survey. Waiting to hear about the outcome of this.

The Brades: Powys County Council Cabinet passed a motion about bringing empty properties into use (about 1000 empty properties in the county). The Brades will be a priority and the Welsh Government is committing money to councils for this purpose.

Lamp posts – it is possible to get a moulding kit to improve their appearance. They do not require planning even though this is a conservation area. Very little that planning can do so investigations into the moulding options to be continued.

Fire alarm – action from the minutes has been completed and is on the agenda as a separate item

JK to action

TC to contact highways

TC to instruct



Pointing – we have a date for commencement which is the 28th March.
Pre-start meeting with the architect to still be completed

Platinum Jubilee. Street closure has been applied for on Sunday. Query about the lighting of the beacon and it was confirmed this would be on Saturday but time to be confirmed.

Jubilee trees. Walk was done with the tree expert from Radnorshire Wildlife Trust to advise on how we manage the trees going forward. A number of members of the public attended. Footpath volunteers and members of the public have volunteered to carry out the recommended works to stays and supports.

Bikes need to be advertised on Facebook. Query on price which was agreed on £60.

Motocross events. A number of complaints as to noise, however, two events were cancelled due to the weather. Environmental Health have now fitted monitoring systems and all future reports to go to Environmental Health.

CW to take photos
TC to organise receipting

7. **Report from County Councillor**

CC Budget setting meeting today and Cllr Hayes stated they have not set a budget the first time this has been the case additional meeting next Thursday.

From items last month:

Work orders have been raised for the surface / clearing out gullies on Princes Street depending on what cars are parked in the street. They are monitoring situation of the road surface on Pool Road and Princes Street they should have been renewing the water main this year this has been put back to next year. Also liaising with the owner of the house with the orange safety fence on Pool Road. Clarity is being sort on the danger posed by this.

Empty Property Enforcement Act – most significant and promising step to getting a solution to the Brades. Welsh Government pressure is behind this and they are also taking a cross services approach rather than just one department which will allow for a joined-up approach.

Query if the TC could be alerted so that residents could be communicated with to move the vehicles. Cllr Hayes will ask highways to let the clerk know if the work is planned in to communicate with the householders. C Harper asked if they are in town doing the drains could they do the other ones in the town at the same time as there have been reports of other drains are blocked. C Hayes stated that all gullies were cleared out 15 months ago. Some of these are blocked which can be cleared by the town



<p>tidy team, however, query around the disposal of contaminated waste. Cllr Hayes agreed to mention this to Highways.</p>	
<p>8. Highways Pot hole outside Princes Street and Chirbury Road.</p> <p>Mortimer Road – Man hole covers have been lifted and not gone back down correctly. Some queries around the speed bumps.</p>	<p>TC to contact highways</p>
<p>9. Finance Some invoices have been going to the previous address of the clerk and we are moving to paperless systems</p> <p>Purchase of printer for Town Clerk - £150 for the printer and scanner for the TC. A3 printing posters as this and also scanning some of the old documents. This was approved with the location potentially to kept at the Institute.</p> <p>Phone for the clerk rather than using personal number – the cost of a sim card to be investigated. Old phone could be used for this purpose.</p>	<p>TC to investigate</p>
<p>10. Town Hall Cllr Mills presented a number of items to related to the Town Hall transfer. Copies of documents were provided before the meeting and a copy shared on the screen during the Zoom meeting for members of the public.</p> <p>Lease Amendments included the correct addresses, dates on the break clauses etc all related to previous feedback and comments from the Town Hall Trust.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Cllr Mills proposed that the Town Council accepts the lease as it stands to send it to the Town Hall Trust and their solicitors. Motion seconded by Cllr Kibble.</p> <p>For: Cllr Harper, Cllr Stephens, Cll Weston, Cllr Weaver Abstained: Councillor Jones and Councillor Beaven (declared interest)</p> <p>Side Letter Noted that though this may be agreed tonight there may be further amendments and it does not need to be signed before the lease is signed.</p> <p>Item three was mentioned in relation to arrangement maintenance of the flat roof and guttering and costs from the electrical inspections. Electrical inspection has already been rectified it was confirmed.</p> <p>THT would like the facility to mutually extend the break clause due to grant funding opportunities. Solicitor has recommended that this goes in the side</p>	



letter rather than in the lease. This would mean that a correctly worded statement would go into the side letter as a mutual agreement to consider in the future the possibility of the lease being extended. This would also need to be reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Query around allowing more than 12 weddings by mutual consent if they are local persons or have a local connection. Concern was raised around the noise and inconvenience to local residences so caution should be exercised. Council would consider this as long as appropriate wording was put into the letter in relation to mutual agreement and that adequate notice was allowed for consideration.

PROPOSED: Cllr Mills proposed that the letter is accepted with the changes to be made in reference to the conversation above. Seconded Cllr Harper.

For: All

Abstained: Councillor Beavan (declared interest)

Memorandum of understanding discussed. The council needs to complete the party commitments. Good work has been done with an emphasis on the fact the building is primarily a civic building (and a beautiful listed building) and expressing that the building is primarily to be a community building. Some wording around this and the desire to work cooperatively with the THT will be drafted and brought back for approval.

JK / HR to produce wording

Inventory has been undertaken and there are some actions including PAT testing. Adam has been booked in to complete this. Need to service/certify the platform lift which needs to be completed before the transfer. Dishwashers need servicing and a contractor was named for this.

TC/MM to organise service of lift
TC to arrange service of dishwasher

Fire alarm quotes have been received and circulated. Works are essential due to continuing faults and false alarms. Budget is sufficient for the works to be carried.

PROPOSED: Cllr Harper proposed that the TC accept the quote and move forward. Seconded Cllr Mills.

For: ALL

Abstained: Councillor Beavan (declared interest)

TC to action

11. Tourism

An informal proposal was brought to discuss how the tourism committee works in the future. Previously this has been an informal committee that produces notes rather than formal minutes but maintains money from precept to purchase leaflets. Ask if they are happy with this approach and new way of working with destination Montgomery. All outlined in pre-circulated paper.



<p>Hungarian Day – May 14th 2022 – run through of schedule that was presented. No additional comments.</p> <p>Destination Montgomery – Sarah Gilder – to be contacted this may be that she moves to a contractor/consultant role. We need to ensure that we are doing the right thing in regard to employment rights.</p> <p>Play at the castle – they want to charge us for putting the play on as they consider this as a commercial event and there is a fee of £300. J Kibble – usual profit is around £1000</p>	<p>TC to contact SG to discuss way forward</p>
<p>12. Planning No Notices or Decisions</p>	
<p>13. Assets Update from meeting 7/02/2022</p> <p>Looked at what it meant for the council to be custodian trustee. TC is a custodian trustee of five properties. That means that we hold the leasehold. What this means is that we have to have insurance documentation for any building and any leasing documents and constitutional documents for the organisations. Ambition to move towards a more formal approach to the five we currently have and a more formal way of recording information.</p>	
<p>14. Platinum Jubilee Community Event – update</p> <p>Street fair committee interested in helping. March 12th meeting to look at the working group. Discussion around advertising and how we do this. To be followed up outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Query around the budget and it was confirmed there is £500 in the precept for the children. These need to be ordered soon. Cllr Weston – consider the eco-credentials of any gifts that we purchase to try and fit with environmental policy. Previously every child that lives in Montgomery up to an agreed age.</p> <p>TC to circulate brochures and need to order. No budget for the street party. Cllr Weston – recollection that this was split between the two but will be checked.</p>	
<p>15. Allotments Hire charge for 2022 discussion and approval</p> <p>Discussion to put the cost up to £15 per annum. Comparative cost to other allotments. Due to the way in which water is billed and how it was billed previously at Tan-y-mur (split between all holders at an average of £5 a</p>	



year) so proposed to add this to the total annual sum rather than two collections.

£20 Tan-y-mur

£15 church bank

PROPOSAL: To change the charges to the proposed for 2022 - Proposal Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Kibble.

FOR: All

Discussion around a new allotment representative as C Jones has retired from the role – looking at someone from May. C Harper was nominated as the allotment representative. Thank you to C Jones for all the work he has done.

PROPOSAL: To appoint Cllr Harper as allotment representative. Proposed by Cllr Kibble and seconded by Cllr Jones

FOR: All

16. Town Crier Portrait and commemorative poppies

Decision on the location for both. Mentioned that in the future before any item is acquired a consideration to where it is placed is paramount. Council recognises the portrait was a gift and not a commission.

Some discussion around some of the potential locations for the portrait. Within the town hall some portraits were taken down to create a blank canvas and it would be disingenuous for portraits to go back up. Query where the removed portraits/assets are stored and where they have gone. Some have gone back to families and the royal family pictures have returned to lenders.

As the town hall is a civic building it would be potentially an appropriate location for the portrait. There is a strong public feeling that it should be displayed.

Discussion around a location in the institute or a location in the town hall with agreement with the leaseholder.

RESOLUTION: to contact the Institute and see if it can be displayed an also to the Trust to see if they will display this in the TH. Cllr Kibble to draft and send a letter to the institute and also include the poppies in the communication to the Trust.

Commemorative poppies are currently in a garage and they need a permanent home. Potential to put these on display in the cupboards either side of the door with glass cupboard. No money for the display of these. Previously there was a collection of money to display money for poppies at The Pound which needs to be investigated. Query what do people want to

JK to draft letter to the institute



happen with the poppies.	
<p>17. Communications from the meeting Coffee Morning Booking / Bike advertisement / promotion of becoming a councillor / notification of drain clearing / members of the public to assist in Jubilee events / promotion of positive highways news</p> <p>A former mayor Winifred Baldwin passed away at Christmas only just come down to the TC served twice as Mayor</p>	<p>WB to provide a note for the Town Crier and FB</p>
<p>18. Items for the next agenda Jubilee</p>	
<p>19. Staffing Take off the agenda due to a meeting of the staffing committee to discuss the issue</p>	

Charter Granted 1227 • Cyflwynwyd y Siarter ym 1227

Mayor/Maer: Jill Kibble, Plas Du, Gaol Road, Montgomery SY15 6QR

Town Clerk/Clerc y Dref: Miss Helen Royall

07846269021 • townclerk@montgomery-wales.uk