

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2019
AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, PRESTEIGNE

Present: Cllrs. C. Kirkby MBE (Mayor), T. Owens (Deputy Mayor), D. Edwards, F. Preece, B. Baynham, S. Dixon, P. Linnett, R. Bennett, C. Ruby, N. Rogers.
Cllr. J. Wilding joined the meeting during the Finance section.

Apologies: Cllr. R. Bamford, L. Veary.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

Declarations of Interest: Members were requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the terms of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct Order) (Wales) Order 2008.

Personal:

Cllr. B. Baynham, Trustee of Judge's Lodgings and Employee of East Radnorshire Day Centre; re. precepted donations to Judge's Lodgings and East Radnorshire Day Centre.

Cllr. F. Preece, Scout's Chairperson re. donation request from Presteigne Scouts.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. R. Bennett, close family friend of applicant re. planning application 19/0515.

Cllr. J. Wilding, related to applicant re. planning application 19/0515.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members heard from Mr. Harling-Bowen on the proposed Dark Skies Project. He provided information on the project and answered questions from Members and requested support for the project. Members were not able to confirm support at present for the following reasons – the need to ensure the local Member (Cllr. Baynham) was fully consulted and involved in the project particularly on changes involving street lighting and also because there had as yet been no consultation with the community. Mr. Harling-Bowen was asked to provide Members with an update for the May meeting.

MIN 3593 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 20th March, 2019 and of the Sites and Buildings Committee Meeting of 1st April 2019 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3594 CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE

- (1) Potholes, By Pass Car Park: Cllr. Baynham was waiting for information on this matter.
- (2) Idling Buses, Secondary School: Cllr. Kirkby had informed the resident who had raised this that the bus company should now be complying with the request to turn off engines while waiting to collect pupils.
- (3) Lights, Seconds & Co: The lights should now have been lowered.
- (4) Community Storage: Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the Head teacher of the Secondary School had no objection in principle subject to the approval of the County Council. There was however a hole in the roof so some work would be required and he had suggested that the building be looked at to consider costs etc. Members agreed that Cllr. Wilding be asked to make an initial assessment of the building.
- (5) Operation London Bridge: Cllr. Owens confirmed that he had made initial contact with Rev. Hollinghurst and would arrange to meet him over the coming weeks.
- (6) Warden Guardian Foundation AGM: Cllr. Kirkby had been unable to attend.
- (7) Border Sign, Lugg Bridge: Members agreed that this suggestion be further considered as part of the proposed Tri Towns initiative.

(8) Risk Assessment Training: The Clerk had completed the training course.

MIN 3595 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donations were approved –

Mid Border Arts	£1000.00
(precepted, Inc. £500 twds building works)	
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup	£500.00 (precepted)
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	£1250.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Festival	£1000.00 (precepted)
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	£500.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Area Community Development Group	£250.00 (precepted)
East Radnorshire Day Centre	£2000.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Colts Central Fund	£300.00 (precepted)
Warden Guardian Foundation	£250.00 (precepted)
Wales Air Ambulance	£100.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Memorial Hall	£1000.00 (precepted)

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£20.23 DIRECT DEBIT
Gala Tent Ltd (Norton Marquee Canopy)	£273.96 (precepted)
Society of Council Clerks (annual membership)	£220.00
One Voice Wales (annual membership)	£439.00
Mrs T A Price (April pay)	£1312.76
HM Revenue & Customs	£517.20
NEST	£122.99 DIRECT DEBIT
T. Lloyd-John	£393.20
N. Close	£71.49
N. Close	£78.87 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£3635.49 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Daniel Davies (orchard pruning)	£80.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£278.92 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) Receipt: Receipt of the following amounts were noted –

Allotment Rent	£224.00 (cheques)
	£56.00 (bank transfer in 2018-19).
	£28.00 (bank transfer in 2019-20)
Powys County Council (grant community barn)	£15,000.00 (rec in 2018-19)

(4) Approval of Annual Accounts for 2018/19: The annual accounts were approved.

(5) Annual VAT return and year end payroll for HMRC: Members noted that these had been completed.

(6) Review of Project and General Reserve Balances and budget information to 31st March: Members considered the end of year balances and allocated reserve accounts. No changes were made to the allocated reserves. Free reserves were now a little over three months expenditure. The following amount would be allocated within the capital reserve account in 2019/20 – £2000 – MUGA.

(7) Contribution towards the Friday evening reception for the Vintage Car Rally in October: Cllr. Preece had obtained estimates for the cost of the event at around £250. It was agreed that this amount be taken from free reserves.

(8) Bank Transfers: The following transfers were agreed –

£15,000 (grant monies) from the Treasurer Account to the Meadow Account.

£4000 (Community building) from the capital account to the Treasurer Account.

(9) Purchase of Norton Speedwatch Signs: Members approved the purchase of two signs at a cost of £100. £200 had been precepted towards equipment.

(10) Consultation on proposals to amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013: Members agreed that the Clerk respond indicating the Council's view that audit fees should reflect the actual time spent by external auditors.

MIN 3596 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –
Cllrs. Bennett and Wilding left the room for the duration of the following item.

19/0515/FUL Grid Reference: E:329482 N: 265279 Proposal: Erection of 4 holiday log cabins, formation of a new access road, installation of package treatment plant, and associated works (re-submission of 18/0864/FUL) Site Address: Land Adjacent To B4356, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2NF: Resolved that the following comments be made - Noted that the applicant had tried to address the issues raised on the earlier application but Members felt that the visual impact had not been reduced sufficiently to satisfy the concerns. On the issue of access, the Council noted that this had been moved and that the safety of this would be assessed by the Highways Section prior to approval. Agreed to repeat the following comments as made on the previous application - *The Town Council has strong concerns about this application and would like to make the following comments - Appropriateness of size/scale of the proposed cabins which seem too large for their setting and in comparison with nearby buildings.*

Concern at the access onto a dangerous stretch of road, where the Town Council has for some time been pressing for the introduction of a lower speed limit (50mph). If the application is granted then the introduction of such a speed limit should be considered essential.

Linked to the access concerns, the Town Council also believes that the vehicle movement figures seem low and have been underestimated.

Further development in this area will lead to the creation of a new settlement 'village' outside the town boundary. If permission is given then use as permanent residential accommodation should not at any point be granted. The Town Council would also like to point out that the DAS refers to residential accommodation adjacent -and would like to clarify that this is not permanent accommodation but holiday accommodation.

19/0501/FUL Grid Reference: E:331463 N: 264342 Proposal: Alterations to garage/outbuilding Site Address: 4 Hereford Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AW: Resolved to support the application.

19/0502/LBC Grid Reference: E:331463 N: 264342 Proposal: Listed building consent for alterations to garage / outbuilding Site Address: 4 Hereford Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AW. Resolved to support the application.

19/0316/LBC Grid Reference: E:331224 N: 264640 Proposal: Internal alterations to include the installation of a suspended floor, removal of hearths, upgrading central heating. External alterations to fenestrations. Site Address: Bell Cottage, Scottleton Street, Presteigne LD8 2BG: Resolved no objections to this application.

19/0550/FUL Grid Reference: E:331468 N: 264305 Proposal: Installation of an external entrance ramp with hand rail Site Address: Lloyds Bank House, 52 Hereford Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AT: Resolved to support the application.

19/0551/LBC Grid Reference: E:331468 N: 264305 Proposal: Installation of an external entrance ramp with hand rail, alterations to internal lobby door and all associated works Site Address: Lloyds Bank House, 52 Hereford Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AT: Resolved to support the application.

19/0542/FUL Grid Reference: E:329706 N: 265402 Proposal: Extension to caravan site involving siting of 3 no. residential static caravans including reconfiguration of 2 existing residential plots on existing caravan site to form 2 no. touring plots, formation of hardstanding and all associated works Site Address: Land At Rockbridge Park, Discoed, Presteigne: Resolved no objections to the application.

19/0601/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331468 N: 264305 Proposal: Works to trees in a conservation area, to include pruning and crown reduction Location: Lloyds Bank, 52 Hereford Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2AT: Resolved no objections to the application.

(2) Planning Application Decisions: The following decision was noted –

19/0089/HH Householder Proposed 2 storey extension with new boundary walls to roadside 25 Hereford Street Presteigne - Approved 20/03/2019.

(3) 19/0235/FUL Grid Reference: E:331284 N: 264453 Proposal: Change of use of part of commercial building from B1 to C3 to form a dwelling, to include cladding the building and all other associated works.

Site Address: Warren Villa Garage, Wherby Lane, Presteigne, LD8 2DP: Members considered the comments of the Built Heritage Officer which it felt addressed their issues of concern and therefore it was resolved to make no further comment.

(4) Planning Officers Society for Wales, Survey of Town and Community Councils: The Clerk provided a copy of the survey for Members information. She was instructed to complete the survey listing the following priorities for improvement – the provision of feedback on how comments on planning applications are taken into account; more ready extension of consultation time periods and to make it easier to contact Planning Officers for information.

(5) Publishing of Public Comment on Planning Applications: Cllr. Kirkby reminded Members that the County Council was no longer publishing comments on the website. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Portfolio Holder to ask that publication be re-instated. One Voice Wales to be given a copy of the letter written and to be asked how many other local authorities published public comments on the website.

MIN 3597 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Highway Items for repair: Members noted that the overhanging trees at the top of Station Road and along the by pass had been cut back by the County Council.

(2) PACDG Update: The following matters were reported –

- Working Together Meeting held. Cllr. Ruby had attended. A further meeting was planned in due course.
- PACDG Draft Accounts were provided by Cllr. Ruby and the Clerk would circulate them to all Members.
- A town centre litter pick had been carried out.
- A volunteer litter picker picked the Presteigne to Norton road on a regular basis.
- Primroses planted, St David's Street.
- Praise for daffodils planted.
- Guerrilla Gardening: Members were pleased to learn of new efforts with this however Cllr. Baynham asked if the previous areas tended could be maintained for example at the Hereford Street car and Shoppers Car Parks. Cllr. Ruby would feed this back to the Group.

Cllr. Kirkby stated that it had not yet been possible to arrange the planned meeting with the Group to discuss the community plan.

(3) Active Travel Route: Cllr. Baynham provided an update on works, in particular she informed Members that the drains in Hereford Street were found to have collapsed and these were therefore being replaced. She added that pavements were much improved and resurfacing of the roads was in progress. Members asked that Cllr. Baynham ask if landscaping could be carried out particularly at Orchard Close and Lugg View. Cllr. Baynham was also able to confirm that at present there were no plans to make Hereford Street one way although it was something that might be considered in the future. She added that if so the Town Council would be consulted.

(4) Noise Nuisance Complaint: Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the complainant had now contacted the Environmental Health section and the complaint would be formally investigated.

(5) Application for DMMO Fold Farm: Cllr. Kirkby outlined a procedure for attempting to bring forward the consideration of the application and Members agreed that the Clerk should proceed to take the steps outlined.

(6) Footpath, Former Kayes Site: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the condition of the surface had been reported to the County Council. Members agreed that in the event of the future development of the site the footpath should ideally be restored to its original route. The Clerk was asked to notify the Planning Department of this request. Cllr. Kirkby would provide a map of the original route.

MIN 3598 NORTON

(1) Potholes were reported at School Lane, the top of Mynd Lane and at Caefelyn. The Clerk would report.

(2) Church: Cllr. Wilding was pleased to report that the project should now be proceeding.

MIN 3599 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Recommendations of the Sites and Buildings Committee:

Went's Meadow – The listed maintenance items were confirmed.
The grant application priorities were confirmed.

Sites for new dog bag dispensers: These were confirmed as – Hereford Street Car Park Entrance (subject to County Council agreement), the entrance to Went's Meadow from Scottleton Street and in Mynd Lane at the entrance to the footpath to Offas Green. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

(2) Public Conveniences: One Voice Wales had forwarded a copy of the response from the Finance Minister to its request for public conveniences to be exempt from business rates. Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that he and the Clerk had met Kirsty Williams AM to discuss the issue of business rates on public conveniences and also on library buildings. The possibility of Town and Community Councils becoming generally eligible for business rate relief had also been put forward. Ms. Williams had suggested it might be possible to meet the Finance Minister in Hay to discuss the matter further. The Clerk was asked to thank Ms Williams for taking the time to meet, provide her with a copy of the reply to One Voice Wales from the Minister and to ask when the meeting with the Finance Minister was to take place. The Clerk was also asked to suggest to One Voice Wales that it too ask for small business rate relief to apply to Town and Community Councils.

(3) Allotments: Cllr. Bennett was thanked for his efforts in assisting with clearing Plot 16. The Clerk reported that the rent for just one plot remained unpaid despite a number of reminders. Members agreed that the Clerk write again stating that if the rent was not paid by 30th April the plot would be re-let. In addition they felt that at the next rent review (November 2019) further consideration should be given to adding an additional charge should rent not be paid within a specific time scale. This would be discussed further in November.

(4) Meadows: The following matters were raised:

- Community Building Update: Cllr. Kirkby reported that work was still progressing as expected. The Welsh Government quarterly report had been submitted.
- Confirmation of Use by Nicole et Martin 31st July - 11th August: Members noted that there was only one other location in the UK (Aviemore) on this tour.
- Request for Use for Car Parking – CONNECT 6th May: Agreed.

(5) Silia Wood: Cllr. Baynham reported that the Trust meeting would be held on 15th May. Cllr. Kirkby had not made any progress with the Woodland Trust as yet.

(6) Community Storage: See Minute 3594(4).

(7) Withy Beds Site Meeting: Cllr. Kirkby reported on the site meeting held with the County Council and the Wildlife Trust. Given the current restrictions on funding the Trust was considering not renewing the lease when it expired in 2024. It had been agreed that in the meantime the Clerk and the Wildlife Trust would if possible apply for a grant to replace the boardwalk.

(8) Warden Letter re. non native tree: It was agreed that the Clerk consult the County Council to get their view on the matter.

MIN 3600 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Liaison with Schools: Deferred to May meeting as Cllr. Veary could not attend.

(2) Review of the Electoral Arrangements for the County of Powys and Final Recommendations of Boundary Commission: Members were very disappointed that the Commission still proposed to split the present Ward of Presteigne and Norton. The Clerk was asked to respond stating that the Council was very dissatisfied with the proposal and citing the compact nature of the present Ward and the long travel distances involved in covering the suggested new Ward for Norton. She was also asked to point out that the report referred to Presteigne Town Council repeatedly and that it should be Presteigne and Norton Town Council.

(3) Plastic Free Presteigne: Cllr. Baynham reported that the initiative had been launched at the recent Farmer's Market, bags for life were being made and that there would be a stall at the Food and Flower Festival. Town Council support for the project was requested and the following statement was agreed – *The Town Council supports the journey to Plastic Free Community status for Presteigne area. It will where possible encourage plastic-free initiatives, promote the campaign and support events. A representative of the council has been named on the Plastic Free Community steering group and the Council will maintain this representation.*

(4) East Radnorshire Day Centre Information on becoming a Trustee/New Trustees Wanted: Noted. The Clerk would pass the leaflets on for display in the library.

(5) Transition Presteigne Minutes of March Meeting for information: Noted.

- (6) Understanding Welsh Places Website: The Clerk was asked to provide the description requested to allow Presteigne to be included on the website. A draft of the text to be circulated prior to submission.
- (7) Christmas Lights 2019: Members noted that the current installer had recently indicated that he would not be able to install the lights in 2019. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether this could be done for one more year in order to allow the Council to make other arrangements. The Clerk would also contact some other lights installers to see if they would be interested in quoting.
- (8) Town Wifi Possibilities: Members were not opposed to the introduction of a town wi-fi scheme should funding become available.
- (9) One Voice Wales Meeting 26th April: No one was able to attend.

MIN 3601 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

April Surgery: Cllrs. Baynham and Ruby had attended. The following matters were discussed –

- Comments on the Active Travel Route: No action needed.
- Need for free parking: Cllr. Baynham had responded.
- Trees overgrown over the footway near Clatterbrune House: Cllr. Baynham had requested that these be cut back.
- Two requests for Hereford Street to become one way.
- Debris in the stream behind Silia Meadow: Cllr. Baynham had arranged for this to be dealt with.
- Provision of Green Waste Bins: Cllr. Baynham reported that concerns had been raised over the need to be able to pay for the service at the library rather than online or over the telephone. She was investigating whether this would be possible.
- Access onto Pound Lane/Parking Issue: Members to review before May meeting.

Arrangements for May Surgery: Cllrs. Preece and Ruby to attend.

MIN 3602 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- County Council Annual Meeting: 16th May.
- Attendance at the inauguration of the Powys High Sheriff.
- Launch of the Powys Stage of the Ovo Energy Women's Cycle Tour.

MIN 3603 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) No Cycling Signs: Cllr. Owens reported that concerns had been raised that the existing signs needed improvement. Cllr. Baynham would make enquiries to see what could be done.

(2) Parking Forge Meadow, Scottleton Street: Cllr. Baynham reported that parking on the pavement in this area was increasing and was affecting visibility at the junction. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue with the police.

(3) Emptying of Town Litter Bins: There was concern that the emptying frequency was to be altered. Cllr. Baynham would investigate.

(4) Judge's Lodgings: Building work had now commenced.

MIN 3604 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business because of the confidential nature of the item.

MIN 3605 FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICE/ASSEMBLY ROOMS BUILDING IN PRESTEIGNE

The letter agreed by the Working Group had been sent to the Town Councils in the areas with branches that would be affected by the proposed budget reductions. Knighton Town Council was willing to meet and it was agreed that a meeting might be useful over the coming weeks. Other Clerks would be reporting to their May meetings.

The meeting in Builth Wells organised by the County Council would be attended by Cllrs. Baynham and Wilding and it was agreed that the Clerk write to Cllr. Powell as Portfolio Holder with the Town Council's initial proposals.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm