



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

A meeting of Montgomery Town Council was held on **Thursday 27th February 2025 at 7.15pm** in Montgomery Town Hall and online.

This meeting was recorded

Present in person:

Cllr Lock, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Weston, Cllr Harper, Cllr Beaven,

Present online:

Cllr Andrew, Cllr Lewis

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr Jones

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Break for the public to speak

Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent

4. Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Brian due to work commitments had sadly had to give up her role as a councillor. Council thanked her for the role she had played in the council and looked forward to continuing to work with her in her role as principal for the school.

A meeting was held with David Thomas regarding the Town Council's involvement in the project on Montgomery's battlefields. Updates on progress will be provided as the project develops. Montgomery holds a wealth of historical information yet to be fully explored, and this project presents an opportunity to document and present new findings, enhancing the town's historical significance.

A pre-St David's Day event at the Hungarian Embassy provided an opportunity to promote Montgomery, its crafts, products, food, drink, businesses, and community. Items such as Bara Brith and Montgomery biscuits from the coffee morning were well received at the embassy. Unique souvenirs from local shops and a record produced by a young local artist were gifted, strengthening Montgomery's ties with Hungary. The headteacher of the Church in Wales school is also visiting Kunágota this week.

Attendance at a coffee morning led to resolving issues with the sanitizer machine and replenishing washing-up liquid. Assistance will be provided at Cllr. Weston's (not council led) upcoming coffee morning in aid of the Air Ambulance.

5. Minutes of the last meetings

Minor corrections for grammar and spelling

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 23rd January 2025 are approved and signed as a correct record.

6. Information from the minutes

Mayor making date was confirmed for the 13th June 2025. A date for Civic Sunday was to be decided at the next meeting following a poll of availability.

12. Cllr Humphreys reported that St John's Ambulance and Myrick Training offer free community training. British Heart Foundation also provides digital training materials. Cllrs thanked her for the information and agreed that this was something it would support.

7. Report from County Councillor

Budget:

The council has set and agreed on a budget for the next financial year. Due to inflation and wage increases, an additional £20m was needed to maintain last year's service levels. The final budget included £12m in cuts and an £8m increase in council tax, resulting in an 8.9% rise. The biggest areas of spending remain Social Care and Education, while reductions will mainly affect the Highways, Transport, and Recycling (HTR) budget. An additional £1.2m from Welsh Government will be allocated to Highways. Council housing rent will increase by 2.7%. The budget passed with a majority of 34 votes to 25, with 4 abstentions. Council tax reductions remain available for eligible households.

Speed Limits:

Recent consultations reviewed the 20mph speed limits. Requests to move the 20mph zone further out on Station Road and Forden Road were refused. Further reviews will be requested following proposed new housing at Verlon Fields and forthcoming guidance on local speed settings.

Trem y Ffridd:

Discussions continue regarding grit bins, additional bollards, and key distribution for bollards. The site is yet to be adopted by the local authority, which will determine grit bin placements. Barcud has committed to installing a bollard to prevent vehicle access to New Road on the pedestrian route.

Potholes:

Concerns were raised over pothole repairs and the effectiveness of the reporting system. Efforts are being made to improve tracking and response quality. Some recent repairs in Montgomery appeared to be temporary, and independent assessments are being sought.

Chirbury Road:

Significant resurfacing is planned, subject to funding approval.

Sarkey Lane:

The developer has confirmed that road repairs will be completed after works at the water treatment plant

8. Highways

20mph Limit Review: No changes proposed in Montgomery. Concerns raised about speed monitoring on Chirbury Road in addition to the ones being carried out on junction of Pool Road/Station Road.

Footpath Maintenance: Hedge overgrowth past the vets was noted for attention.

9. Finance & Assets

a. Current financial position and Transactions

	Salary	£	445.80
	Salary	£	647.80
HMRC	HMRC	£	321.40
	Annual Allowance	£	150.00
	Annual Allowance	£	150.00
Mrs Muscle	Cleaning Salary/Contract	£	440.00
Bunners	Cleaning supplies	£	40.92
G17	Website	£	398.00
Andrew Evans	Green space maintenance	£	372.00

10. Planning

Discussion around the removal of some trees which were in poor condition. Council agreed that these needed to be addressed.

11. Tourism

Informal meeting held after Christmas; formal meetings to follow.

St David's Day window displays arranged, with red, white, and green themes to remain up for Hungarian Day.

12. May Fair

Discussion around the event and progress that had been made. The Dragon is being approached to put on a bar at the Town Hall and the fair owner is also being approached about the potential of providing vouchers.

13. Events Planning Procedures

A document prepared by Cllr Beaven was discussed around the management of events procedure and how councillors could better support events in the future. It was discussed how at times previous events or discussion around the way things had been done in the past had been referred to after events have happened. We have created a policy for other events and if needed for future events policies could be produced. It was requested that if there were procedural things then these should be raised at council when the events are discussed in meetings.

It was suggested that an agenda item referring to events where the dates are kept on the agenda and therefore requests for help, updates and debriefs can be recorded on the minutes. This will mean that events and procedures are automatically recorded for future members of the council.

14. VMRC Report

Cllr Lock gave an update on the VMRC meeting. There is some potential funding for biodiversity including the offer of seeds and plants. The last meeting saw the memorandum of understanding finally being agreed which means that the maintenance of footpaths and other things is now formalised. 23rd April is the next meeting and will be looking at the Powys Sustainability Plan – this is an open meeting for all councillors to attend. This is about how to keep Powys afloat and viable. Churchstoke has been approached to join the group.

15. Mayor's Signing Book

The council discussed the location of the Mayors signing book and how the missing signatures are to be gathered. It was suggested that it is brought to Mayor Making and we ask previous Mayors to sign the book at that event. It was discussed how we can represent Cllr Kibble in the book, this was being taken offline and a discussion would be had with her family.

16. NHS Appointment Delays

Concerns were raised about the 11 week waiting times for NHS appointments, but it was noted that this has already been changed.

17. Town Crier Recruitment

Sue Blower discussed the process for the recruitment and how the role is advertised, and a role profile needs to be produced. The selection process is through the persons reading a proclamation which the council needs to decide on before the event. There are a number of role profiles on the internet and information on the Guilds website as to the recruitment of the Town Crier.

Job description to be prepared outside of the meeting with Cllr Beaven and Cllr Lock. This will be brought to March meeting for approval at the council.

18. Community News

Changed the item to community news which gives more scope for information from the community/wider community news or about the community to be recorded in the meeting minutes.

19. Items for the next agenda

Old Tan y Mur Play Park Future Use

Defib Training Proposal

Town Crier Role Profile

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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