



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on **Thursday 27th October 2022 at 7.15pm**

This meeting was recorded

Present in person:

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

Present online:

Cllr Harper

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk), Cllr Brignell-Throp

ITEM		ACTION RECORD
1.	Apologies	
	Cllr Weston Cllr Stephenson Cllr Humphreys	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	Wendy Beavan – Town Hall Trust	
3.	Break for the Public to Speak	
	None	
4.	Chairman's Announcements	
	<p>Very busy month for events in the community - there are a number of remembrance events – Tuesday 8th November 9.30 children from the school placing their crosses, event at the pound on Friday - Sunday 13th 9.45 on broad street progressing up to the Church. TLC have agreed to serve tea and coffees after te service. Football club assisting with the control of the traffic Monument and the laying of the wreath for the county and the town at 1600 at the Monument.</p> <p>Events Committees. Thanks to the people who give their time and support in the background over many years. Pleasing to hear that new people are coming on board.</p>	
5.	Minutes from the last meeting	

	<p>To approve & sign the minutes as a correct record of the Full Council Meeting 22nd September 2022. The minutes of the Full Council Meeting 22nd September 2022 were reviewed.</p> <p>Some small spelling errors noted</p> <p><i>RESOLVED The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 22nd September 2022 are approved and signed as a correct record.</i></p>	<p>TC to make spelling changes</p>
6.	Information from the minutes	
	<p>7. New head at Welshpool School is making a considerable effort to engage with the school to encourage transition to Welshpool School</p> <p>9. Cllr Berriman held a virtual meeting. There is an attempt to improve communication with the council with the planning officer contacting the council once a month and a bi-annual hybrid meeting which councillors can join to raise wider issues and discussions.</p> <p>10. Some news on the increase in vehicle fleet for clearing drainage and some movement on the drain cleaning. Still essential that they communicate with the council before to try and ensure that the council can work with the community to move parked vehicles to allow access.</p> <p>14. Cllr Kibble, Cllr Harper and Cllr Taylor attended a meeting with water company in relation to the works to the water main (open invitation to all councillors was sent). The damage to the water meter at Tan-y-mur was mentioned and this will be replaced to make it more robust. Potentially to have free water butts for Church Bank.</p> <p>15. Website to move to the next agenda due to Cllr Weston's apologies</p> <p>19. Town Crier is coming to the January meeting to discuss the town crier event</p> <p>20. Air Ambulance – the data has been requested to see why the decision has been taken to close. Russell George's office and CHC have asked for freedom of information request.</p>	
7.	Report from the County Councillor	
	<p>Cllr Brignell-Thorp attended the meeting but also provided information prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Cottage was meant to be on the planning committee for the beginning of October however the council are still reviewing the information to see if there was evidence for them trying to move this on. There appears to be someone living in the cottage which is assumed to be self-catering accommodation.</p> <p>Reported that an event at the primary school in partnership with Welshpool School had taken place to encourage more pupils to choose Welshpool as their secondary school.</p>	

	<p>Bus timetables – Current timetables are in a bedding in period and there is an opportunity to look at and comment on the timetable. There are a few small scheduling conflicts with connecting buses so if there are issues these need to be raised quickly.</p>																																											
8.	Finance																																											
	<p>a. Invoices and Payments New one page financial summary was shown with a reminder that all payments and cashflow are available on the SharePoint for councillors.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Salary</td> <td></td> <td>£594.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary</td> <td></td> <td>£408.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td></td> <td>£146.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claire Weston</td> <td></td> <td>£550.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crier</td> <td>5 2022</td> <td>£70.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G17</td> <td>1139 (Paid with 140)</td> <td>£70.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G17</td> <td>1140 (Paid with 1139)</td> <td>£398.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TV Licence</td> <td></td> <td>£159.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ladies Hockey</td> <td></td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civic Society (Eric Fairborther)</td> <td></td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montgomery Institute</td> <td></td> <td>£120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EDF</td> <td></td> <td>£233.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EDF</td> <td></td> <td>£61.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td></td> <td>£372.90</td> </tr> </table>	Salary		£594.40	Salary		£408.50	HMRC		£146.60	Claire Weston		£550.00	Crier	5 2022	£70.00	G17	1139 (Paid with 140)	£70.00	G17	1140 (Paid with 1139)	£398.00	TV Licence		£159.00	Ladies Hockey		£30.00	Civic Society (Eric Fairborther)		£30.00	Montgomery Institute		£120.00	EDF		£233.24	EDF		£61.00	Water		£372.90	
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	<p>b. Approval of risk assessment Risk assessment had been updated with some changes to phrasing and a clearer identification of the level of risks.</p> <p>Proposal: To approve the risk assessment as it stands</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Beaven Seconded: Cllr Kibble</p> <p>All in favour</p> <p>Timetable for the precept was outlined - RFO produces draft precept in late Oct/early Nov (using last year's as a starting point and updating); draft comes to</p>																																											

	Finance 8th Nov meeting to help prepare it for full Council; full council meeting with precept as only agenda item in early Dec. The date for the precept meeting was agreed to be the 1 st December at 7pm.	
9.	Planning	
	<p>a. 22/1512/LBC Planning committee had circulated a draft response following a site visit. All Cllrs agreed it will make a difference as vehicles will not have to be brought back out onto the street from the workshop which hopefully will have the advantage of keeping the street clear. Agreed there would be no impact on the historic environment. Application supported.</p> <p>b. 22/1511/FUL - Some concern about the visibility at the access road and also discharge and sewage being near the River Severn. No objections to the development in principle if the concerns are addressed</p>	
	<p>c. Letter to PCC planning portfolio head Decision to delay this to see if there are any changes following on from the recent meetings. February Agenda</p>	
10.	Highways	
	<p>a. Water Main Repair of the water main has been proposed which will mean that large haulage vehicles will not be able to come through Montgomery during the period of repair and will cause major disruption for 8 months. There will be limited disruption to water supply and there will be advance warning for planned shut offs. All work is carried out in house by the water company which hopefully will produce a better outcome and a co-ordinated work programme. . Will only be working Monday to Friday. There is a business compensation scheme available which means that people should stay open and if the businesses are affected they should apply for the scheme. Rescue vehicles can still go through the town and have plans for communication to allow vehicles out quickly. Since 2010 there have been 13 bursts, several of which have caused damage to property. The only way to fix the issues is for it all to be done at once. They will be holding some community events in town so people to come and ask questions and raise concerns.</p>	
	<p>b. Issues with buses and Arthur Street Concern about buses on Arthur Street as bus companies are starting to say that they will not be willing to come to Montgomery if the parking issues on Arthur Street are not improved.</p> <p>Some concerns around the reversing of buses at the recycling centre which had been a suggested solution previously. Some other solutions had been put forward which included the creation of no parking down one side of Arthur Street however there are concerns this may increase speeding.</p> <p>Some consideration to the potential removal of the small play area which may provide more space or a turning space for the buses.</p> <p>Cllr B-T has been chasing up the issue and trying to establish the next steps forward</p>	

11. Tourism	
<p>a. Tourism role approval</p> <p>New role has been proposed and profile has been written and run back through staffing committee. If approved this would need to go into the precept for March. Concern that we are planning to increase the spending when there is no additional income coming in now the Town Hall has been handed over and therefore using the precept to fund this.</p> <p>Suggestion that this is considered in the precept and budgeting to see if the role is financially viable. Query around the previous role and how much the role provided benefit to the town. In general though the council could see some value in the role, it was felt that currently it was not needed. The role was decided to be parked for the moment pending further considerations.</p>	
12. Cemetery Fees	
<p>Russell George could not get an answer to the query of cemetery fees, and this has been an ongoing problem. There is some confusion around the naming of the amount paid and what it is used for. The amount should be easier to understand and to be explicit about what it is for e.g. maintenance of the cemetery. However there is still no clear answer as to why the fees are so high in Powys. There is also poor provision for cremation and interment in the county which has a big impact on families.</p> <p>Cllr Brignell-Thorp to investigate this further and to bring aback to the council.</p>	
13. Hornbeam Trees	
<p>Previously brought to the council in September and some further investigation as to the ownership and provenance of the trees was shared. Bob Jones (former councillor) grew the trees, and the planters were purchased by public subscription. There is still a real concern as to the liability of the trees if the council were to take them on. It was felt that having an arboriculturist look at the trees and provide a professional opinion on the trees. It was also felt that the overall management of council trees need to be addressed with up to date surveys and risk assessments carried out.</p> <p>Proposed: Surveys to be carried out on hornbeams to make decision as to taking them on as a council asset</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Harper Seconded: Cllr Jones</p> <p>All in favour</p>	TC to arrange tree inspections
14. Recycling centre and waste bins	
<p>Left with the clothes and cardboard recycling bins. There is a clothing bin outside the fire station and it is suggested the clothes bin is removed from the car park to create space for more car parking. There is no income from this commercial bin</p> <p>Proposal: Request the removal of the clothing bin to create more carparking space</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Kibble</p>	TC to request removal

	<p>Seconded: Cllr Harper</p> <p>All in favour</p>	
15.	<p>Montgomery warm space project</p> <p>This is a scheme pioneered by a town member to provide food and a warm space for those that need it. The Institute has agreed to host which has a cost of £30 a day and will run two days a week. This will start from WC 31st October. This is all voluntary and no indication of the uptake until it is underway. No charge to the people that do attend.</p> <p>There has been a grant application and it has been registered as a centre which may provide for some income for the maintaining of the scheme. A recent coffee morning has raised several hundred pounds</p> <p>Council was asked if they may financially support the scheme in some way.</p> <p>Looking at the budget lines and what would be feasible to fund £120 could be allocated for the rental for one month and for the warm space project to provide us with some detail and feedback on the uptake</p> <p>Proposal: Council to support warm spaces scheme through a £120 donation towards the rental costs</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Beaven Seconded: Cllr Taylor</p> <p>All in favour</p>	TC to arrange payment
16.	<p>Update on community survey</p> <p>Lot of responses with many people engaged with the plan and an action plan is being drawn up. Proposed that it is looked at by the council in an informal way to feedback on the plan so far which will be picked up in future meetings or potentially a separate session.</p>	
17.	<p>Christmas Lights</p> <p>Much of the Christmas festivities have been taken on by the school. Most of the work towards the lights has been done this year by Ann Yewdall and Susan Blower however they are now stepping down and a proposal was brought for the council to consider the running the Christmas Lights.</p> <p>Queries around the storage and maintenance of the lights. Monty Muscle are happy to continue working with the council to put the lights up.</p> <p>For the remainder of this Christmas, the lights committee are responsible for the management of the installation and take down of the lights, risk and insurance and the council will aid with the light switch on and where else applicable. When the lights are taken down the management of the Christmas lights will be formally handed over to the Town Council.</p> <p>Proposal: Town Council to take on the management and organisation of the Christmas Lights</p>	

	<p>Proposed: Cllr Harper Seconded: Cllr Andrews</p> <p>All in agreement</p>	
18.	Communications from the meeting	
	When the clothing bin is removed from Maldwyn Way information to be shared	
19.	Items for the next agenda	
	Cllr Humphreys – announcement of deaths in the community Cllr Stephenson – Website feedback	
20.	Confidential Item: Application for co-option	
	<p>RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS: 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>RESOLVED ‘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> <p>Application for co-option was considered from Julie Lock</p> <p>Proposed: Council to accept the application from Julie Lock</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Harper Seconded: Cllr Lewis</p> <p>All in favour</p>	