



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on **Thursday 28th July 2022 at 7.15pm**

This meeting was recorded

Present in person:

Cllr Kibble, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Jones, Cllr Harper, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Andrew

Present online:

Cllr Stephenson

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk), Cllr Thorp (Powys CC)

ITEM		ACTION RECORD
1.	Apologies Cllr Weston	
2.	Declarations of Interest None	
3.	Break for the Public to Speak None	
4.	Chairman's Announcements Congratulations to Cllr Taylor who has joined as councillor OneVoice Wales training is available for Cllrs online and varied regularly. Cllrs encouraged to take part and inform the clerk of training undertaken. Very successful Street Fair which has again raised the profile of the town and takes a large amount of work and commitment from the committee members. Successful bid to the digital equipment fund by Cllr Stephenson, equipment has been purchased and ready to install when siting agreed with Town Hall Trust. Mayor making Cllr Kibble thanks members for their support at the event. Very enjoyable evening and nice to be back to tradition. This has been booked in for the usual time next year.	

	All meeting dates for the next year have been circulated and a request for the councillors to try and attend meetings in person though there is always the option for hybrid.	
5.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	<p>To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Annual Full Council meeting on 30th June 2022. A factual correction was requested to confidential item 17 changing 'unform' to 'inform'. The Town Clerk confirmed the accuracy of the correction.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Full Council 30th June 2022 are approved and signed as a correct record with a typographical correction.</p>	TC
6.	Information from the minutes	
	<p>To report for <u>information purposes only</u>, matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council meeting 30th June 2022.</p> <p>Item 4: Community survey there will be some open sessions which will be coming up in mid-September. Traffic survey will also be taking place around the same time.</p> <p>Item 4: VMRC notes were circulated following the previous meeting</p> <p>Item 6: Bookmarks distributed and will be in the library and also looking at the Town Crier taking them to Windsor</p> <p>Item 8b. Letters have been sent to the recreational organisations at Church Bank and the resident has been notified of the action</p> <p>Item 8. Highways log has now been created.</p> <p>Item 9. Internal audit has been received and responded to.</p> <p>Item 10b: Road at Caerhowel bridge has been logged and has been logged by Powys CC. Change of use of the Cottage some changes have been taken place and this will be logged with the CC.</p> <p>Item 11: TH practicalities meeting to be held on August 3rd 6pm to discuss ongoing issues. Issues not completed on the side letter, cleaning etc and looking at the installation of the screen. Water ingress from the flat roof to be raised with the THT</p> <p>Item 12: Play Park update – tender is progressing and drawings are being processed</p> <p>Item 13: Finance meeting in September to bring the reviewed risk assessment back to full Council</p> <p>Item 14: Mayor making has been put in for the next three years to ensure there are no bookings.</p>	

7.	Report from the County Councillor																									
	<p>Thanks to Cllr Thorp for sending the report in advance. Cllr Thorp was also in attendance.</p> <p>Shared Prosperity Fund – video presentation will be shared. This is a fund to replace the European funding. There is pressure to ensure that community councils have access to the funds. However, this will be rushed when it comes to application phase. Mainly revenue based with some capital – it is desirable for there to be some match funding.</p> <p>Performance report on social care and the shortcomings and they are interested in community solutions. Genuine interest on how communities can respond to the housing crises. Sheltered Houses and lack of care home facilities which was raised by Cllr Jones in the past and more recently the council has written a letter to a portfolio holder to raise this as an issue. There are people in Montgomery who need a bungalow, but housing is offered to people outside of the area first. Previously MTC used to make recommendations and prioritise local need. Query about what the scoring criteria is and Cllr Thorpe will be raising this and find out more information about this.</p> <p>Discussion around schools though this does not really affect Montgomery. Generally in Powys the number of school places has dropped and there is a demographic shift to less working people and more retired.</p> <p>Poor service on bin collection due to covid, staff vacancies and vehicle maintenance. This is an ongoing problem which will take time to address.</p> <p>Cllr Beaven raised cemetery fees which is an ongoing issue as Powys fees are some of the highest in Wales. There has never been a satisfactory response as to why they are so high. Cllr Beaven to send the information</p>	<p>Cllr Thorp</p> <p>Cllr Beaven</p>																								
8.	Finance																									
	a. Invoices and payments																									
	All on the SharePoint with the list of payments																									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Salary</td> <td></td> <td>£638.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary</td> <td></td> <td>£516.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td></td> <td>£183.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Boundy</td> <td>Beacon Logs for Jubilee</td> <td>£150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunners</td> <td>MO55</td> <td>£39.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Davies Robers and Bowen</td> <td>0835</td> <td>£3,840.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiggles and Forence</td> <td>12478</td> <td>£35.00</td> </tr> </table>	Salary		£638.10	Salary			Salary		£516.34	HMRC		£183.60	Chris Boundy	Beacon Logs for Jubilee	£150.00	Bunners	MO55	£39.15	Davies Robers and Bowen	0835	£3,840.00	Wiggles and Forence	12478	£35.00	
Salary		£638.10																								
Salary																										
Salary		£516.34																								
HMRC		£183.60																								
Chris Boundy	Beacon Logs for Jubilee	£150.00																								
Bunners	MO55	£39.15																								
Davies Robers and Bowen	0835	£3,840.00																								
Wiggles and Forence	12478	£35.00																								

Currys Buisness	17992648	£1,470.24	
Currys Buisness	17992885	£450.00	
Currys Buisness	17993678	£1,493.42	
Currys Buisness	17993909	£105.08	
Craven Design and Print	32384	£106.00	
Andrew Evans Landscaping	2127	£ 1,349.72	
Expenses (Helen)		£21.00	
Ancient Guild Town Criers		£30.00	
G17	1119	£70.00	
G17	1120	£495.00	
Gaskells	P157861	£41.44	
Powis Estates	S12709	£26.00	
Greymatter	QGM-25776-T5S3D7	£204.62	
Wendy Beaven		£43.87	
Montgomery Crier	04 2022	£70.00	
Claire Weston	20220729-Invoice-CLW-MTC	£900.00	
Arrow County Supplies	4961597	£589.00	
Postage (expenses Jill)		£23.00	
Expenses (Jill) Jubilee		£23.75	
JDH Business Services Ltd	4374	£536.40	
EDF		£143.06	
EDF		£61.00	
BT		£80.81	
<p>Payment for the services of Town Crier as a retainer which has been set at £150 for expenses and £30 for membership for the Town Criers Guild.</p> <p>It was also discussed that the Town Crier is staying two nights in Windsor as part of her duties and as a promotion to the town. Cllr Kibble proposed that the council</p>			

	<p>contributed some funds towards this. For audit purposes the TC proposed that if receipts were provided the council would offer to pay one nights accommodation all council agreed this would be prudent and allow open accounting</p> <p>Proposal: To support the Town Crier by providing a financial contribution as a £150 retainer and to pay for accommodation in Windsor</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Kibble Seconded: Cllr Jones</p> <p>All in favour</p> <p>RESOLVED The council approved the retainer fee and membership fees for the Town Crier and to approve expenses for her stay in London.</p>	
	b. Update on Grants	
	Arwain grant had yet to be paid but all documentation and conditions had been met. All grant information is on the SharePoint and available on request.	
9.	Planning	
	For the community use it was proposed that when appropriate the council would print out the planning notice and place this on the town notice board.	TC
	a. Planning Application Notification 22/1105/TRE	
	<p>Cllr Kibble left the meeting as the planning application relates to the Scottish Power Application at her residence.</p> <p>The application relates to tree removal and states d they are going to complete it as sympathetically as possible. Council have no objections if done sympathetically in regards to the conservation area and householder.</p>	
	b. Planning Application Notification 22/1078/LBC	
	Planning committee will make a site visit due to the buildings status and listing before making a comment which will then be sent to planning	Planning Committee
10.	Highways	
	<p>Overhanging hedges and the maintenance of them on footpaths - one on Princes Street and No5 Chirbury Road (only leaves a small amount of pavement). Query as to the process on reporting the hedges and what Powys CC stance on footpaths are. Cllr Thorp was still in the meeting and will look into this for MTC.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor brought up the issue of buses and moving the routes away from the Town Hall to prevent traffic issues. Cllr Humphreys raised safety with buses stopping and speeds along the road and the parking along the road. Bus stop signs are on order but there is a delay on delivery. Cllr Andrew raised the issue of a bus stop on Forden Road with the new housing development. There was also an environmental issue with buses staying running while waiting at the bus stop.</p> <p>Proposal to formally write a letter to request a stop on Castle Street and to turn around at Tan-y-mur at the recycling centre.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Taylor Seconded: Cllr Andrew</p>	Cllr Thorp

	<p>All in favour</p> <p>RESOLVED TC to write formal letter from the council in relation to the movement of bus stop locations in town to ease pressure on Broad Street</p>	TC
	<p>a. Road from Montgomery to Hendomen Ongoing issue with the road and speed. The surfacing of the road and the hedge has overgrown. It would be a major job to fix and is unsafe to walk or run.</p> <p>RESOLVED Report Condition to highways</p>	TC
	<p>b. Forden Road Junction</p> <p>No repairs done on this junction since the last accident, this has been raised at several times and the LEDs in the lights are not bright enough to light the junction. The fence is already in poor condition and has been hit many times. As no one has fortunately been killed there, junction improvements are not a priority. There were previously plans for a mini roundabout at this site that were never carried out.</p> <p>Query around the additional houses of Forden development and how this would affect the junction. It appears works have started there without amended highways plans as required by the Planning Conditions. in the conditions. Query around the status of the housing to affordable housing – there was a response confirming however council is still chasing this one.</p> <p>Council will monitor the works at Forden Road and act accordingly if needed. The council will await the highways plans for Forden Road before pushing forward with junction complaint to highways.</p>	
11.	Upkeep of Town Trees	
	<p>Trees in Broad Street were put in place by a member of the community however they are now struggling to look after them and cannot continue to take responsibility for them. This has lead to other members of the community watering them. Some of the trees need maintaining currently and all trimming every couple of years. There is some money in the budget for the Whitegate Pool which could be used for the trees if the Town Council took over responsibility and management of them.</p> <p>TC raised the issue of health and safety and the implications of owning and taking responsibility for the trees in the public area and the increase of risk to the TC.</p> <p>Needs and investigation into who owns the trees first and to make enquiries with other councils. Wider issues with trees that the councils own – check with Zurich around the insurance policy for this and if we need any amendment.</p>	<p>TC to check insurance and legislation on trees</p> <p>CLlr Kibble investigate ownership</p>
12.	Bins/Recycling	
	<p>Some of the dog waste bins have been lost and broken up by a county council official and left at Maldwyn Way. QR codes on the bins have all peeled off. Three bins have been given and one has gone is Tan-y-mur and there are a couple that are being placed. Some of the bins need securing however there is a question of</p>	

	<p>liability if we do this. Suggestion of lids on the bins to stop the birds.</p> <p>Cllr Lewis mentioned the cubic capacity of the bins. They look appropriate to the street scene outside but do not have the capacity and vermin are getting in.</p> <p>Run out of the environmentally friendly corn starch dog poo bags and these have been popular. Bunnars are getting the right type of bags, and this seems to have alleviated the problem in town. PCC have said the town has too many bins however MTC question the rationale and reasoning for this.</p> <p>There is an issue of some antisocial behaviour at the recycling bins which has been reported to 101.</p> <p>Dogs at the castle even though dogs are not allowed at the castle site, however there are several dogs and dog fouling issues. Cllr Kibble contacting CADW about the signage and also the bins.</p>	Cllr Kibble
13.	Allotments and Hedgerows	
	<p>Check if the grass cutting contractor has hedge cutting in the contract – quote for the hedge cutting at Tan-y-mur for September.</p> <p>Free plot at Church Bank has now been taken and there is a waiting list. The plot is now vacated and the previous tenant asked to clear the items off the allotments ready for the new</p> <p>Council wished to extend thanks to the local resident who keeps an allotment at Church Bank and also supplies water.</p>	TC
14.	Operation London Bridge Review	
	<p>Original working group information was circulated, and some initial thoughts were shared via email regarding the operation:</p> <p>Photographs in the Bell and choose a photograph and a frame Book with the queen’s signature in appropriate for condolences– in the filing cabinet Contact list to be prepared in advance Clarify use of Town Hall</p>	TC / Cllr Weston Cllr Kibble
15.	Whitegates Pool Area	
	<p>There are couple of dead trees that require a bit of work. Need to be removed and pruned. TC to contact tree surgeon.</p> <p>Trefoil Guild are planning to do a wildflower area near boundary with Lymore with advice from the wildlife trust and working with the brownies.</p>	TC
16.	Policy Schedule	
	<p>When committees are meeting need to look at the policy schedule and to do an update. Policy working group to meet over the summer and look at what has and has not been done. To be done at some point in August/September and then get into a habit of a dated schedule. . We need to update the policies on the schedule on the website and they can all be uploaded when reviewed.</p>	Policy committee

17.	Communications from the meeting	
	<p>Allotment award for the show All allotments full and there is a waiting list</p> <p>Highways issues and what we are doing about it – comms on social media</p>	
18.	Items for the next agenda	
	<p>Cllrs are reminded to provide papers and information to the TC 7 days before the next council meeting for distribution.</p> <p>Cllr Lewis – Bin proposal to TC next agenda</p> <p>Cllr Jones – Plaque protection & Town Notice Board</p> <p>Cllr Kibble – Community Garden and transfer</p> <p>Cllr Humphreys – communicating for residents’ deaths in the community</p> <p>Cllr Stephenson – THT review – broadband and access to broadband</p>	