



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

A meeting of Montgomery Town Council will be held on **Thursday 2nd July at 7.15pm**

This meeting will be held in person at Montgomery Town Hall but will be available via Zoom. All Councillors are summoned to attend. Details of how to join Zoom meeting are available from Town Clerk.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81845405572?pwd=SHFPbXdKM2g5ME1JcnR5ZmVwU0VqQT09>

Requests to speak regarding items on this agenda are required by 12 Noon 24th June via email - townclerk@montgomery-wales.uk

Helen Royall
Town Clerk

Attendees in Person:

Cllr Weston, Cllr Anton-Stephens, Cllr Craigie, Cllr Williams, Cllr Harper, Cllr Jones, Cllr Blower

In Attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk), CCllr Jeremy Brignall-Throp

1. Apologies

Cllr Lewis, Cllr Davies, Cllr Andrew

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Break for the public to speak

The Chair reminded those present that photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting proceedings was not permitted without the prior written consent of the Council.

Mrs Anne Ashcroft addressed Council regarding matters relating to the Church Bank allotments.

The Clerk provided Members with background information regarding the recent allocation of Plot 1. Members were advised that:

- the previous prospective tenant had withdrawn from taking Plot 1;

- the plot had subsequently been allocated to a neighbouring resident as no waiting list currently exists for the Church Bank allotments;
- previous permission relating to the limited use of weedkiller had been granted only as part of the initial clearance of an overgrown plot by a qualified individual and was not intended as an ongoing arrangement;
- no further reports had been received of weedkiller being used following that initial clearance.

Discussion also took place regarding concerns raised between neighbouring allotment holders. The Clerk advised that while the Council would address matters directly relating to allotment tenancy agreements, disputes between neighbouring residents or matters involving other agencies fell outside the Council's remit. The Clerk confirmed that a recording device positioned overlooking another allotment had been requested to be removed.

Members noted that there remains no waiting list for the Church Bank allotments due to the lack of a water supply, with prospective tenants generally preferring to wait for plots at Tan y Mur.

The Clerk confirmed that she would be meeting the new tenant to issue the tenancy agreement and explain the conditions of tenancy, including works permitted to hedging following the bird nesting season.

The Chair thanked Mrs Ashcroft for attending and providing her comments.

4. Chairman's Announcements

The Mayor opened her announcements by expressing the Council's sadness at the passing of former Mayor Tecwyn Davies, who died peacefully at the Rhallt Care Home on the first Friday evening in June.

Members heard that Tecwyn had devoted many years of service to Montgomery and the wider community. He served as President of the Montgomery Round Table and was Mayor when His Majesty King Charles III, then Prince of Wales, visited Montgomery. The Mayor also reflected on the lasting legacy of Tecwyn and Maureen's daughter, Wendy, whose memorial donations following her tragic death in a road traffic accident enabled the construction of the Activity Centre. Members noted that the '*Wendy House*' artwork displayed in the Town Hall meeting room continues to commemorate her memory. The Council recognised that Tecwyn and Maureen had been involved in numerous organisations throughout the town and had run The Old Stores newsagents for many years, making a significant contribution to community life.

On behalf of Montgomery Town Council, the Mayor extended sincere condolences to Maureen, Trudy, Lee and the wider Davies family, recognising Tecwyn's passing as a great loss to the community.

The Mayor thanked former Cllr Beaven and Cllr Sue Blower for providing additional information regarding Tecwyn's life and service to the town.

Members noted that Tecwyn's funeral would take place the following afternoon, with a service at the Chapel commencing at 3.30 p.m., followed by refreshments in the Town Hall.

The Mayor thanked everyone who had contributed towards the success of the recent Mayor Making celebrations and the subsequent Civic Sunday events, describing them as enjoyable and heartwarming occasions that reflected the strong sense of community within Montgomery. Whilst acknowledging that many people had contributed in a variety of ways, particular thanks were recorded to Helen Royall, Jo Weller and Frances Cooley for preparing and serving refreshments at the Town Hall whilst others attended the Civic Service. The Mayor also thanked them for ensuring that the floral displays from the weekend were subsequently delivered to residents of St Nicholas Care Home, allowing them to continue to be enjoyed by the wider community.

The Mayor formally welcomed Cllr Sue Blower following her co-option to Montgomery Town Council at the May meeting and thanked her for joining the civic party during the Mayor Making celebrations as her first official Council duty.

Members noted that one vacancy remained on Montgomery Town Council and encouraged interested residents to contact the Clerk should they wish to be considered for co-option. The Mayor advised that recruitment to the role of Town Crier would be discussed later under the relevant agenda item.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Hugh Anton-Stephens, in his capacity as Deputy Mayor, for representing Montgomery Town Council in welcoming home participants in the Rotary Across Wales Walk. Members noted that a further update on the event would be provided later in the meeting under the Events agenda item.

Finally, the Mayor expressed her appreciation to Cllr Hugh Anton-Stephens, fellow councillors and members of the community for the many practical tasks undertaken throughout the year which often go unnoticed but make a significant difference to the town. These included maintaining equipment within the Town Hall, carrying out small repairs, trimming hedges, resolving maintenance issues and supporting Council facilities.

The Mayor commented that whilst many of these contributions were never formally recorded within the minutes, they were recognised and greatly appreciated by both herself and the Council.

5. Minutes of the last meetings

The Clerk advised that several minor typographical amendments and points of clarification had been received from Members by email in advance of the meeting and had been incorporated into the draft minutes where appropriate.

During the review, Members identified that discussion relating to the condition of the retaining wall adjacent to Montgomery Bowling Club had inadvertently been omitted from the minutes. It was agreed that this should be added as a point of accuracy to ensure that the concerns raised by Members, together with the subsequent action to report the matter to Powys County Council, formed part of the official record.

No further amendments were proposed.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 29 May 2026, subject to the inclusion of the additional reference to the Bowling Club wall, be approved as a true and accurate record.

6. Information from the minutes

The Council considered matters arising from the approved minutes that were not included elsewhere on the agenda.

The Council reviewed the outstanding committee and representation appointments following the Annual Meeting. It was noted that there remained a vacancy on the Planning Committee and that the Tourism Committee would benefit from an additional representative.

Discussion took place regarding the Council's representation on the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster (VMRC). Whilst some Members questioned the value of attending every meeting, it was recognised that continued membership was important in supporting public rights of way, tourism initiatives and partnership working across the Vale of Montgomery area. Members acknowledged the benefits of the Cluster in maintaining the footpath maintenance agreement with Powys County Council and supporting collaborative working between neighbouring communities.

It was agreed that the Council would continue its representation, obtain further background information on the Cluster's purpose and constitution, and review attendance based on the relevance of future agenda items.

The Clerk advised that discussion relating to the Bowls Club wall under the Highways item had been omitted from the previous minutes and should be included as a point of accuracy.

7. Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Brignell-Thorp presented his written report, highlighting progress on a number of matters affecting Montgomery. These included proposals for the introduction of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs, progress towards the resurfacing of Broad Street and associated public realm improvements, the reinstatement of the brown tourist sign to Montgomery Castle, the ongoing consultation on electric vehicle charging infrastructure, planning matters relating to Caerhowel Sidings, highway maintenance issues including overgrown hedges and white lining, together with an update on the County Council's waste and recycling service.

Cllr Brignell-Thorp advised that a proposal relating to Vehicle Activated Speed Signs had been circulated separately and would be considered by the Town Council at a future meeting. He also encouraged residents to participate in the consultation on electric vehicle charging infrastructure before its closing date.

Members welcomed the update, particularly the progress being made through continued engagement with Powys County Council on highways matters, public realm improvements and the reinstatement of the Montgomery Castle tourist sign. Members also noted the

planned repairs to Princes Street during the Hafren Dyfrdwy works and acknowledged the ongoing challenges experienced by residents and businesses during the road closures.

8. Highways

Members reviewed the revised Town Traffic Survey, which had been updated following feedback received during the initial consultation. It was agreed that the revised survey would provide more detailed evidence of residents' concerns and strengthen the Council's future engagement with Powys County Council on traffic management and highway improvements.

The Council discussed the forthcoming resurfacing of Broad Street and welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively with Powys County Council to coordinate the highway works with the Council's Pride in Place enhancement proposals. Members noted that further meetings with County Council officers had been arranged to explore opportunities to improve the public realm, including road markings and parking arrangements, whilst making the best use of the available grant funding.

Members also discussed the impact of the ongoing Hafren Dyfrdwy works on residents and businesses. Whilst acknowledging the disruption caused by road closures, Members welcomed the opportunity for repairs to Princes Street to be undertaken during the works and requested that the uneven carriageway near the junction with Gaol Road also be addressed where possible.

The Council considered concerns regarding the retaining wall adjacent to Montgomery Bowling Club. It was noted that Powys County Council had inspected the wall and had not identified any immediate structural concerns. However, Members recognised the uncertainty surrounding ownership of the structure and agreed that the Bowling Club should also report any continuing concerns directly to Powys County Council, supported by photographs.

Members received updates on several outstanding highway maintenance issues, including faded white lining, pothole repairs, overgrown hedges affecting pedestrian access and damage to one of the Montgomery entrance signs. It was noted that Powys County Council anticipated receiving new white lining equipment later in the summer, after which outstanding lining works would be programmed. Enquiries would also be made regarding responsibility for the damaged entrance sign and the condition of public litter bins.

RESOLVED:

- To approve the revised Town Traffic Survey for public consultation.
- To continue working with Powys County Council on the Broad Street resurfacing and Pride in Place enhancement proposals.
- To request that the uneven carriageway at the junction of Princes Street and Gaol Road be considered as part of the current highway works.
- To ask Montgomery Bowling Club to report any ongoing concerns regarding the retaining wall directly to Powys County Council.

9. Finance & Assets

- a. Current financial position and transactions

	Salary	£636.00
	Salary	£706.26
HMRC		£265.30
Simon Bedford	Town Hall Sink	£126.25
Mrs Muscle	Town Hall Cleaning	£460.00
Bunners	Contingency	£40.00
Dr Claire Weston	Mayors Discretionary Spend Mayor Making	£170.00
The Dragon Hotel	Mayor Making	£532.50
The Dragon Hotel	Mayors Discretionary Spend Mayor Making	£334.45
Frenchman and Farmers Daughter	Mayors Discretionary Spend Mayor Making	£120.00
Powis Estates	Playground Gaol Road Rental	£26.00
Helen Royall	Stationary	£25.45
MCBPT	Town Hall rental (THT)	£1,000.00
G17	Maintenance Works	£37.50
WPG	Contingency (Open Gardens)	£68.00
Wicksteads	Gaol Road Play Park Projects	£56,282.36

b. Gaol Road Play Park Updates

The Clerk provided an update on the Gaol Road Play Park project. Members were advised that works had commenced on site and were progressing well, with the project remaining on programme. It was noted that the redevelopment would provide an improved, inclusive play space for younger children and those with additional needs, supported through external grant funding and the Council's own contribution.

Members welcomed the progress made and looked forward to the completion of the project, recognising the positive impact it would have for local families and the wider community.

c. PiPF Grant Funding Update

The Clerk provided an update on the Council's Pride in Place Fund allocation and the progress being made in developing the proposed schemes. Members noted that discussions with Powys County Council officers were continuing to ensure that the available funding was used to deliver projects that would provide lasting benefits to the town whilst complementing other planned investment, including the forthcoming resurfacing of Broad Street.

It was recognised that coordinating the delivery of the schemes alongside the highway works would provide the best opportunity to enhance the public realm, minimise future disruption and achieve greater value for money. Members discussed the importance of ensuring that the proposals reflected the historic character of Montgomery, improved the appearance of key public spaces and delivered practical benefits for residents and visitors alike.

Members also acknowledged the significant amount of work being undertaken to develop the projects and welcomed the positive engagement with Powys County Council officers in progressing the proposals. It was agreed that further details would be brought back to Council as designs and costings were refined.

d. Street lighting and asset transfers

There were no significant updates in regards to this agenda item as meetings had not taken place.

10. Planning

No Updates

11. Tourism

a. Town Crier Recruitment

The Council considered the recruitment of a Town Crier, recognising the role could play in supporting civic occasions, community events and the forthcoming 800th Charter celebrations. Members agreed that efforts to recruit a Town Crier should continue and that wider publicity should be used to attract expressions of interest from suitable candidates.

It was further agreed that, should recruitment not prove successful in the short term, enquiries should be made with neighbouring towns regarding the availability of an experienced Town Crier to support key civic events until a permanent appointment could be made.

Members also suggested that the vacancy be promoted through local media, including the Powys County Times, together with the Council's own communication channels.

12. Charter 2027 Working Group

Cllr Weston provided an update on the work of the Charter 2027 Working Group and the development of plans to celebrate Montgomery's Charter anniversary.

Cllr Weston reported that discussions had taken place with representatives from a range of local organisations, including Montgomery Show, the Street Fair, the Civic Society and the Museum, to gather ideas and encourage collaborative working. Positive engagement had also taken place with residents at the community coffee morning, where several people had expressed an interest in joining a community working group.

Members were advised that an initial project enquiry to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was being prepared to obtain early feedback on the proposed programme before progressing to a full funding application. It was noted that an overarching application covering the wider programme of celebrations would be submitted initially, with individual funding opportunities to be explored should this not be successful.

Members agreed that more formal public consultation would strengthen future funding applications. It was suggested that a questionnaire or suggestion box be made available during September, alongside consideration of a public engagement event to gather further ideas from the community.

The Council also discussed opportunities to collaborate with other historic market towns celebrating similar anniversaries, including the potential development of a market town trail to encourage visitors to explore the wider area whilst maintaining Montgomery's own distinct celebrations.

13. Meeting dates 2026 – 2027

The Council considered the schedule of meeting dates for the 2026–2027 municipal year. The Chair explained that the dates had not been agreed at the Annual Meeting in order to allow further consideration of whether Council meetings should continue to be held on the fourth Thursday of each month or be moved to an earlier date.

Members considered a number of factors, including the impact of school half-term and Easter holidays, banking and payroll processes, and potential clashes with meetings of neighbouring councils. The Clerk confirmed that, from an administrative perspective, holding meetings earlier in the month would not provide any significant operational advantage, although meetings held very close to the month end could reduce the time available for payment authorisation before payroll.

Following discussion, it was noted that the fourth Thursday would not conflict with school half-term dates during the forthcoming municipal year, with the exception of the March meeting, which coincides with the Easter holiday period. Members also noted that the May meeting would need to be held earlier than usual in the following election year to comply with statutory requirements.

The Council further agreed that arrangements for Mayor Making and Civic Sunday should be considered at an early stage each year to allow sufficient time for planning and liaison with local churches and other organisations.

RESOLVED

- To continue holding Ordinary Council meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month during the 2026–2027 municipal year.
- To hold the May meeting earlier where required to comply with election timetable requirements.
- To review meeting dates annually, taking account of school holiday periods and operational considerations.
- To consider the planning of Mayor Making and Civic Sunday at an early stage each year.

14. Events

The Council received updates on recent and forthcoming community events.
Great Big Green Week, Nature Day, Monty Lit Fest, Monty Mini Fest, Kaleidoscope Exhibition and Montgomery Show Barbecue

Congratulations were extended to the organisers and volunteers involved in the successful delivery of the recent events, recognising their positive contribution to the community and to tourism within the town.

The success of the Rotary Across Wales Walk was noted, together with the welcoming atmosphere in the town and the positive feedback received from participants. Congratulations were also extended to Paul Jones on his participation in the King's Commonwealth Baton Relay.

Saturday 4 July 2026 – Montgomery Street Fair

An update was received on arrangements for the Street Fair. Haberdashers' Estates had agreed to facilitate through traffic during the event despite the ongoing roadworks. Temporary toilets, waste arrangements and use of the playing field for parking had also been agreed to support the event.

Sunday 5 July 2026 – Friends of Montgomery School Colour Run

The forthcoming Colour Run, together with performances by the Madagascar Choir and local musicians, was noted. It was confirmed that permission should be sought from the Town Council for the use of the playing field for parking to ensure the appropriate permissions and insurance arrangements were in place.

Saturday 11 July 2026 – Montgomery Show President's Evening

The forthcoming President's Evening was noted.

Sunday 12 July 2026 – Montgomery Open Gardens

An update was provided on preparations for the Open Gardens event. Councillors were encouraged to assist with promoting the event through local publicity, posters and word of mouth.

Saturday 21 November 2026 – Christmas Lights Coffee Morning

Preparations for the annual Coffee Morning were noted and councillors were asked to support the event.

Saturday 28 November 2026 – Christmas Lights Switch-On

The date for the Christmas Lights Switch-On was confirmed.

15. Community News

- EV Charging Survey results.
- Confirmation of the 2026–2027 Council meeting dates.
- Update on the Pride in Place grant funding application.
- Completion of the Gaol Road improvement works.
- Traffic Survey update and next steps.
- Congratulations to Esther Buckley on receiving the Receptionist of the Year award.
- Summer cover arrangements for the Community News, including identifying a volunteer to prepare the publication during August.
- Use of the Council's events calendar and advance preparation of "evergreen" stories to support continuity of the Community News during holiday periods.

16. Items for the next agenda

- Speed indicator Devices

17. Confidential Item

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

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.'

a. Property Matters

To consider potential changes to the terms of an existing leases for the Gaol Road Play Area and White Gates Nature Area. Members noted that the current lease covers both parcels of land and discussed the proposal to separate the agreement into two individual leases.

Following discussion, Members concluded that there was no operational benefit to separating the leases at this time and noted that doing so would create additional legal and registration costs. Members also considered the long-term management of the sites and the possibility of approaching the landowner regarding the transfer of ownership.

RESOLVED:

- To retain the existing lease structure, subject to the agreement of the landowner.
- To authorise the Clerk to respond to the landowner confirming the Council's preference to retain a single lease arrangement.
- To request that the landowner consider transferring the Gaol Road Play Area and White Gates Nature Area to Montgomery Town Council for a nominal consideration, recognising the Council's long-standing investment in and maintenance of the sites.
- Should the transfer of ownership not be supported, to progress the renewal of the lease on the agreed terms.

Charter Granted 1227 • Cyflwynwyd y Siarter ym 1227

Mayor/Maer: Cllr Claire Weston

Town Clerk/Clerc y Dref: Miss Helen Royall

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