



# MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.15pm**

This meeting was recorded

**Present in person:**

Cllr Kibble, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Weston, Cllr Harper

**Present online:**

Cllr Andrew, Cllr Lewis

**In attendance:**

Helen Royall (Town Clerk)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Election of Chairman/Town Mayor</b>	
	Nominations for Chairman/Mayor 2022-2023 were relayed with Nominations for Cllr Beaven received.  Cllr Beaven was proposed to be the chair by Cllr Stephenson and seconded Cllr Andrew	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Election of Deputy Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor</b>	
	Nominations for Deputy Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor 2022-2023 were relayed with Nominations for Cllr Weston received.  Cllr Weston was proposed to be the deputy chair by Cllr Kibble and seconded Cllr Humphreys	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	None	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Declarations were received for the year from all councillors	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Mayors announcements</b>	
	Cllr Beaven thanked for the nomination and the confidence and also thanked Cllr Kibble for her service to the community. She also thanked Cllr Andrew and acknowledged the	

Charter Granted 1227 • Cyflwynwyd y Siarter ym 1227

Mayor/Maer: Jill Kibble, Plas Du Gaol Road, Montgomery SY15 6QR

Town Clerk/Clerc y Dref: Miss Helen Royall

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	difficulties they both faced steering the council through the years of the pandemic in addition to personal health issues they both faced.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Appointment of Committees</b>	
	Town Hall Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Jones</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble</li> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> <li>• Cllr Lock</li> </ul>	
	Tourism Committee Cllr Andrew stepped down from Tourism Committee. Cllr Andrew was thanks for his commitment to tourism and the promotion of Montgomery over the last few years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Lock</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble</li> <li>• Cllr Weston</li> <li>• Cllr Humphreys</li> </ul>	
	Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> <li>• Cllr Weston</li> <li>• Cllr Lewis</li> <li>• Vacancy</li> </ul>	
	Staffing Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> <li>• Cllr Harper</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble</li> <li>• Cllr Humphreys</li> </ul>	
	Appeals Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Weston</li> <li>• Cllr Stephenson</li> <li>• Cllr Lewis</li> </ul>	
	Complaints Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Taylor</li> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> <li>• Cllr Humphrys</li> <li>• Cllr Harper</li> </ul>	
	Planning Committee Cllr Lewis stepped down from the planning committee. He was thanked for his contribution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Andrew</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble</li> <li>• Cllr Jones</li> <li>• Cllr Harper</li> </ul>	
	Assets Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Stephenson</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble</li> <li>• Cllr Lewis</li> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> </ul>	

<b>7.</b>	<b>Representation to other bodies</b>	
	<p><b>Allotments</b> Cllr Harper was thanked for his hard work with the allotments over the last year, however due to the potential conflict of interest with his wife as an allotment holder at Tan-y-Mur it was felt prudent to appoint an independent Cllr into the role. Cllr Jones accepted the role which he had previously carried out.</p>	
	<p><b>Welfare Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Andrew</li> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> <li>• Cllr Kibble</li> <li>• Cllr Jones</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Montgomery Institute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>School Governor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Humphreys</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>VMRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Harper</li> <li>• Cllr Beaven</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>MCBPT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previously a member of the council has sat on the committee. This has previously been Cllr Beaven, however with her new position in the council she felt that there could potentially be a conflict of interest. A discussion was had around how the council could be represented on the committee and it was felt that a representative attends as a none voting member and observer. This will be taken to the MCBPT and if accepted then Cllr Kibble is happy to take on that role.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>One Voice Wales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reminder that all councillors can attend if interested</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Montgomery Medical Practice Patients Association</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Stephenson</li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meetings</b>	
	<p>Some changes to the minutes for clarity</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 27th April 2023 are approved and signed as a correct record.</i></p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Information from the minutes</b>	
	<p>4. Some of the potholes have been done but some still appear to be temporary. Query as to what the PCCs plan are to complete these. To be raised with CC.</p>	
	<p>May Fair was requested to be added to the agenda in June as May's was to full. Cllr Weston has been collating information about the May Fair – in 2019 the council had contact with the fair and had up to date information about the times and attractions. This had previously worked well, this year there were some issues. Cllr Humphreys stated she had a conversation with the person who ran the fair and the indication from them was that they would be happy to form that relationship with the council again.</p>	

	6. Play Park – there have been difficulties in getting contractors to do the ground works. There is a grant that needs to be spent by the end of August which is held by the Community group.																																																													
	8. Parking on Pool Road by Gaol Road. This had not been taken forward due to issues with the technology and the request to raise it with the CC not being clear. TC requested to ask the CC about the ownership of the land.																																																													
	11b – Filing cabinet in the Robing Room. Request from the literary festival to have this removed in time for the event in addition the MCBPT would like it to be removed for equipment storage. Cllr Stephenson presented some options for the potential offsite storage of the files. When the transfer happened there was a concern about storage and at the time it was promised space at Institute for the storage of the items. There is a desk in the institute where potentially there could be one under draw filing cabinet. This will not be cleared in time for lit fest however it could be tidied up for this event. Noted that this is now locked and access will need to be granted.																																																													
<b>10.</b>	<b>Report from County Councillor</b>																																																													
	Drains – reiterate the request that if the TC is notified of the drain clearance in advance the council can speak to residents in advance and ask them to move their cars  Electric charging has been looked at previously however there is no electricity at the Tanymur car park to enable car charging. Query as whether solar charging has been considered – this would only allow domestic charging. There may be possibility for the domestic charging to be part of a rental scheme as in Newtown. Request for attendance at the climate conference on the 14th June. Cllr Stephenson to attend the conference																																																													
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			£ 9,383.89	
	a. Reserves at the end of the year are about 86% (range is 50 – 75%) which means it is over the reserves policy. There are several options for the use of the money which includes payment towards the loan, earmarking for a project, higher interest savings account (could get 2.3% as investigated by Cllr Lewis), or a grant scheme.			
	<p>b. Financial regulations</p> <p>There were some proposed amendments to the regulations</p> <p>1.17 – removal of the sentence to reflect that we have digital and not paper statements and it was proposed and agreed that this statement would be amended</p> <p>1.31 – Finance committee felt that the threshold that the Clerk could authorise without engagement with the council was adequate. It was proposed this was maintained for the current year and this was agreed</p> <p>1.38 – states that any spend over budget by £100 should be reported. The Finance committee proposed this was maintained and was accepted</p> <p>1.59 – Amendment to remove the bi-annual approval of payments by BACS or CHAPS from the statement as the majority of payments are made by BACS. Removal of statement was approved.</p> <p>1.88 – maintaining the inclusion of PayPal though the council no longer uses the facility due to the change in Town Hall management it was proposed to keep this to maintain the flexibility to use this. Maintaining of this statement and potential payment method was approved</p> <p>1.103 – The number of quotes to be obtained was considered to be vague so a proposal to change the amounts and number of contractors was proposed and agreed as below:</p> <p>Works or purchases over £3k to go to 3 contractors.</p> <p>Works or purchases between £1k and £3k to have two quotes or tenders</p> <p><b>Proposed: Changes to the financial regulations to be made for 2023 - 2024</b></p> <p><b>Proposed: Cllr Weston</b>  <b>Seconded: Cllr Kibble</b>  <b>All in favour</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed</b></p>			
	c. Financial Risk Assessment No changes were made to the document and it was accepted by council for the year 2023 - 2024			
	d. Play Park Governance The council discussed the lack of tender returns and also queries as to how this is currently working from a governance point of view and where the council's role lies. It was proposed an EGM be called to discuss the Play Park governance and next steps, however it was decided that a meeting of the assets committee would attempt to address some of the queries.			
<b>12.</b>	<b>Planning</b>			

	<p>A document with full responses was submitted to council.</p> <p>1. 23/0596/HH Replacement of existing flat roof with single storey extension and replacement of conservatory with garden room. 4-5 Hendomen Cottages</p> <p>2. 23/0541/FUL Erection of protective fence in front of Conduit wall. 1 Castle Terrace Montgomery</p> <p>It is an improvement with the double gates being removed and the well head will remain visible.</p> <p>3. 23/0486/FUL Siting of three holiday pods, formation of access track, installation of sewage plant and all associated works. Land at Court Bytake, Caerhowel (resubmission)</p> <p>In the new application there was an increased environmental impact assessment, however, there has been nothing done in relation to the access. The council is maintaining a concern around the access.</p> <p>4. 23/0451/FUL Erection of a covered manure store and all associated works. Sutton No objection however an increased use of heavy vehicles will make the road surfaces worse than they currently are and this has been noted in the response.</p> <p>5. 23/0472/HH Creation of dropped kerb, new property access and car parking. 12 Tan-y-Mur Retrospective application. Done a very tidy job with clear visibility.</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Sheltered Housing</b>	
	<p>Cllr Jones had information from local residents who felt that they were not prioritised for retirement housing with local need not being addressed. Suggestion that council send a letter outlining the issue and to raise this to Cllr BT</p> <p>Cllr Harper previously wrote to Matthew Dorant due to the accommodation provided not being suitable for use with nothing being done previously. It is hoped that this will not be the case this time.</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Community Broadband</b>	
	<p>Investigations have been undertaken and the intention is to dig under the wall and bring the fibre into the Town Hall. They have planned to start the work, but due to the bus stop they have to have a temporary removal of the bus stop.</p> <p>A query was raised around the £200 spend and if the town council was only paying for the community allocation of the broad band.</p> <p>If the town council want to provide a community element of the broadband e.g. open access this would be down to the Town Council. The spend of £200 is for G17 to set up the</p>	

	community aspect of the broad band. It is a one-off payment to enable this and there will be no ongoing costs to the council.	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Deaths in the Community</b>	
	No responses from the comments in the crier. Proposed for next crier that communication goes out and wording will be checked with Cllr Weston.	
<b>16.</b>	<b>Recycling Centre Resurfacing</b>	
	Some tarmac between the footpath and the car park is missing and is now potentially a trip hazard.  Two signs in the car park that need to be gone – Cllr Harper to contact Powys but in principle the signs are fine to be removed.	
<b>17.</b>	<b>Communications from the Meeting</b>	
	Mayors Speeches to go into the Crier.  Welfare fund – this is available to be applied for and this would be nice article for a crier and the clerk of that committee will write a letter for the Crier to raise awareness. Meetings are only held twice a year.	
<b>18.</b>	<b>Items for the next agenda</b>	
	Clos Tan y mur fund Town Hall Committee Electric Charging Allocation of access of reserves policy May Fair Investment Strategy (if comes to finance) Approval of Standing Orders	