

Minutes of Montgomery Town Council meeting held on Thursday 24th October 2019 at 7.15 pm in Montgomery Town Hall, Broad Street, Montgomery.

Present: Cllr H Andrew (Town Mayor)

Councillors: D Jones, L Weaver, W Beaven, D Jaunzens, O Lewis

MINUTE 104 – APOLOGIES

Cllr C Weston – Work

Cllr M Mills – Social Event

Cllr C Thomas – Social Event

Cllr J Kibble - Holidays

MINUTE 105 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations

MINUTE 106 – MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Andrew will e mail Councillors to remind them of meeting times for Remembrance Sunday.

MINUTE 107 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved to approve the minutes of 26th September 2019 and 9th October 2019 which were signed by the Chairman.

MINUTE 108 – MATTERS ARISING

1. Cllr Andrew has made arrangements to get a quote for gates at Tan y Mur allotment
2. Town Clerk has asked for a quote for the hedges at the Tan y Mur allotment
3. Cllr Weston had attended Dementia Training
4. Hedge in Bishops Castle Street has been trimmed but needs topping as it is getting very high.

MINUTE 109 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

19/1614TRE – Plas Trefaldwyn, Kerry Road

19/1660TRE – 3 Pool Road.

Councillors have no objections

MINUTE 110 – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As Cllr Hayes could not attend the meeting, he provided the following report.

1. Unfortunately, NatWest regional manager cannot give any hope about the return of mobile banking to Montgomery at present. I have made him fully aware of the importance to businesses and social groups of being able to bank takings and client money. We have agreed to keep in touch, and the situation will be reviewed periodically.
2. The portfolio-holder for highways has changed. Consequently, I have had a further tour of sites in Montgomery/Hendomen/Caerhowel with highways officers and am waiting for their response on the matters raised. I am told that the culvert taking drainage from Town Hill has already been cleared out which should help with water running down the Conduit. Some desirable improvements will be placed in the

capital programme, but with no expectation of early fulfilment. The next area where resurfacing or surface dressing is scheduled is Montgomery to Garthmyl. The roadway from Hendomen to the railway bridge is now badly eroded at the edges and work is likely be needed before a new surface can be laid.

3. There has been information and misinformation in the media about changes to winter gritting regimes. Gritting routes are not being reduced, although the standard to which routes are gritted is changing slightly, to conform to national (Highways England) standards. So far as Montgomery is concerned, we should see no change to the gritting regime. For safety reasons gritters will not be sent up Church Bank (this has been the case for some years) but I have asked for extra grit bins to be provided to facilitate community self-help.
4. Rural salt/grit heaps should be put in place during November. There is an ongoing problem with these being removed for the treatment of farm tracks/private drives, which is clearly unhelpful. The amount of salt/grit to use is much less than many people imagine – light scattering by hand or off the end of a shovel is ideal, and ensures stocks are not exhausted in one night.
5. I would invite Montgomery Town Council to support White Ribbon Day, which this year falls on 25th November and raises awareness of violence against women and also domestic abuse – which can take many forms and be perpetrated by, and against, both men and women, including those in same-sex relationships.

MINUTE 111 – HIGHWAYS

1. A letter had been received written on behalf of two residents who have sight loss and are concerned regarding the amount of street furniture in Bishops Castle Street, plus wheelie bins and cars left on the pavement. It was agreed after gaining permission from the couple to put this letter in the Crier and also send a copy to PCC.
2. A further letter will be sent to Royal Mail requesting removal of the post box from the middle of the pavement.
3. Cllr Weaver advised the Culvert on Bishops Castle Street to Whitegate Pool is completely blocked and needs attention he will supply a photo to send to PCC.

MINUTE 112 – TOWN HALL

MCBPT had responded to the council's letter following the meeting on 9th October with six issues requiring confirmation.

1. **A realistic date for change over** – Council have suggested Monday 6th January 2020.
2. **A date for an inventory to be taken** – Council thought a suitable date would be following the Senior Citizens Party on Sunday 5th January, as a lot of crockery and utensils would be in use then and easier to count.
3. **A member of MCBPT to have access to the booking system** – This would be agreed following suitable training from Mr. Cusack the website provider.
4. **A date for the Robing Room to be cleared.** – A storage unit would be very costly therefore; it was suggested that Council papers/filing cabinets could be stored in the lockable cupboard that used to be the entrance to the ladies toilet off the lower floor.
5. **Relevant paperwork made available** – Agreed by the end of November.
6. **Request for a proportion of allotted precept** – Agreed £650.00

Cont'd

7. Costings for various types of tables were given. After discussion it was agreed that if there weren't enough long tables for the traders who came on the first Thursday of the month, round tables could be used instead. Members agreed new tables should not be purchased.
8. An e mail had been received from a group asking if there could be a reduction in hire fees for a block booking, as the event is 2020 Councillors agreed that the group should contact MCBPT regarding this.
9. Letter received from Christmas Lights Committee requesting approval for hanging Christmas Lights. Councillors support this request

MINUTE 113 – TOURISM

1. Nothing to report from committee
2. Friends of Montgomery Castle – it had been suggested that this group could be under the umbrella of the council after discussion it was considered not constitutionally possible.

MINUTE 114 – DESTINATION MONTGOMERY

1. No Report

MINUTE 115 – DOG BAGS & HOLDERS

Costs for bio-degradable bags was provided. Following discussion, it was agreed that it was not practical to provide these bags as people who generally clear up after their dogs would continue to carry bags. Local business's in town also provide bags for the public.

MINUTE 116 – STREET FURNITURE

In view of previous comments when discussing Highways, it was agreed to contact Mr. Jones with a view to removing the Hornbeam outside the Post Office.

Also, a further letter will be sent to Royal Mail regarding the Post Box on the pavement outside of the Post Office.

There are a number of A boards in Broad Street. It is probable if they are kept within the cobbled area they are on private property. A notice will go into the Crier to remind residents and businesses of the difficulties this presents to disabled and residents with sight impairment.

MINUTE 117 – FINANCE

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| BACS | Davies Roberts Bowen – Builder | 32,118.66 |
| Cheque 39 | H Andrew – Pansies Tourism | 15.40 |
| BACS | Howells Fuel Oils | 646.15 |
| | R Emberton – Bench | 125.00 |
| | R Emberton – Allotment Gate | 30.00 |
| | Hafren Dyfrdwy – Water Town Hall | 208.92 |
| | Water Toilets | 201.76 |
| | Hafren Services – Cleaning | 684.00 |
| | Gaskells – Waste | 102.92 |
| | G17 – WiFi Access Town Hall | 90.00 |
| | G17 – Updates laptop | 315.00 |
| | M Bufton Maintenance 2018 | 1124.06 |
| | G Smith – Exp | 216.30 |
| | L Williams – Plug Kitchen | 33.50 |

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|------|-------------------------------|--------|
| | Eric Neville – Town Hall | 108.93 |
| | Salaries | 67300 |
| | HMRC – Tax | 36.00 |
| D/D | BT – Internet | 105.84 |
| | Positive Energy – Electric | 109.46 |
| | Destination Montgomery | |
| BACS | EPS (market) | 252.60 |
| | Salary | 744.70 |
| | HMRC – NI | 7.53 |
| | EPS (Market) | 36.00 |
| | EPS (Market) | 206.40 |

RESOLVED to accept the above invoices for payment.

It was Resolved to give the Crier £250 allotted in Precept 19/20

It was Resolved to give £67 owing to Walkers are Welcome

Conclusion of Audit papers for 18/19 were AGREED and signed. These papers were not received in time for the September meeting post marked 25th September 2019.

It was agreed that Cllr's M Mills, L Weaver, J Kibble, C Weston & W Beaven would serve on the Finance Committee.

Terms of Reference will be agreed at the meeting.

MINUTE 118 – CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was noted

MINUTE 119 – REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL BODIES

None

MINUTE 120 - COMMUNICATION FROM THIS MEETING

MINUTE 121 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Cos Tan y Mur – Cllr Weston

Policies – Cllr Weston

London Bridge – Updates Cllr Weston

VE Day

Whitegate (Finance)