



# MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.15pm**

This meeting was recorded

**Present in person:**

Cllr Kibble, Cllr Jones, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Humphries, Cllr Lock, Cllr Harper, Cllr Weston

**In attendance:**

Helen Royall (Town Clerk) Cllr Brignell-Thorp

ITEM		ACTION RECORD
1.	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Cllr Lewis, Cllr Taylor	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	None	
3.	<b>Break for the Public to Speak</b>	
	<p>Susan Blower (Town Crier) addressed the council in relation to the potential 2024 International Town Crier competition hosted by the Town Criers Guild. Montgomery has been invited to be the host of the event which will be the first time it will have been hosted in Wales and SB had come to ask the council for their approval. There is the potential for international attendance and promotion on the television and on the radio.</p> <p>Queries came from the council around funding and what the town would have to provide. SB estimated that the event would be around £5k for the whole weekend. On Friday the food would be self-funded with a banquet and reception on Saturday evening. Looking for sponsorship from the Town Council for the reception and the first nights' accommodation. Each Town Crier should be sponsored individually by their town. Each Town Crier needs to fund one of the two nights accommodation. SB is also looking at fundraising opportunities within the Town. There will need to be a street closure on the Saturday which would need to be factored in to the overall costs and 24/25 precept.</p>	

	<p>Dates proposed: 13/14/15<sup>th</sup> September 2024</p> <p>Cllrs felt that this was a good opportunity for the promotion of the town. It was clear that the Town Crier would be doing a lot of the work around fundraising, however the Town Council would be happy to support financially but would need some more information at the end of the year to put into the precept. Council will supply a letter to state they have approved in principle the holding of the event.</p> <p>Potentially need to have a joint working party with some members of the council on the group. Council will leave the setting up of the committee with Susie Blower.</p> <p>SB thanked the council for their support.</p>	<p>JK/TC to provide a letter of support.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b>	
	<p>Precept has been submitted well in advance of the deadline with no increase in 2023.</p> <p>Winter tea great success and thanks to all members who helped. Several letters and emails of thanks.</p> <p>Nominations for Drs Ann and John Welton for an MBE or OBE, in particular for their services to establishing the Civic Society and the Old Bell Gallery and their tireless work on researching and promoting the history of Montgomery. This had been discussed pre-covid but there is now wide support from organisations in town and MTC has provided a letter of endorsement accordingly. After 50 years of joint service to the Town it will be one nomination and endorsement, but the request is for an award to each.</p> <p>Leaflets about Whitegates pool which will be put in some locations in the town to promote the nature conservation work that is undertaken. Lionel Weaver's photographs feature prominently. These will be in place by Easter. Thanks to the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust for financial support.</p> <p>All new AV and PA equipment fitted in the town hall by the THT and there will be an open evening to showcase the capabilities of the new equipment. This will allow the spaces to be used for conferencing and diversify the income. Some future promotion to be undertaken.</p> <p>Thanks to Monty Muscle for clearing the Christmas Lights and packing them away. The Town Council will be looking after the Christmas lights from this point on.</p> <p>Lit Fest will be continuing with a full complement of authors booked. This will take place in the second weekend in June.</p> <p>Powys County Council is facing serious financial issues and the current way of managing finance is not sustainable and there will be a rethink of how the Powys County Council will be run so major changes to come. It is looking like a 5% increase in council tax.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meetings</b>	
	<p><b>Item 12.</b> Rewording of the description of Destination Montgomery as the organisation is still in existence it is only the funding which has ended. The</p>	

	<p>wording implied the group had ended. Destination Montgomery is still working hard to promote the town.</p> <p>Additional information was requested as to the intellectual ownership of the website. Cllr Weston to check on the ownership of this and the content with G17</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 27th November 2022 are approved and signed as a correct record.</i></p>	Cllr Weston to check the ownership
<b>6.</b>	<b>Information from the minutes</b>	
	<p>Item 6.10 – works to the water main on Pool Road - communication has gone out from Hafren Dyfrdwy.</p> <p>6.15 – Warm Spaces Initiative - seems to be incredibly successful with the space well attended and has started to be a great meeting point for people. To go on the next agenda as the council are keen to support this further if there is a further need for funding. There may be some potential funding from the Council in addition if the need and footfall is proved. The need in Montgomery appears to be coming from a social need and making connections. Originally it was not registered on the website due to a clerical error at Powys County Council.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Report from the County Councillor</b>	
	<p>Report was sent through prior to the meeting. Planning application for The Cottage is still moving on now and will be going to planning committee and the Town Council will have the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting.</p> <p>Budget was discussed again, some of the cuts are not being made to leisure centres etc. However, there will be a tough couple of years and no proposals about what this will look like, but this will be coming soon. Council Tax up 5% and council rents 5.6%</p> <p>There will be a climate and nature conference in June which will be aimed at community and local councils to develop their own climate plans. More details will be coming.</p> <p>Policing liaison meetings have been limited in recent months. They are promoting that police are planning community talks on fraud and online fraud. Keen to attend events in local communities to provide a presence and to chat to local people.</p> <p>Queries from the council around the closing of schools which fortunately is not impacting Montgomeryshire. There is an acceptance that there will be some smaller schools closed due to the costs of the running of them. Issues with transportation and cost financially / environmentally were discussed by Councillors as requiring consideration.</p> <p>Meetings with the planning authority the local planning advisor has contacted the clerk about monthly phone calls, however this was felt to not be a good use of his time but the council appreciated the clear line of communication with the local planning advisor. There is a review of the LDP but not clear about the date</p>	

currently but there will be an opportunity for the council to comment and feed in.

Cllr Beaven asked for an update on cemetery fees which is still ongoing and information is being reviewed.

Buses still no movement on the change in location due to the issues with reversing though it was noted by council they are reversing at the Town Hall. There were some suggestions as to a meeting with planning and highways to look at entry and exit points.

Cllr Andrew raised the hedge cutting at number 5 Chirbury Road which is blocking the pavement and has only been not been addressed.

**8. Finance**

**a. Invoices and Payments**

Ran through the finance report.  
 Income: Larger amount and out of phasing due to waiting until a number of cheques have been received to reduce fees. Back to where it was forecast due to the town hall bookings being handed over

**December**

Salary		£594.40
Salary		
Salary		£463.80
HMRC		£159.80
Rally Marketing		£160.00
Andrew Evans		£1,961.49
Craven Design		£96.00
Caradoc Ensemble		£500.00
Remberance Wreaths	KTA16	£34.00
Expenses HR Printer Ink		£28.49
Expenses JK Flowers		£25.00
Pens (JK)		£14.67
Flip Chart (JK)		£8.70
Powys Estates		£26.00
Dragon		£15.00

	Andrew Evans	2262	£1,572.00		
	Andrew Evans	2127	£269.94		
	Gaskells	P171142	£79.28		
	DPJ Foundation Donation		£960.00		
	EDF		£435.90		
	EDF		£61.00		
	BT		£81.34		
	Service Charge (Unity)		£18.00		
	Town Hall Loan		£6,277.82		
	<b>January</b>				
	Salary		£594.40		
	Salary				
	Salary		£463.80		
	HMRC				
	Gaskells	P173932	£41.56		
	Nonson Allan Night Out	4753	£1,750.00		
	Davies Robers and Bown	891	£218.65		
	Veolia		£55.20		
	HR Expenses		£143.88		
	Katrina Collins		£290.00		
	Powys County Council	20142403	£572.19		
	MoorCroft		£98.78		
	EDF		£310.57		
	<b>b. Town Hall Finance</b>				
	Three changes from proposals from the Town Hall Finances were reviewed. Council felt the amended costs were reasonable and in proportion.				
	<i>RESOLVED: To accept the amended costs proposed</i>				
	<b>c. Purchase of PA Equipment</b>				
	Council has been offered some mobile PA equipment for £80 which was trialled at				

	<p>a Christmas event and new year event which worked successfully. This can be loaned out to other community organisations, but it needs somewhere for it to be stored. Suggestion of keeping it in the Town Hall cleaning cupboard as it is lockable. Council agreed it is a reasonable cost, if hired out would have to be included in the T &amp; Cs.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: To purchase the equipment for use at town events</i></p>	Cllr Kibble & Harper
<b>9.</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
	<b>a. Powys Street Naming &amp; Numbering SNN/2022/0257</b>	
	Proposal was resolved via email prior to the council meeting	
	<b>b. Response to 22/2110/FUL 10</b>	
	<p>Planning committee and council felt that these are works that are essential and the environmental issues well considered. Council happy for the response to go to the sewerage work.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: To send the councils response to the planning application</i></p>	
	<p>Additional 22/2151/FUL Response was presented by planning committee for the community council. Cllr BT has had some communication from local resident with concern on construction times already and access agreement. Council is happy with the response which outlines queries around opening, access and sewerage.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: To send the council's response to the planning application</i></p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Highways</b>	
	<b>a. Princes Street Drains</b>	
	This has been logged with Powys and potholes. Cllr B-T was asked to bring this up with highways as this an ongoing problem. Also, there is quite a bit of debris on the road and the sweeper has not been through recently.	Cllr B-T
	<b>b. New location of Welcome to Montgomery sign</b>	
	<p>Discussion around the proposal to move the sign further up the road due to the creation of the entrance to the new estate. Concerns around visibility for traffic turning. In general the council were not in agreement to the change in location and felt there must be alternatives.</p> <p><i>Resolved: To feedback that the proposed location is not suitable and is there an alternative solution</i></p>	
	<b>c. Parking Proposal Feedback</b>	
	<p>A draft was circulated to the council in the meeting pack and following discussion some minor amendments and some additional points were added, this will then go to community consultation. Need an understanding as to signage etc needed. Need to keep highways updated with highways.</p> <p>Additional point that Arthur Street has not been gritted recently which causes dangerous conditions for traffic and people. In addition, can the grit boxes be checked and replenished by the Council. Cllr B-T to bring to PCC.</p>	Cllr Kibble  Cllr B-T
<b>11.</b>	<b>Coronation Planning</b>	
	Need to think about the celebration and souvenirs now as if the council does want to order anything it was recognised the lead time may be longer than normal. Cllr Beaven and Cllr Lock agreed to liaise and come back to the council with a proposal following consultation with the Town Crier and School.	Cllrs Lock & Beaven

	Query about free street closures from Powys and if they would be free as per the Jubilee. No information had yet to be received.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Clos Tan-y-mur fund</b>	
	Next meeting all councillors will need to sign on as Trustees and will need to supply details. Governing documents from the charity commission to be gathered. The council will be doing calls for applications from youth groups. To go out in April's Crier as a call for applications.	TC to gather documentation
<b>13</b>	<b>Allotments</b>	
	<b>a. Hedgerows</b>	
	Previously an informal arrangement had been in place with the allotment holders. The council arranged for the hedges to be cut this year which worked in some areas and not others. In the future it would be made clearer in the terms and conditions that the hedgerow maintenance can be the responsibility of the allotment holder should they wish.	Clerk to alter agreement
	<b>b. Allotment rep role</b> Query around how the communication from the allotment holders and the role of the rep going forward. There is sometimes a back and forth and need visibility. Discussion around reinstatement of the allotment meeting and have the agreements signed. To be arranged in April.	Allotment meeting to be arranged in April
	<b>c. Allotment fees for 2023/2024</b>	
	Discussion around putting up the allotment rents by £5 based on the local cost for allotments or apportioning the water bill. It was felt that it should be left for this year due to the last price increase and the increase in the cost of living.  <i>Resolved: To leave fees as previous years</i>	
	<b>d. Water supply and water butts</b>	
	There has been the potential offer of free water butts for the allotments which would work well at Church Bank	
	<b>e. Request to build compost area.</b>	
	Allotment holder had put forward to build a compost area at Tan-y-Mur. Plans were provided and it was well thought out and material pallet – roof could be used for harvesting and composing. No objections to putting the compost bins in. Council noted their thanks for bringing the plan to council for consideration.	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Medical practice meeting feedback</b>	
	Cllr Stephenson attended the committee. Defib has been funded which will be kept inside the medical practice. A poster will be going outside the practice to show where the current two are located. Practice newsletter and any suggestions that people would like included from the practice.  Surgery App – new app being trialled now. Taking feedback now with limited functionality on the app now and planning to increase more functionality. It may take some of the pressure off the phone line. Encouragement to feedback to the practice.  Waiting times have been affected and under strain from sickness and covid over the winter – waiting for appointment is 9 working day and 97% are face to face.	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Complaints committee report</b>	

	<p>Apologies were given by Cllr Beaven as the written recommendations were not circulated prior to the meeting. A verbal report was given to the council and definitive recommendations will come to next meeting and will be emailed out prior. Complaint was made in December but due to Christmas and the co-option needs it was delayed. The complaint was dealt with in confidence but there were some recommendations that the committee felt were pertinent to bring to the council. The committee has sent a response to the complainant.</p> <p>A reminder that complaints procedure is a place for people to air a grievance and to find a resolution. It underlines the corporate responsibility and that we must make decisions on factual evidence.</p> <p>Another complaint was made via email which was not about any member of the council however it provided a timely reminder on comments made on social media and be aware of any statements made on social media are in the public realm.</p>	
<b>16.</b>	<b>Recycling area</b>	
	<b>a. Fly tipping</b>	
	Left at the back of the skips and at the side of them. Only accepting the cardboard. Anything left outside of the skips is illegal and may not be collected. Cllrs reminded to be vigilant.	
	<b>b. Noticeboards</b>	
	Some of the notice boards are now no longer needed or some of them needed and needs to be removed. Powys County Council to remove the sign.	Clerk
	<b>c. School banner</b>	
	School has requested if they could put a school promotion banner in the Tan-y-Mur playground area. Agreed that banners are attractive and well done and Council were in full agreement with the proposal.	
<b>17.</b>	<b>Communications from the meeting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precept zero increase.</li> <li>• Warm spaces feedback and success</li> <li>• Bus timetables are incorrect and getting the correct information to people</li> </ul>	
<b>18.</b>	<b>Items for next agenda</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaths in the community Update</li> <li>• Coronation</li> <li>• Complaints committee response</li> <li>• 800 years of castle</li> <li>• Social Housing</li> <li>• Car park recycling</li> </ul>	