



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council was held on **Thursday 25th October 2024 at 7.15pm**

Present in person:

Cllr Harper, Cllr Weston, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Brian, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Lock

Present online:

Cllr Andrew

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr Jones, Cllr Humphries, Cllr Taylor

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Beaven and Cllr Harper due to association with the Montgomery Buildings Conservation Trust

3. Break for the public to speak

None

4. Chairperson's Announcements

Tuesday 8th October saw a meeting of the Christmas lights committee.

Celebrated Mr Tom Weaver's 100th birthday. Presented a birthday card on behalf of Town Council.

Friday 18th October the Mayor attended Montgomery Medical Practice Patients Association event. Managed to speak with the chair and ensure that our Town Councillor representative Cllr Lewis's details were up to date. A good turn out from the Towns residents. A variety of organisations were present. A nice atmosphere with hot drinks, blood pressure checks etc, all under one roof.

	<p>Sunday 20th October. Invite to the Civic Service for the new Mayor of Brecon Cllr John Powell. Well attended with distinguished guests including The High Sherrif of Powys. Despite the bad weather a good turn out. A youth Councillor who is a pupil at Brecon High School read a poem. Other Town Councillors read bible passages.</p> <p>Tuesday 22nd October. Finance and Assets meeting on Zoom</p>
5.	Minutes of the previous meetings
	<p>Some small clarifications for spelling and grammar</p> <p>7. Clarification around the amount allocated to the Town Crier Event. The amount was up to £1000 which was to be towards the reception mainly but there was no stipulation as to this was the only way this allocation could be used to support the event.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 26th September 2024 are approved and signed as a correct record</i></p>
6.	Information from the Minutes
	None
7.	Report from County Councillor
	<p>Verbatim report from Cllr Jeremy Brignell-Throp</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>The new planning application for construction of 3 houses on the Cottage site was considered by the planning committee following my request for this to be called in. I made a statement at the committee meeting that the original application of Feb 2023 had not followed proper process. Given that the previous consent had already been approved was not expecting anything other than this new application to be approved. I am still in discussion with senior officers about lack of process followed by the previous application.</p> <p>The comments by MTC regarding the wish that these could not be used for Airbnb was noted, and the planning was conditional on not permitting holiday let. However, there was comment about how this may not be enforceable as the application can apply for this condition to be lifted and the committee could at a later date agree to this.</p> <p>Climate and Nature</p> <p>Progress is being made on the organisation of a climate and nature T&CC conference on 7th December, which T&CCs will hopefully get formal notification of very shortly.</p> <p>LDP</p>

I have responded to the LDP consultation and have given the following responses regarding the sites in Montgomery. Plot 192, Verlon Fields This plot was in the last LDP but is smaller this time. The main issue with this site is that any traffic generated by the development would have to negotiate the hairpin junction between the B4388 and the B4385 for any traffic heading towards Newtown. A condition of any development should be to make this junction safe. At present there are also no safe bus stops along this stretch of Forden Road, so a condition of development would also be to create a safe place for buses to stop in Forden Road. There is also the issue of ensuring there is a safe walking route for children going to the school. An issue with any development in Montgomery is that: 1. The primary school is already at capacity, so provision would have to be found for accommodating additional children 2. Traffic and parking are already at a critical stage, the main road through the town is not adequate for the through traffic that uses it at present. Additional traffic and additional congestion from parking will detract from the main economic resource of the town which is tourism. 3. The design and visual impact of any development should be carefully considered as the whole of the landscape around Montgomery would be very visible in the foreground from the scheduled monument of Montgomery Castle. Plot 279, Kerry Road, Montgomery The road between this site and the town is narrow and unsuitable for additional traffic. The junction between Kerry Road and the hill road to Llandyssil has no pavement for pedestrians. Additional traffic, both vehicles and pedestrian, would be unsafe. A minimum condition should be creation of a safe active travel path to the town centre and make the junction safer for cars. At present there are no bus stops in easy walking distance to this site. The comments regarding other issues mentioned in 192 also apply.

Full Council meetings

There have been two meetings of the full council in the last month, the first (3rd October) was the normal scheduled meeting and an extra meeting (17th October) to discuss whether to introduce a system of proportional representation, known as Single Transferrable Vote (STV) into council elections.

Regarding the STV debate, PCC voted earlier in the year to carry out a consultation on this and this consultation happened over the summer. There were 1,268 responses of which 60.5% stated their preference was to move to the system of single transferrable vote.

In spite of this, council voted against introducing this. At present the only council in Wales to choose to use STV is Gwynedd, with Ceredigion the only other council due to take this to a vote which will take place on 14th November.

Regarding the other motions brought to council there were only two on the meeting on 3rd October. Both were for the council to write to the UK government to lobby for change at UK level, the first was to ask for the restrictions on winter fuel payments to

	<p>be reversed, and the second was to as for greater support for unpaid carers, increasing the carers allowance. Both these motions were passed.</p> <p>ECO4</p> <p>I have helped organise a community event, in Newtown also hybrid and publicised to Montgomery to raise awareness of and help to clarify how the ECO4 home retrofit funding works. This was well attended and Warm Wales and PCC private housing team are keen to support further events like this</p>		
8.	Highways		
	<p>There are a number of highways issue ongoing including numerous pot holes throughout and into the Town. There is growing concern about the sinking potholes and dips in Pool Road with no updates on when the water works will be completed.</p> <p>New Road – cars are still bypassing the bollards in this area. Cllr Andrew to get photographic evidence of the tyre marks to report to highways.</p>		
a.	20mph Zones		
	<p>It was suggested a walk round to suggest places where the 20mph limit could potentially be extended or moved would be beneficial to then put a comprehensive report forward for consideration. Council strongly supported the extension of the zone up the former entrance of New Road past the new housing estate. If works were being carried out in the area if the council had this information in advance it may be possible to make changes, however no changes are actively planned in the future. Enforcement of the speed is a separate issue and the council have not seen any enforcement recently in the town.</p>		
9.	Finance & Assets		
a.	Current financial position		
		Salary	£ 445.80
		Salary	£ 647.80
	HMRC	HMRC	£ 321.40
	Helen Royall	Christmas Lights	
	Mrs Muscle	Cleaning Salary/Contract	£ 240.00
	Bunners	Benches	£ 299.00
	Montgomery Town Hall	Town Hall rental (THT)	£ 1,000.00
	Andrew Evans	Green space maintenance	£ 832.84
	Gaskells	Waste	£ 72.37
	Dragon	Town Crier Event	£ 128.00

	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Public toilet water	£ 331.43
	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Allotments/Water	£ 39.20
	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Public toilet water	£ 233.12
	EDF		£ 88.60
	<p>The Clerk asked for the council to approve the purchase of a new printer which would be within their delegated spend as the current printer had stopped working.</p> <p>Council discussed some of the policies that needed updating and how to go about this. It was felt that reviewing the existing policies and identifying priorities would be the first step and then carry out the relevant reviews. It was felt that a policy should be added around working with 3rd Parties and Community Groups to deliver events or other ventures. This would require looking at lessons learnt and creation a working position for the council.</p> <p>Cllrs Weston, Lock, Harper and Beaven agreed to form a small sub committee to look at the policies.</p>		
b.	Quotes for Play Equipment		
	Deferred due to information not being available. This is in relation to an awards for all grant in conjunction with Friends of Montgomery Play Park		
c.	Annual Report Approval		
	The annual report one page summary was shared and council agreed that the content was accurate and accessible. It was felt that this could be shared publicly with a suggestion that a Welsh Language version was produced.		
d.	Request to the Community Fund		
	<p>The approach was made by Friends of the School asking for Councils support for the Grotto event that happens during and after the lights switch on. The event just about breaks even and is not run as a profit making venture. The Friends of the School asked if the council would contribute towards the gifts used in the grotto to reduce the financial pressure. Council discussed and agreed a contribution of up to £100 towards the grotto gifts, but also asked for a full final account of the event to be given including the amount spent of gifts.</p> <p>Proposed: The council agrees to support the grotto event through a contribution of up to £100 towards the gifts</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Taylor</p>		

	<p>Seconded: Cllr Harper</p> <p>Abstain: Cllr Andrew</p> <p>All others in favour</p>
11.	Planning
	No applications, but it was noted the Cottage permission had been granted and council was pleased to see that the stipulation around the use of the buildings (not being used as holiday accommodation) was included.
12.	Tourism Committee
a.	Advent Doors
	16 th December is the date the council have been allocated for advent doors which will be done at the Town Hall. The premise will be a Georgian Christmas. It is proposed to set up the space at 5pm with doors open at 6.15pm and 10 minutes for the presentation. Councillors were encouraged to support this.
b.	Christmas Lights
	<p>Food vendors are booked and plans are advanced. Monty Muscle are arranged for the 23rd November for the installation of the lights. Reminder that the grotto has moved to the Institute.</p> <p>7th December there will be a sing along in the Town Hall following on from last year with the set list to be determined. Some final arrangements around refreshments are underway.</p>
12.	Regalia Refurbishment
	<p>A complaint had been received by the Council in regards to the use of the Consort Chains (as the chains can be worn by a male or female consort it was felt that future referrals to these chains should be as consort chains) used at the Town Crier Event. Council was reminded that it had approved the use of the chains by the deputy when the consort could not be present. It was discussed again that the reason for this it had been raised that when the Deputy was at events and meeting guests etc that a badge of office felt appropriate. Investigation and options in to what this could potentially be and cost would be undertaken e.g. a small broach. It was felt that a full regalia policy would be prudent to record the use of regalia for the future and provide clear directions.</p> <p>Council agreed that the Mayors Robes needed to be refurbished before Mayor Making and monies had been earmarked for this. Cllr Lewis kindly offered to get a renewed quote from Ede & Ravenscroft in Oxford and as he lectures there he could take the robes to be repaired saving on transportation costs. Council gratefully accepted this offer.</p>

14.	Communications from the meeting
	Coffee Morning Dates to be sent out in November for groups to sign up to Mayors Coffee Morning on 30 th November Christmas Light switch on
15.	Items for the next agenda
	May Fair Budget Discussions Tan y Mur Play Park

Charter Granted 1227 • Cyflwynwyd y Siarter ym 1227

Mayor/Maer: Cllr Rob Harper

Town Clerk/Clerc y Dref: Miss Helen Royall

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