



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on Thursday 28th April 2022 at 19.15 hours. The meeting was recorded.

Present: Cllr Kibble (Chair), Cllr Beaven (Deputy Chair), Cllr Mills, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Harper, Cllr Jones, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Andrew

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Weaver – friends with the member of the public presenting the planning application

Cllr Beaven / Cllr Harper – Town Hall

3. Break for the public to speak

None

4. Chairman's Announcements

Coffee Morning in aid of Ukraine with a number of items for the auction to be held. We do now have a Ukrainian Family living in Montgomery and one in Bishops Castle who will be attending the coffee morning – the Council extends their well wishes

The Hungarian day on the 14th May is cultural and friendship day – hopefully, the weather will be good. The final programme is ready and will be sent out.

Thanks to the Speedwatch team who have been out. It was surprising to find a number of cars doing double the speed limit. The community is very grateful to the volunteers who help keep the community safe.

Seren Roach from Montgomery School has won a writing competition in the UK and will be published. Proposed writing a letter to congratulate her from the Mayor and the Town Council which was agreed.

Lots of issues at the Castle with dogs. A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the castle grounds and a request to please remind people if you see them. Car parking is for castle visitors only not for town residents.

Following the elections there are to be some changes. The council extends its thanks to Cllr Hayes for the work he has done. The Town Council is welcoming back

the majority of councillors – new member Cyndy Humphries and looking to co-op for the two vacancies.

Thanks were extended to Cllr Mills and Weaver they will be very much missed on council as they have given so much to the town and to promote the community they live in.

5. Minutes of the last meetings

Ran through for accuracy – signed as a correct accurate record of the meeting

Noted – ‘The Crier’ is the magazine

6. Information from the minutes

Meeting with Andrew Evans for the mowing regime has been undertaken. We have increased the boundary to 2m around the edge for wildlife. New costings to be sent and brought to Council.

Two bikes are still for sale and will be promoted

Unity bank log for the Town Clerk has been received and is now enacted

Danny Jarman from Powys County Council will come out and do a walk around and look at issues and is coming after the elections

Camera – awaiting information from the waste awareness team and advice from them before moving forward. Also looking at the life span of the batteries. Need the quality of the image to prosecute so the camera needs to be the right one.

Cllr Harper

Letter to Housing will come after the election and hopefully the new County Cllr will support this too

Chair & TC

7. Report from County Councillor

Apologies as he is on leave. Had sent around information about the housing situation. Council was disappointed in the plans as this does not reflect the mix of houses that was expected and that would potentially benefit the community.

Proposed that planning committee meets and puts together a letter and send round all Cllrs to agree on to send to the new cabinet. This should fit the timescales for planning. It was suggested that planning is notified beforehand as to the fact the council would like to make a representation. Cllr Lewis questioned why we did not share the information directly, Cllr Kibble stated that it was a written communication that had come from a third party and we need all information before it becomes public.

Planning
Committee

8. Highways

Cllr Andrew – paving slabs by the chip shop are lifting and the kerb stones on Poole Road have not been addressed. TC to follow up with highways

TC

Kerry Street – potential to get a 7-tonne limit recommended to bring up to Danny Jarman when the walk round happens

Arthurs gate – kerb stone that has lifted

State of the pot holes is getting worse

Drainage team still have not appeared as promised by the Cllr Hayes

Crown Public House – fire hydrant keeps being parked on. Missed being painted when the rest were done. TC to check who had done this before.

TC

9. Finance

Report was given from finance committee and Cllr Kibble noted that she attended as an observer

Finance committee looked at the end of year cashflow and earmarking. New reporting spreadsheet was shared with the ambition stated to move to a shared folder so that it becomes a live document

Schedule of meetings – in the ToR there is a meeting schedule which needs to be revisited – however waiting until after the May meeting was considered prudent to address this

Signatories on the Bank Account – proposed that the number of signatories is increased to 4 or 5 to allow for flexibility during annual leave and absences.

Cllr Weaver proposed the change with Cllr Lewis seconding.

Cllr Lewis seconded

On being put to the vote, the Resolution carried

Discussion around using Paypal for making purchases outside of invoices. PayPal was setup for taking payments, however there is a difficulty in getting card due to the double signatories needed on the bank account. So it was proposed that an amount for identified purchases would be transferred to PayPal to allow more flexibility in purchasing. This would still allow good control as two signatories have to authorise the transfer and the invoices and PayPal transactions would be provided to back this up. Transactions can be minuted as approved during meetings or via email.

Proposal Cllr Weaver proposed that the council approved the use of PayPal for purchases.

Seconded by Cllr Stephenson.

On being put to the vote, the Resolution carried

Earmarking

Proposed earmarking was discussed from the finance meeting (as noted in the minutes from that meeting)

Cllr Weaver proposed that Council accept the recommendations from the finance committee for earmarked funds. Seconded by Cllr Stephenson.

On being put to the vote, the Resolution carried

10. Montgomery Action Plan, update and next steps

Analysis and summary has been drafted and this will go out with the Crier as an insert. The next thing will be a parking survey and we will be going out to talk to people in Broad Street to see if people are aware of other parking and why they are parking in Broad Street. This will allow the council to gather real data to support any changes. Members of the task and finish group are Cllrs Stephenson, Beaven and Kibble. Grant applied for to display the outcomes. This information will also allow

the council to reflect the views of the people and allow us to better represent our community

11. Town Hall Committee

Update on progress with the transfer

Nothing new to report. PCC have signed off the lease transfer. All documents have been signed.

Discussion around the transfer of the Town Hall being picked up by the audit office. The Clerk has been contacted and all relevant information has been shared with the audit office. The council will await the outcome or provide additional information as required.

Query around the kitchen cleanliness and how this is maintained with a complaint on the Show coffee morning. Discussion around how the Town Hall Operative will work with the new management. Potential to look at recruiting a relief cleaner for the Town Hall to support the 7 day a week operation.

12. Tourism

CLlr Mills to continue managing the play for this year which the council extended its thanks.

13. Planning

Members of the public attended the meeting to discuss the tree application which was appreciated by the council. This is a notification that came from in the garden at Clive House which is next to the Arches. Leaning on the roof has been trimmed twice at the neighbour's expense. Powis Estates are happy for the tree to be removed. Been checked for nests and nothing has been noticed. The council were asked if they would like to look at or Council have no issues with the tree removal and feedback to Planning Decision notices

Notice that the planning application for Castle Terrace has been passed

14. Allotments

Having the grass cuttings from the playing field for composting was discussed

Blackthorn hedge to be reduced

Churchbank – there is an issue with water and provision of this. A member of the public has said they could contribute towards it. Costs need to be investigated.

There is one vacancy at Church Bank which will be advertised

TC/CLlr Weston

15. Play Park Update

Going out to tender and potentially putting in another bid to the lottery. Query around what the works that will be done – this will mainly be groundwork and creating the mounds and paths that connect. Need the specification of the equipment to ensure that you are not having a double spend. Discussion around how the council can support the play park ambitions.

16. Platinum Jubilee

Plans in place for the event and a timetable of events is to be produced. The council will provide cakes and puddings for the coffee morning. Discussion around souvenirs for children and bookmarks were suggested and to be investigated.

CLlr Kibble to investigate costs

17. Digital equipment for meetings

Hybrid meetings are now the norm so a discussion was had around purchasing large TV and PC that would be mounted in the lower hall downstairs and be used for meetings and also could be used for information during open days and other uses.

CLlr Stephenson, CLlr Kibble, TC

Query around how this works with the Town Hall Trust. The equipment would be owned by the TC and it could become complicated however we are required to provide the options for hybrid meetings. There are options to be explored with the THT as to how this works going forward.

18. Communications from the meeting

Vacant Allotment at Church Bank

Remaining Bikes

New and retiring CLlrs

19. Items for the next agenda

Nominations for mayor and deputy mayor are to be sent after the meeting

CLlr Mills said a few words at the end of the meeting expressing his pride in what the council had achieved over the years. CLlr Weaver and Mills wished the Council good luck and gift and cards were given to show appreciation for the years of service.