



# MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

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| Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on <b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.15pm</b>            |
| This meeting was recorded                                                                                                |
| <b>Present in person:</b><br>Cllr Kibble, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Humphreys, |
| <b>Present online:</b><br>Cllr Harper, Cllr Stephenson                                                                   |
| <b>In attendance:</b><br>Helen Royall (Town Clerk)                                                                       |

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| <b>1. Apologies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| Cllr Lock, Cllr Weston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| <b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <b>3. Break for the public</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <b>4. Chairpersons Announcements</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <p>Cllr Beaven reminded the council of the three-minute rule and to adhere to standing orders and code of conduct.</p> <p>The Cllr expressed surprise that two committees had met recently without notifying her of their intention to do so. I was assumed it was an oversight and reminded the council that the mayor is in fact an ex officio member of all committees, so this does require official notification of date time and venue of meetings.</p> <p>Could I also remind council that although members of council may serve on outside committees, they do not necessarily represent MTC, but are there as individuals unless appointed by MTC at the AGM.</p> <p>At present the outside committees with MTC reps are Allotments/Welfare/Institute/School Governors/MCBPT/One Voice Wales and Montgomery Medical practise.</p> <p>Cllr Beaven stated last meeting the idea of a 'surgery' type facility at the Institute and it appears a Thursday morning would be available. A trial run was suggested to run in Autum. It will be discussed at the September Council as an agenda item.</p> |  |

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|           | <p>Cllr Beaven would also ask members consider returning to the use of the Council Chamber, and this too can be on the agenda for September. She also urged the council members to consider email traffic and to reduce if possible. The subject line should be clear and not change to allow tracking of the conversation.</p> <p>There has been a request from the Montgomery Show /carnival committee that the Mayor of Welshpool join the procession with the Mayor of Montgomery. The Mayor of Welshpool (following Council protocol), can only accept if the invitation has been approved by MTC, so it was suggested the TC actions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Minutes of the last meetings</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
|           | <p>Some changes to the minutes for clarity and grammar</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 are approved and signed as a correct record.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Information from the minutes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
|           | <p><b>Item 6</b><br/>Declaration book for the mayor was found and has not been signed. This needs to be updated. All items have now been securely shredded thanks to the support of the Dragon who is allowing the council to continue to use this facility in the future.</p> <p><b>Item 7</b><br/>Burial fees – the cabinet holder has agreed that this should be discussed and the description changed</p> <p><b>Item 13</b><br/>Fly zapper has been sorted and will be delivered shortly.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Report from County Councillor</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
|           | <p><b>Bus stops</b><br/>Checked this situation regarding bus stops in the town. The policy on all buses in Powys is that in towns (and Montgomery is classed as a town) then the bus only stops at designated stops, and in Montgomery these are Gaol Road, Verlon Close, Stalloe Cottages, Chirbury Gate and the Fire station. When not in town (and that includes Caerhowel) the buses operate on a hail and ride basis, and will stop anywhere as long as it is safe to do so, although the timetables do list some of the popular places that they typically stop at. The Cllr will try and chase up whether we can have some posts to indicate that these are the designated bus stops.</p> <p><b>Electric Cars</b><br/>A survey has been prepared that is just about to be circulated to the community to gauge the interest in an electric car club. If there is interest, we can talk to TripTo who may be able to provide a car that could be used for this.</p> <p><b>Bus turning circle</b><br/>The Cllr has written and submitted an application to the THINK small project fund for a grant to pay for design and planning permission for the bus turning circle, but not heard the outcome yet. He consulted with Phil Humphreys regarding the cost for the various aspect of work involved.</p> |  |

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|    | <p><b>Priority for allocating housing</b></p> <p>The Cllr has been in touch with the portfolio holder for housing to learn more about the way in which housing is allocated and whether there is any priority for local residents. The system is complicated, and there is a common process that all the social housing providers in Powys all cooperate on. I attach a detailed explanation of the way housing is allocated, but very broadly it is as follows. People that join the housing list are given a priority rating from 1 to 5. Level 1 is highest priority and is for exceptional cases, such as safeguarding, personal safety etc. Level 2 is for key workers, those homeless, service personnel etc – and so on to other lower priority groups. Once a home becomes available the highest priority group are firstly given consideration, and if there are more than one household in this priority group that would be eligible, then local connection is used to decide which should be offered the house first. So basically if there are several people of similar need then local connection would be used to determine who would be offered the house, but if there is someone in higher priority need this would trump local connection. More details were provided.</p> <p><b>Road surface outside the town hall</b></p> <p>Cllr has raised this issue with the Highways team. They have assessed it and stated that they do not consider it a safety issue, so cannot prioritise it above other safety issues, but will address it when they can. I note that they do seem to be catching up a bit with some of the backlog so pressure is easing a bit and hopefully most of the worst will be done before winter.</p> <p><b>Plas Trefaldwyn wall</b></p> <p>Cllr has asked Highways to check this, and they have reported that it does not seem unsafe but could do with some maintenance at some point. I am trying to establish what power the council does have in this sort of situation to encourage the owner to carry out repairs.</p> <p><b>Other issues</b></p> <p>One of the issues that there is most debate about in council is lack of housing, and this is exacerbated because we are unable to build on most of South Powys because of the level of pollution in the ground water, so water regulations do not permit more housing to be built that would increase this pollution. Despite this being such a high profile issue, with much media attention on the Wye especially it still seems that the authorities do not really yet understand where this pollution comes from, is it poultry sheds or sewage treatment plants, or something else. Although not as bad in North Powys, the Severn does suffer some of the same damage. The council is ramping up its pressure on Welsh Government to put more resources into monitoring and analysis of the situation so that river water can be cleaned up and more housing built.</p> |                 |
| 8. | <b>Highways</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |
| a  | <p><b>Transport in Rural Communities Grant</b></p> <p>Due to time constraints this was not taken forward.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                 |
| b  | Electric charging was covered under the county councillor’s update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |
| 9. | <b>Finance</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |
|    | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |
|    | Salary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Salary £ 594.40 |
|    | Salary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Salary £ 509.02 |

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|            | HMRC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | HMRC              | £ | 171.00   |
|            | Dragon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Stationary        | £ | 22.00    |
|            | Arrow County Supplies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Cleaning Supplies | £ | 1,057.80 |
|            | Arrow County Supplies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   | £ | 38.06    |
|            | C Weston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Promotion         | £ | 750.00   |
|            | Bunners                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   | £ | 284.05   |
|            | Montgomery Show                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                   | £ | 50.00    |
|            | Gaskells                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   | £ | 44.77    |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Planning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                   |   |          |
| <b>a</b>   | <b>Terms of Reference</b><br>These were reviewed and accepted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                   |   |          |
| <b>b</b>   | <b>23/0890/LBC Retention of internal alterations to dwelling, namely the removal of a timber stud partition Bank Cottage, Kerry Road, Montgomery</b><br><br>Response was drafted by the planning committee and was considered by the council. The wording was agreed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |   |          |
| <b>c</b>   | <b>Letter to planning</b><br>A letter was drafted by planning committee to the planning officer. This is to be circulated to the whole council. If there were no objections to the wording this could be circulated to Powys.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                   |   |          |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Tourism</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |   |          |
| <b>a</b>   | <b>Minutes of meeting</b><br>Minutes of the meeting were circulated before the meeting. A few amendments were made to the terms of reference.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                   |   |          |
| <b>b</b>   | <b>800 years of the castle</b><br>A new website has been produced for the event. The group has been working on the content for this website and getting the information out to the wider community with details on the stall holders and the activities. Cllr Kibble was congratulated and thanked for all her hard work in organising the meetings and activities with a lot of organisations in the background.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |   |          |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Assets Committee</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |   |          |
| <b>a</b>   | <b>Play Park</b><br>A paper was given to council to consider. A discussion was had around the appointment of a play company to do phase one of the Tan y Mur play park. Council was informed that Sovereign was the recommended contractor to appoint based on the quality of response, speed of delivery and cost. Some of the overall designs were to be changed to bring this in under budget and an addition of an accessible 'bridge' to allow access to the play area. Query was raised if fencing was going to be installed. This would be very expensive, and the new position of the play park does mean that there will not be fencing. All the changes were endorsed by the council and the role of the FMPP was acknowledged and thanked.<br><br>It was suggested due to the size of the project that there is a new committee formed for the play park development to formalise the partnership. Council felt that this would be a positive step to maintain the link to the community group, but to formalise the process. The community group would maintain their status as an independent group linked to the committee.<br><br>Queries were raised around the number of quotes that had been received and how the council |                   |   |          |

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|            | <p>is to administer and manage the play park. Cllr Kibble stated that FMPP had gained four quotes previously in 2021/2022. It was requested that these were updated and sent to the council for audit purposes and readdressed to the Town Council as we would be the procuring the equipment. Though it was acknowledged that this is a frustrating process, council financial regulations must be followed. Cllr Kibble agreed that these quotes would be updated and sent to the TC and she would go back to them.</p> <p>This has been expedited by the soon to expire grants that had been secured by the Friends of Montgomery Play Park. A deposit would need to be placed by the end of August to secure the grant funding. A discussion was had as to how this grant money could be spent before the deadline – several options were considered – it was felt that paying the deposit for Sovereign would be the best way to spend the money.</p> <p>The FMPP would be invoiced to transfer the grant and donations to the Town Council to pay for the equipment. A separate monitoring sheet would be set up for the play park finances to keep this clear.</p> <p><b>Proposed: In principle as long as three updated quotes are received before the end of August the deposit can be paid to Sovereign our preferred contractor for the installation of the play park</b></p> <p><b>Proposed: Cllr Lewis</b><br/> <b>Seconded: Cllr Humphreys</b><br/> <b>Abstained: Cllr Kibble</b><br/> <b>All in favour</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed</b></p> <p>Decommissioning of the old playground was discussed, and this is not included in the quotes. This would need to be considered in the future when looking at the potential of a turning circle and future use of the area. This was proposed to be one of the agenda items for the newly formed committee and to be brought back to the Town Council for consideration.</p> |  |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>Town hall</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
|            | <p>There are some issues around cleaning and solutions were being discussed. The THT had requested the council to consider removing the bin. However, the council was not willing to remove the bin due to its use of the market. Discussion around locking and unlocking the toilets as they are currently open all hours. TC is investigating a time lock.</p> <p>Window in the toilet is going to be repainted by the Town Council.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>Communications from MTC</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
|            | A letter was sent to a local organisation purporting to be from the council. However, the letter did not come to the council. The contents of the letter have prompted this organisation to seek legal actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>Communications from the meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|            | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| <b>16.</b> | <b>Items for the next agenda</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
|            | Mayors Surgery<br>War Memorial Proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |

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