



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on **Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 7.00pm**

This meeting was recorded

Present in person:

Cllr Beaven, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Lock, Cllr Weston, Cllr Harper, Cllr Andrew

Present online:

None

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk)

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Break for the public to speak

The Transforming Towns is a programme funded by the Welsh Government to create plans for local councils and towns to assist them to apply for funding. This funding is ending in 2025. This means that only schemes that can complete this year can be funded under the current arrangement. They are working with the Welsh Government on a new programme as there is an established need for funding. The current programme covers 13 themes that must be completed by public realm or businesses.

There is support for councils to help look at funding that may be used for match funding or other sources of funding to support the produced action plan. They will support traffic management surveys if the council produces a brief and establish a cost for this. This will need to be linked back to the plan which has been produced. This proposal can be sent for approval to the Towns Fund to take to the Welsh Government.

3. Chairman's Announcements

Honors board – we have had a quote back for this and will be proceeding with the updates

Need a new flag for the Town Hall with the cross keys. Need to check the status of the Welsh flag. Members of the council and town operative should be shown how to put the flag up so that there is always someone that can put it up for occasions which require it.

Notice Board has been cleared and reminder has been sent out to users of the notice board as to appropriate notices and keeping the board up to date.

Remembrance needs a meeting to plan the events due to the changes in key personnel.

4. Minutes of the last meetings

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 25th January 2024 are approved and signed as a correct record.

5. Information from the minutes

3. Mid Wales Tourism: Members of the Council attended the meeting as discussed at a previous council meeting, however there was a low turnout from local businesses. Still working on the technology currently but this should be completed by March. Hopefully there will be increased interest if the technology is finalised.

4. Need additional member to the Assets Committee which will be addressed at the next council meeting

5.13 – May Fair from Information from the minutes – there have been a few items given to the Old Bell and they feel confident that there is enough to create an exhibition, however there will be another call out for photographs and memories. Discussion around potentially providing some financial incentive for families to attend the fair. This will be picked up with the fair owners.

14. Elderly Persons Lunch – Still no date currently. Council discussed changing the event name to Senior Citizens rather than Elderly Persons Lunch which felt more inclusive.

6. Report from County Councillor

Meeting of PCC to pass the budget happened on the same day as the council meeting which was passed but very narrowly. Highways budget is less than previous year and there is a concern that the budget was already not adequate this year and this will put increasing pressure on the next year leading to a reduced service. Some unclassified roads that do not have people living on them would potentially not be maintained. The council will also be selling off some council assets to help cash flow. Adult Social Care budget has risen due to the living wage increase which the council has committed to. This will mean a 7.5% council tax rise however this is only 30% of the income for the county council and the overall income is less than inflation due to the contribution from the Welsh Government.

Query from the Town Council as to some of the recent council roles which have been advertised at high salaries and the increase in the green bin costs. PCC needs to ensure that funds are allocated to key services.

7. Highways

a. Parking issues

There are several parking issues in the town. Some of these are listed below, however these can be potentially picked up in the parking and transportation survey to gain some funding to support change or adaptation.

- Princes street is causing continued issues especially at the junction of Broad Street
- Station Road coming into the town there is fencing missing and the speed limit here is causing issues with people crossing the road and cars entering the Town too quickly

- Maldwyn Way parking has been challenging due to the play park development but also some cars seem to have been abandoned.

Issues with speeding in the new housing estate with several concerns raised by the residents and that people are still using New Road as a two-way road and bypassing the bollards. This will be raised with highways.

8. Finance

a. Current financial position and Transactions

	Salary	£	594.40
	Salary	£	644.20
HMRC	HMRC	£	176.40
Gaskells	Waste	£	44.89
Town Hall Trust	Town Hall rental (THT)	£	2,000.00
Smiths of Derby	Clock maintenance	£	210.00
VMRC	VMRC	£	250.00
Bunners	Christmas Lights	£	5.80
Institute	Tourism Development	£	10.00
Sovereign	Playground Equipment	£	1,882.15
EDF	Public toilet electricity	£	40.85
Arrow County Supplies	Cleaning Supplies	£	1,196.00
Helen Royall	Zoom Licence	£	35.98

Council was reminded that all transactions and invoices are available live on the SharePoint. Markets are performing well this year with an increased income and fully booked weeks happening more often.

9. Planning

a. 23/1956/FUL

Montgomery Town Council agrees in principle to the proposed development however it requests that the issues of vehicular access on to Princes Street, and potential loss of car parking spaces need to be addressed before the application is approved as there are concerns around access and egress. The Council suggests that due to the proximity to the junction with Broad St, a 'pull in' for approaching traffic could be advantageous. It is noted that lineal measurements of the development were not included with the drawings, which is an oversight and presented difficulties in judging the scale of the build.

The council also asks that attention be paid to surface water drainage as the area is prone to flooding and questioned the source of 'local matching stone' mentioned in the application.

b. 24/0120/LBC

Council has no comments on this application.

c. 24/0163/TRE

Council has no comments on this application.

10. Assets

Standing item no updates

11. Tourism Committee

Minutes to be circulated. What's on Leaflet is in production currently with a good calendar of events. This will be printed soon awaiting final photos.

12. Placemaking report

Covered in the public discussion. Some additional comments were made about the document. It is a working document which means that the council can change it in the future. Council plans to adopt the plan to adopt following a review and the representation in the public session. It was suggested that the council reviews this and adopts it in the next council meeting if it is appropriate.

Discussion around Destination Montgomery making a grant application for awards for all. This would include funds to upgrade the seating in the community gardens for community use but also to be used for events and activities which would be around £8k. The group were asking if the council would support this application for funding and to allow the furniture to be put in place. Council discussed that if successful there would need to be a discussion around ownership and ongoing maintenance.

Proposal: Council gives the support towards Destination Montgomery to include the items in their grant application which is around £8k of furniture for the community garden

Proposed: Cllr Weston

Seconded: Cllr Lock

All in favour

13. Website

Need to understand the statistics for the what's on calendar. Need to look at the information in more detail and an ask for council to look at the content to provide feedback.

14. Allocation of Sheltered Housing

Moved to the next meeting due to the absence of Cllr Jones

15. Communications from the meeting

16. Items for the next agenda

May Fair

Place Plan

Awards for All Grant

Bus stops

Bunting contribution