



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Finance Committee was held on **Tuesday 17th September at 7pm.**

Present online:

Cllr Harper, Cllr Weston, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Beaven

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk)

1.	Apologies
	None
2.	Declarations of Interest
	None
3.	Nomination of Chairperson
	Due to the joining of the committees, it was felt a joint chair would allow for greater flexibility. Cllr Weston and Cllr Lewis were nominated as joint chair by Cllr Harper and seconded by Cllr Beaven.
4.	Terms of Reference
	Finance terms of reference were reviewed; however it was acknowledged as this was now a joint committee that the terms of reference need to be amended to reflect both committees and the joining of the two. These will be drafted in between meetings for discussion and future presentation to full council.
5.	Minutes of the previous meetings
	Review of the minutes from February. Some clarifications to grammar. Clarification: The council is encouraging all people to pay the council through BACS Minutes from February were approved.
6.	Remembrance Events

a.	Current financial position
	<p>No overspends and all budget lines are looking good so far. Some queries raised around some of the budget lines looking forward to Precept.</p> <p>One of the discussions previously was around the Honorarium which is currently paid to look after the Tan y Mur carpark which currently looks after litter picking and general maintenance of the bins in this area. The role is valuable, however with the removal of the PCC bins in this area and the increase in the scope of the Town Operative role the council needs to clarify the role so that it is transparent. The committee suggested a conversation with the current recipient and a clarification of roles.</p> <p>Play at the Castle – there is an income and expenditure line as council had left this in as there was the potential that the council would still have been providing the insurance.</p> <p>There has been an ask for a £200 from the Town Hall Trust to support a community event which is being held in the Town Hall for a Christmas Show being held for Children at lunch time. The event is designed to generate income, and it was proposed by the MCBPT that if the event is profit making that the £200 would come back to the council. Finance committee were minded to accept this and it will be discussed at full council meeting.</p>
b.	Annual Report
	<p>Committee needs to produce a report and the format of this was discussed. Due to the change in the way in which spend is categorised it will be easier to show where the money is spent. It was suggested that the report shows the percentage spend in each category and highlight the top spending items. There should be a larger version and a shorter version for the social media and display on the notice board. A draft should be taken to the council for consideration which can then go to the Crier and be published.</p>
c.	Town Crier event finances
	<p>The council committed £1000 towards the civic reception, however due to immediate need the council had paid for the road closure (£575) and the hire of the rooms of the Town Hall for the whole event (£515). This was over the committed amount for the event and not towards items the council agreed to. However, the council also had to pay for items for the civic event including wine, corkage, gift and food over the amount already committed to ensure the event went as planned. A donor has been in contact with the Town Clerk and asked if there was a financial breakdown of the event. He has been informed that the event was not run by the council, however he has sent an email of congratulations which will be read at the council meeting. The council has not handled any incoming monies from sponsors for this event.</p> <p>The overspend could be considered in the Town Clerks discretionary spend, however as the wine was purchased by the Town Clerk and others with personal cards/monies. This was carefully considered as the cost of direct purchase of wine with the corkage was around £2 cheaper than using the direct service from the Dragon. With the food the quotes were received were high and this was cheaper to be catered directly by the council with help from members of the community. The purchase of the gifts was only noted the day before the event meaning personal monies had to be used for speed. These amounts will be claimed as expenses:</p> <p>Wine purchased from Tanners: £208.80 Food: £173.01 (at the time of the minutes some costs still had to be received) Gifts: £208.21</p>

	Totals spend on the event is £1808.02. £200 has been agreed from the Open Gardens weekend meaning that the council has an overcommitment of £608.02. This will need to be referred to full council for approval of the overspend.
7.	Assets
a.	Bins
	Cllr Lewis queried the amount in the precept to purchase additional bins. There was only £100 precepted as we had purchased additional bins in the previous year. As the bins are in poor condition and the newer bins have a larger capacity it was suggested that we replaced the remaining bins in the town. The previous cost of four bins was £1764 and the cost of four new bins would be similar. Full council should consider the commitment of reserves towards the purchase of all four bins or some for replacement.
b.	Community Garden
	The Town Clerk had been asked to investigate the Community Garden for insurance for events. In the process it was found that the final deed transfer had not happened, and this needs a solicitor to complete this. The cost from the councils preferred solicitor is £800. There is £500 in the budget line which would require commitment from contingency. This does not effect events and insurance if they are council run events in this space, however it does stop us from applying for grants or carrying out works.
c.	Market Allocation
	The council has been approached by a vegetable/fruit seller to take a space temporarily while the long term vegetable stall hirer is undergoing medical treatment. It was felt that having the temporary vegetable stall would be appropriate to maintain council income and to protect the foot fall in the market for other stall holders. Whilst it was acknowledged that the situation is difficult and emotive it is in the best interest for the council to allow the temporary replacement of the stall. Discussions will be undertaken with existing stall hirer.
d.	White Gate Pool Proposed Works
	Meeting with the contractor the council uses for the groundworks has been had to get a benchmark quote for the replacement of the fencing in this area utilising two gifts from members of the community.
e.	Allotment Policy
	Policy was brought to the council and will be considered for approval at the next council meeting.
f.	Play Park – future grants
	This will be coming to council meeting for more information after presentation at the council meeting in July. Community consultation is underway by Friends of Montgomery Play Park. Match funding may be needed and it was noted by finance and assets committee that the council had committed increased budget to Gaol Road rather than Tan y Mur so there may need to be a discussion around use of reserves.
g.	Policy Updates – Planning
	The committee recognised that several policies need to be reviewed and updated. It was suggested that the list previously done be reviewed and the policies be addressed in a logical order to be amended and approved by full council throughout the year so that this can be done annually and therefore spread the workload.

