



MONTGOMERY TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFALDWYN

Minutes of the meeting of Montgomery Town Council held on **Thursday 26th October 2023 at 7.15pm**

This meeting was recorded

Present in person:

Cllr Beaven, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Lock, Cllr Weston, Cllr Stephenson

Present online:

Cllr Harper

In attendance:

Helen Royall (Town Clerk)

1.	Apologies	
	Cllr Kibble, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Humphreys	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	None	
3.	Break for the public	
	Bruce Lawson attended the meeting to discuss the moto-cross events that have been happening at Hendomen. Mr Lawson outlined the issue with the potential development of a motocross track and business which had previously been discussed at the Full Council meeting in September. There are concerns that the increase of motocross events having an impact on the landscape and the noise causing a disturbance, which may influence local businesses. There is uncertainty as to where the track will be positioned. No details of the organisers of the event so further details need to be gained including the location of the events.	
4.	Chairman's Announcements	

	<p>You are all aware of Councillor Kibble’s deterioration health condition, from her email. We have all respected her wishes that ‘business as usual’ was the maxim and we applaud her courage and resolve in doing so. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Brett and the family at this challenging time.</p> <p>On a lighter note our Town Crier celebrated her milestone birthday, and was delighted with the flowers sent by me on your behalf.</p> <p>The ongoing problems with Hafren Dyfrydw are an annoyance to the town/businesses and residents, not to mention through traffic and the bus services. I think it should be recorded that it would be envisaged as incompetence for any business to sub contract work to a firm and then keep them idle for 2 weeks, let alone the inherent cost to residents and through traffic.</p> <p>The bad weather and road closures also presented additional problems as Station Road was closed, and I am sure we all had many calls to this effect from townsfolk. I am sure Councillor Thorpe will also address this in his report.</p> <p>Could I once again stress the need for MTC correspondence to be dealt with in the correct manner, through TC not individual councillors, and refer to standing orders/code of conduct and the 3 minute rule.</p>	
5.	Minutes of the last meetings	
	<p>Some small grammatical errors addressed</p> <p><i>RESOLVED: The minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting 28th September 2023 are approved and signed as a correct record.</i></p>	
6.	Information from the minutes	
	<p>Item 6 (Item 14) The community group states that they cannot find the letter that was understood to have been sent. This is still of concern, but no further information.</p> <p>Item 12</p> <p>a. Play Park Opening of the play park ceremony has been announced on Facebook but there are some delays due to the weather. The FMPP is arranging a launch date and this will be sent around councillors in due course</p>	
7.	Report from the County Councillor	
	<p>The councillor expresses hope that most residents are informed about the Hafren Dyfrydw work. He acknowledges that updates primarily occur on Facebook, leaving non-users uninformed. The councillor is collecting email addresses to send direct notifications about updates.</p> <p>The latest information from Hafren Dyfrydw indicates a current delay due to technical issues in maintaining pressure for Montgomery's existing customers during the work. The company is working on a solution and plans to circulate a letter to residents explaining the delay. It is likely the work will restart early November after</p>	

	<p>investigations.</p> <p>In the meantime, the councillor discusses improved arrangements for buses post-resumption with Hafren Dyfrdwy, the council transport team, and Tanat Valley Coaches. Hafren Dyfrdwy suggests potential funding for a shuttle service, pending confirmation. Tanat Valley is preparing a proposed scheme for consideration.</p> <p>Regarding diversions, the councillor suggests convening a small group to improve the existing diversion system. MTC is invited to provide representatives, and a representative from Hendomen and Caerhowel will be identified to provide feedback to Hafren Dyfrdwy and the council's road works team.</p> <p>Regarding Barcud housing, it is confirmed that houses (excluding bungalows) on the Forden Road development are allocated based on a local connection. Bungalows follow the allocation method on the homes in Powys website. Some houses have been allocated, with decisions and notifications expected soon. Query around the bus stop and the safety of school children.</p> <p>Concerns about the council's future financial situation are raised, attributed to high pay settlements, inflation, and anticipated minimal funding increases from central government. Despite better reserves, tough decisions are expected. Even if Labour wins the next election, no increase in public spending generosity is anticipated. The council is examining all service delivery areas for additional savings.</p>	
8.	Highways	
	<p>Conditions of the roads were raised after the flooding which has left damage and gravel causing issues and accidents. New piece of road by the new housing estate there is standing water even though there is drainage put in place. Cllr B-T stated Powys were working through a large backlog and would raise the drainage issues.</p> <p>Bus stops proposed for Forden Road is currently proposed to go before the vets. Barcud are looking at locations for the bus stop, potentially at the point where the new footpath stops. Cllr B-T suggested a working group to look at the potential locations for the proposed bus stops to see where the buses can pull in safely.</p> <p>Drainage down New Road which could become an issue in the winter. There are some other areas in town which were flagged as issues.</p>	
9.	Finance	
a.	Current Financial Position and transactions	

	Salary	£	594.40
	Salary	£	509.02
HMRC	HMRC	£	201.00
Helen Royall	Christmas Lights Licence	£	110.00
CADW	Play at Castle	£	60.00
Broxap	Bins	£	1,764.96
Gaskells	Waste	£	44.77
Sovereign	Playground Equipment		£2469.81
b.	Community Requests for Tan y Mur fund		
	Discussion around the distribution of the fund and community requests. TC to find the form used previously and send it to the council for approval.		
10.	Planning		
	Planning committee has not been able to meet. However, the applications that have come in have not been controversial. There has been a planning application for Rock Cottage to make the garage as part of the house. Only concern raised was the height of the roof pitch, however this is challenging to see on the plans and the enforcement of conditions raised by CPAT.		
11.	Assets		
a.	Maintenance of Hornbeams		
	Surveys have been booked for the trees at Whitegate and Tan y Mur and the hornbeam trimming has been requested. Council are waiting for the surveys and recommendations to come back to commission all of the works at work.		
b.	Equipment for upstairs at the Town Hall		
	Discussion around the technology needed to facilitate the hybrid meetings. The remit is that there needs to be provision for hybrid. For the next meeting in November, we can provide hybrid facilities in the upper floor if we are meeting there. Potentially the council may need to look at improvement to meeting facilities in the future. Need to communicate with the Town Hall Trust.		
12.	Events		
a.	Christmas Festival Events		
	<p>25th November Coffee Mornings – a few options for the coffee morning</p> <p>2nd December Light switch on 5pm has been requested by the Friends of the School and the council agreed that this would work well for the other events planned at the time and would allow Father Christmas Looking at having something downstairs with some additional stalls and potentially a coffee van. There is also the potential to ask some of the local businesses to stay open to support the event. Cllr Lock offered to help to organise some of the activities. Friends of the School are to ask Father Christmas who is</p>		

	switching on the lights. Cllr Weston to speak to the school about a joint poster. 9 th December Provision booking of music which can be free until 5pm	
b.	Remembrance Events	
	Council were reminded of the Remembrance Events happening in the Town	
13.	Issues arising at the Old Gaol	
	The Old Gaol is being used as a 16+ residential provision run by Nurture Future Living and they are not required to register this as a residential unit as the building was already flats. The management are happy for anyone to contact them directly with concerns or to go through Cllr B-T	
14.	Motocross at Hendomen	
	Discussed in public session	
15.	Use of Mayoress Chains	
	Proposed: The mayoress chains to be used by the Deputy Mayor when there is no consort for formal events where the Deputy is representing the Council. Proposed: Cllr Jones Seconded: Cllr Taylor All in favour Abstain: Cllr Andrew Motion passed	
16.	Dogs at the Castle	
	Cllr Humphreys had sent apologies. Moved to the next meeting.	
17.	Deaths in the Community	
	Forms have been printed and information will be in the Crier and Noticeboard. Thanks were given to Cllr Lock and Cllr Humphreys for their hard work to get this delivered.	
18.	Communications from the meeting	
	Deaths in the community Light Switch on	
19.	Items for the next agenda	
	Dogs at the castle May Fair Community Health and Care Allotments Parking at Maldwyn Way and Recycling Centre Civic Events	