



# MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

<p>Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on <b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.15pm</b></p> <p>This meeting was recorded</p>	
<p><b>Present:</b> Cllr Kibble, Cllr Harper, Cllr Jones, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Stephenson (part), Cllr Weston Town Clerk There was one observer.</p>	
<p><b>1. Apologies</b> Cllr Lewis, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Beaven</p>	
<p><b>2. Declarations of Interest</b> None</p>	
<p><b>3. Break for the public to speak</b> No public announcements</p>	
<p><b>4. Chairmans Announcements</b> Lots of events in the town – Jubilee Beacon thanks to Chris Boundy and the Rangers for their organisation and the Town Crier and Mayor’s Consort for officiating. Many Street Parties held in the community. The atmosphere was good with a good mix of ages. Town Street Party was well attended and an enjoyable event for all ages. Thanks to Cllr Beaven and the Town Crier for co-ordinating.</p> <p>Montgomeryshire Lit fest is now a permanent fixture in the Montgomery calendar and thanks to those who take the time out of their busy lives to organise and run.</p> <p>The Rotary Across Wales Walk ended in Montgomery for the first time which gave a good sense of occasion on arrival. All the events brought people into town which is important for businesses and in raising the profile of the town.</p> <p>Swift walk with the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and lots of interest in having swift boxes in town. Continues the collaboration between the Town Council and MWT and this relationship is something the council is committed to maintaining.</p> <p>Community survey results went out with The Crier and now need to meet to look at the next steps forward and the parking surveys.</p>	

<p>Thank you to Cllr Weston for all the news and events information that is shared online and for putting the information in the County Times which puts the town on the map. Thank you to Cllr Stephenson who started the Monty Hour during Covid which means we now have a large archive with great speakers. It was very much appreciated during lockdown and was a lifeline for many.</p> <p>Two successful bids by the Town Hall Trust one for a hearing loop upstairs. Also £10k for PA and AV equipment upstairs. Congratulations to the Trust. Still waiting on the outcome of the Town Council bid for meeting equipment in the Lower Hall.</p> <p>VMRC had their meeting which Cllr Harper and Cllr Kibble attended. Waiting for the final notes and these will be shared with the Council.</p> <p>Appointment of Sarah Brian at Montgomery School as the new head and already spending some time in the school.</p> <p>Street Fair and Open Gardens coming up the first weekend in July with refreshments at the Town Hall with the teas 12-4.30. Any assistance appreciated.</p>	
<p><b>5. Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>A few minor typographical errors were noted and clarity on one item was requested that the Street Closure Notice was being sought for the Street Fair as the noting in the previous minutes implied, we were not seeking a resolution.</p> <p><b>The Minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed as such.</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Information from the minutes</b></p> <p>Item 6 - Grass cutting – there are still issues with the grass cutting as the cuttings are still being left and not provided for the allotments as requested. This is being actively worked on currently.</p> <p>Item 6 - A letter for sheltered housing is to be sent to reply to concern in the town as to the lack of housing for elderly or vulnerable people meaning they often have to leave the community they have lived in for most of their lives.</p> <p>Items 6 - Bookmarks have arrived for Jubilee. Cllr Kibble suggested giving them out at Street Fair and some promotion online. Cllr Harper suggested some in the bookshop and some in the library.</p> <p>Item 15 - Cllr Harper gave an update on the allotments – there is an overgrown hedge and some overgrown vegetation. Last two allotments have now gone so we have a full quota of allotment holders.</p> <p>Item 15 - Hedge on Chirbury Road has been trimmed and made neat however you still must walk in the road need to speak to the householder. Still needs to be investigated further as to responsibility.</p> <p>Item 16 - Street closure notice was gained for the Jubilee Street Party thanks to the efficiency of Powys County Council and letter was delivered to the residents.</p>	<p>Bookmarks to be distributed</p>

<p>Destination Montgomery account is still ongoing due to issues with forms timing out going to former clerk's personal address. This will hopefully be soon resolved</p>	
<p><b>7. Report from County Councillor</b>  A written report was provided pre-meeting to all councillors</p> <p>Issues with bin collections in parts of the Town. Cllr Jones stated that the black bins seem to have moved to a six-weekly schedule causing the bins to overflow. TC had an email from a resident and had directed them to the complaint's information on the Powys website. Situation to be monitored and if needed further escalation could take place.</p> <p>Speed in Hendomen has been raised and the council was pleased this issue was being taken seriously and had been escalated.</p> <p>Cllr Kibble to send a note to him to say thank you for the information and a most useful</p>	<p>Cllr Kibble to send note to Cllr Thorp</p>
<p><b>8. Highways</b></p> <p><b>a. Report back from meeting with Highways Officer</b>  Cllr Harper gave an account of the meeting with D Jarvis who is the inspector of Highways. During the meeting pointed out road markings that have eroded and are causing issues including by the Dragon and fire hydrants remaining unmarked. Pointed out trip hazards on footpaths and potholes. Pointed out the blocked drains. Pointed out the holes in Princes Street.</p> <p>Did look at the 30mph signs on the Forden Road and they have been removed. Asked for a sign to be put on Back Lane to stop HGVs to come down towards the Town Halls. Did point out the tarmac and surfacing to the Town Hall causing issues for walkers, pedestrians and traffic.</p> <p>No assurances that any of the works will be undertaken due to a resource and budget shortage which includes a limited team of gully clearers and white line painters. Frustrating that it felt like the town was not being prioritised.</p> <p>Cllr Weston asked if TC or a private individual could act. Cllr Kibble advised issues with insurance and liability if people do work on the highways and also there is a standard must be met and approved by Highways.</p> <p><b>b. Parking on Church Bank</b>  Email by a member of the community raising the issue of parking in this area. No designated parking for the householders in this area. Recommendation that we approach the Bowls and Tennis Club about the parking and ask them to respect the residents and for them to ask their members to park at the town car park. TC to send email to the chairpersons of the clubs (Cllr Weston to provide contact for We Do Tennis, children's coaching)</p> <p>Letter to resident to advise of action taken</p> <p>Other matters reported included the one way system by the Pound is not being used correctly and people are going the wrong way. At the top of the Pound the</p>	<p>TC to send letter to clubs</p> <p>TC to advise resident of action</p>

wall has been hit by turning tractors. TC/Cllr Kibble to email highways and Cllr Thorp. TC to create Highways log so that all issues are recorded

TC to create highways log

## 9. Finance

### a. Minutes and Terms of Reference

Terms of reference changes were minor and approved

Cllr Weston continues as chair. Will complete public reporting and pie chart for Crier and webpage. There is a new WG annual report structure that should be used but a final version has not been received. Need to look at the final version of this. TC to contact OneVoice Wales and see if they have a final version of this annual report. Looked through the issues raised in the internal audit. Issues has already been actioned and changes made in reporting. Cannot deal with one action in there which is the competitive tender as this has now passed however it has been noted that we should be more aware that works may go over in contracts such as the cleaning company.

Audit Wales has stated that there may not always be the ability to get three quotes and we should change to the wording and cash limits in our Financial Regulations to improve this in the future. Council was happy that Finance Committee go through the audit and record response by number.

Suggested to use the July meeting to look at missed finance approvals.

**Proposal: The council was asked to accept the outcome of the audit for 2020 - 2021:**

**Proposed: Cllr Jones**

**Seconded: Cllr Kibble**

**On being put to the vote the resolution to accept the audit was carried**

### b. Invoices and payments

Invoices and payments are now on the live recording system and viewed by the Main Council.

All payments scheduled were approved by the council and were available to be viewed in the finance monitoring document

Salary		£658.57
Salary		£0.00
Salary		£608.86
HMRC		£222.04
Gaskells	P155137	£41.56
Montgomery Weddings	MW028-220528	£120.00
Harrisons Solicitors	78052	£2,107.20
Currys	17968719	£688.98

All Cllr

TC

Bunners		£13.40		
Kings Nursery	2066	£240.00		
EDF	Direct Debit	£82.47		
EDF	Direct Debit	£61.00		
BT	Direct Debit	£81.34		
Powys CC	Direct Debit	£682.00		
UK Debt Management Office	Direct Debit	£6,277.82		
Bank Service Charge	18	£18.00		
Manual Credit Charge		11.00		
<b>10. Planning</b>				
<p>a. Forden Road development Email has been sent following on from previous correspondence and council meeting and a reply had been received which stated that they would be 33 affordable homes and not rental properties. Affordable homes are clearly required in town and Council will continue to monitor progress.</p> <p>b. Queries raised by Planning Committee New access road at Caerhowel bridge and if permission had been sought for this. Complaint to be raised and recorded on Highways tracker by TC</p> <p>Change of use of the Cottage. There had been an initial response, and this had been in turn responded too. Waiting for further information.</p> <p>Planning notices – 21/2312/FUL and 21/2313/LBC - Castle Kitchen/Little Gallery has received approval.</p>				TC to raise complaint
<b>11. Town Hall Committee</b>				
<p>ToR and purpose of Committee (circulated in Meeting Pack) Committee has met and have put forward a short paper with proposals for how the committee works and outlined the roles the committee should be taking. Cllr Beavan is the point of contact on the committee which is being maintained as it was felt useful. A new term of reference for the new TH Committee was approved by the council.</p> <p>Town Hall Issues: Some repairs needed and were raised however the Council was reminded that the Town Hall was now leased on a full repairing lease and these repairs were now the responsibility of the THT. However, the council did agree that we need to ensure that all outstanding works have been completed. TC to check the side letter for outstanding works and check that the council has fulfilled the full responsibility of the side letter and the lease.</p>				TC to check on outstanding works

<p>Request for the banner for the play to go onto the Town Hall for week preceding the play at the castle. Council are happy for this especially to promote the event after Covid. Request that it is removed promptly.</p>	
<p><b>12. Assets Committee</b>  Cllr Stephenson gave an update of the meeting which had one item on the agenda which was to tender for the play park phase one. In the meeting decided to ask the TC to produce the tender to send out to companies for the phase one development. Decided on who the tenders should go to – Pickstock, Chris Evans, Evabuild mentioned. Ensure that the tender process is fair and open with the potential that some of the time would be gifted. Steve Buckley to be co-opted as a non-council member as he has appropriate skills for working with the contractor. Looking to spend up to 10k of the grant and there is some money in the community group.</p> <p>Some money from the previous year was allocated from the budget to assist in the ongoing development of the Play Park.</p>	
<p><b>13. Corporate Governance</b>  <b>Standing Orders:</b> Council resolved to re-adopt Standing Orders in their present form with one amendment on Page 20 which references a £25k limits on tendering and quotes which needed to be reflected in the financial regulations.</p> <p><b>Financial Regulations:</b> Council resolved to re-adopt Financial Regulations in their present form with an amendment to 1.1.03G - wording about when we get quotes. It was agreed to make the limits clearer and change the limits to obtaining quotes for works over £5k. This was referenced in the finance committee minutes. 1.59 to add payments made to and from PayPal</p> <p><b>Financial Risk Assessment:</b> Council resolved to re-adopt Financial Risk Assessment in its current form temporarily as this is being revisited by finance committee as it was felt it could be more robust. To be brought back to the next appropriate council meeting following a committee meeting.</p>	
<p><b>14. Mayor Making Planning</b>  Protocol has been found and the order is to be provided. Come from Robing Room the newest member first. Everyone to go into the Robing Room – at 7.15pm. It was suggested that Cllr Andrew may like to make a speech due to the lack of Mayor Making during Covid. Cllr Kibble to propose this to him.</p>	
<p><b>15. Communication from the meeting</b>  Pie chart for finance to go to Crier and a discussion around the presentation of next years Annual Report was discussed.  Mayor Making  Concert Pianist ticket promotion</p>	
<p><b>16. Items for the next agenda</b>  Operation London Bridge to be reviewed  Tourism and Destination Montgomery  Bins / Recycling  Allotments  Hedgerows  Highways – road from Montgomery to Hendomen</p>	

<p><b>RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS:</b> Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (2) to resolve that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>'In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960(2) the Town Council resolves that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.'</p>	

Charter Granted 1227 • Cyflwynwyd y Siarter ym 1227

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own Clerk/Clerc y Dref: Miss Helen Royall

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