



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on **Thursday 27th April 2023 at 7.15pm**

This meeting was recorded

Present in person:

Cllr Kibble, Cllr Jones, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Weston (apologies from 8pm), Cllr Lock, Cllr Humphreys

Present online:

Cllr Harper (joined at 7.30pm), Cllr Lewis

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk) (Online)

1.	Apologies	
	Cllr Taylor	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	None	
3.	Break for the public to speak	
	None	
4.	Chairman's Announcements	
	<p>Coronation event is planned, and the weather forecast looks to be reasonable. Thanks to Cllr Lock and Humphreys who had put in a large amount of work and had some inspirational ideas to make it work. Councillors will be at School on the 5th May to present mugs, teddies and bench.</p> <p>Lit festival tickets are going well and selling fast and they are available online or Ivy House/Bookshop.</p> <p>Placemaking – some Welsh government funding was secured, and Montgomery was selected as one of the receptors of the fund with funding finishing in September. Funding focused on the town centre to focus on businesses and there</p>	

	<p>will be a report which is helpful for future funding bids. Meetings will be forthcoming and will include MTC.</p> <p>Potholes there has been some movement on that supported by Cllr Brignell-Throp and some of the worst have been repaired temporarily with permanent ones to be done later.</p> <p>Formal complaints about dogs in the church yard which will be in the next Crier.</p> <p>May fair will be in town next Thursday.</p> <p>Thanks, from Cllr Kibble to the council for supporting her through her two terms as Mayor in both a personal and professional capacity. She praised the council and Clerk for their hard work and the support they give the community. She wished the incoming Mayor all the best in continuing supporting Montgomery and its community.</p>	
5.	Minutes of the last meetings	
	<i>RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 27th November 2022 are approved and signed as a correct record.</i>	
6.	Information from the minutes	
	<p>3b – Cllrs went to look at the location of the proposal for the show field access. Some feedback on one of the suggestions which involved some tree work some slight amendments were made and restrictions were imposed including that no heavy vehicles or deliveries and also that in adverse weather there would be no use</p> <p>6 . Update from the water company and letters have been received by local residents the water works have been delayed until July 31st at the earliest which does work better for the town and avoids summer events. They have committed to beginning the works this year.</p> <p>Play Park – some meetings with potential funders which have been positive. There has been some substantial last-minute work from the Friends to get some additional community consultation to ensure that the fundraising bid could be submitted as the information needed to be updated.</p>	
7.	Report from the County Councillor	
	Written report was provided by the county councillor which contained some helpful updates	
8.	Highways	
	Cllr Andrew raised the parking issue at Pool Road where wood has been placed to prevent parking, but there is now a car parked there which is owned by the householder who does not own the parcel of the land. This issue has been raised	

	<p>with the previous CC and it was suggested if this was still an issue it could be raised with the new County Councillor.</p> <p>Cllr Beaven took a couple of calls on Sunday from residents on New Road who were not aware of the road closures. The road works are to do with electrical work and notice had been given. To be raised with the County Cllr that the council could be emailed or informed when road works were undertaken so that they could pass on information to the community or answer queries with authority. Query as to the entrance to the new housing estate query and the two entrances that are being put in. The one onto the New Road will be bollarded. The entrance onto Pool Road will be the main entrance onto the estate</p>	TC
9.	Finance	
a.	Report from the finance committee was presented and notes from the meeting were reviewed	
b.	<p>Earmarking proposals from the finance committee were presented.</p> <p>Proposed: Earmarking suggested by the Finance Committee should be agreed by the council for the financial year 2023-2024</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Weston Seconded: Cllr Kibble All in favour</p> <p>Motion passed</p>	
c.	<p>Finance committee looked at the reserves policy and previously we wanted the reserves to be at 50% minimum but had not clarified this in the previous policy with a range still undecided. Finance committee suggested an amendment to maintain reserves at 50% - 75% with a review date of October 2024 to be added.</p> <p>Cllr Lewis suggested that we look at savings accounts to see if we can gain more interest as the current saving account has a low return. This may mean that the money would have to be locked away for a year so cashflow would have to be considered. Potentially we could use any amount over the reserves towards a project or pay back the loan early as other options for amounts over the reserves. TC to check the terms of the loan to see if we can overpay on the town hall loan to reduce the interest amounts.</p> <p>Finance will be reviewing the financial regulations which will be presented to the council in May. At the same time other financial documents will be reviewed for the meeting in May.</p>	TC
10	Planning	
	There has been no response to a request for a meeting with the planning officer	

11.	Assets	
a.	Community garden - the information has come back from Powys CC and there is nothing in the terms that gives concern, and it will mean that we can insure groups that are using them. The rear wall which could be a concern is owned by Powis Estates and their responsibility. Query as if the council should have legal perusal of the heads of terms however this was felt unnecessary. It was felt that clarification to the location and name on the lease was needed as there are several community gardens.	TC
b.	Planning on going through the filing cabinet in the green room in the town hall ensuring we are retaining the information that is needed and digitizing where possible. Some discussion around what information may need to be retained and a concern that documentation is not lost especially historical records. The green room has been opened and unlocked for some time and the key could not be found so the THT are looking at a replacement.	
12.	Tourism	
	800 years update which is progressing well, and an update will be sent out the council as soon as the schedule has been refined. Marketing strategy has begun which includes looking at digital and printed promotion.	
13	Town Hall Update	
	No update given. Town Hall Committee to arrange a meeting date for May.	
14	Community Broadband	
	Discussion around the broadband in the Town Hall. Some investigation has been undertaken with some more to be undertaken to understand how to get fibre to the Town Hall. This would require new cabling into the Town Hall. We need to work out the costing of the proposal for the whole to ensure we are getting good value for the council. This will become clearer when the investigation is completed. Council asked the Finance Committee to look at a maximum potential spend of £200 to carry out the investigation of changing the broadband in the Town Hall. The Town Hall Trust is paying for the broadband to come into the Town Hall and the Town Council is paying for the community aspect of the broadband. Cllr Stephenson has undertaken a large amount of work to get to this point and thanks were given to him.	
15.	Clos Tan y Mur	
	Deferred to the next meeting owing to problems with virtual connection	
16.	Coronation Event Planning	

	Several stalls including Katrina providing picnics and a stall with additional savouries and cakes. Show committee is providing the table sand chairs and Monty Muscle is helping set the event up. A proclamation will be made at 1pm.	
17.	Allotments	
	The allotment meeting was postponed due to the Town Clerk's injury and will be rearranged.	
18.	Deaths in the Community	
	Limited feedback so far but they will continue to monitor and speak to members of the community about the needs.	
19.	Communications from the meeting	
	Coronation event Community garden asset	
20.	Items for the next meeting	
	Clos Tan Y Mur fund Recycling centre resurfacing Community broadband Deaths in the community Sheltered housing Cemetery Fees	