

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JULY 2019
AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

Present: Cllrs. T. Owens (Mayor), F. Preece (Deputy Mayor), C. Kirkby MBE, R. Bennett, R. Bamford, P. Linnett, L. Veary, D. Edwards, C. Ruby, B. Baynham, J. Wilding.

Apologies: Cllr. N. Rogers.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. Members of the public.

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 John Beddoes Trust Fund re. Silia Wood and request for land.

Cllr. J. Wilding, Member of Norton Community Development Group re. Donation for Norton Community Development Group.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. T. Owens, Member of Football Club Committee and in receipt of honorarium re. planning application 19/0963/FUL.

Family neighbours of applicant, re. planning application 19/0912/FUL.

Cllr. J. Wilding, Related to applicant, re. planning application update 18/0779/FUL

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members heard from Ms Van Den Ende on the subject of wildflowers and recent mowing of the verges in Presteigne which had led to four orchids having been destroyed. Ms Van Den Ende then answered questions from Members.

MIN 3639 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June, 2019 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3640 CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE

(1) Publication of Third Party Comments on County Council Website: It was noted that other County Councils were still publishing comments from third parties and it was agreed that the Clerk write again to ask that the matter be further considered and also suggesting that as a bare minimum the number of public comments both in support and objection for each application be included on the planning website.

(2) Operation London Bridge: Cllr. Owens confirmed that he had now met with Rev. Hollinghurst and had received a file of information from him for reference.

(3) Paths on Former Reservoir Ground: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the two costings (paths and fencing) would now both be £100 extra each.

(4) Public Open Spaces Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance: Cllr. Kirkby had yet to speak to the relevant Officer.

(5) DMMO Application Fold Farm: Cllr. Kirkby was pleased to announce that the Planning Inspectorate had decided to support the Town Council request that the application be immediately considered. The County Council had been given eight months to determine the application.

(6) Liaison with Schools: Cllr. Veary would liaise with Cllr. Owens over the poster competition.

(7) Lloyds Bank: Members noted that the Clerk had received a telephone call from the local Branch to thank the Town Council for its letter.

MIN 3641 FINANCE

(1) Donations:

Norton Community Development Group £2000.00 (Precepted £5000)
(First Payment.)

Members also considered the request received from James Tennant-Eyles on behalf of the Playground Mums. The Mums asked that the Town Council purchase two new items for the Wilson Terrace Playground and were willing to donate slightly over £2000 towards the project. This would leave £250 for the Town Council to provide. Members noted that Steve Gealy had approved the items proposed and having considered the request agreed to purchase the items and to contribute £250 to add to the donation offered. Money to come from free reserves.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T A Price (July pay)	£1312.76
HM Revenue & Customs	£517.20
NEST (direct debit)	£122.99
T. Lloyd-John	£636.70
N. Close	£67.47
Mrs T. A. Price (refund postages/travel exp)	£47.98
N. Close	£219.36 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Firth Construction Ltd	£489.44 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Pegasus Industrial Services Ltd	£383.07 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Firth Construction Ltd	£420.34 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£1197.07 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£ 297.07 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£91.06 (direct debit)
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£42.96 (direct debit)
EDF Energy (Barn, Meadow)	£38.36 (direct debit)
Jimmy Hughes Tree Services (tree survey)	£900.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Border Janitorial	£84.00
Clun Solutions	£158.00
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£31.69

(3) Budget Update: Members noted the budget update to the end of June.

MIN 3642 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –

19/0913/FUL Grid Reference: E:329438 N: 266844 Proposal: Landscaping works involving formation of paved area, replacement of existing gravel hardstanding and post and chain markers with proposed gravelled area together with erection of 1.8m high fence Site Address: The Coach House, Norton Manor Park, Norton, Presteigne. Resolved to support the application.

19/1034/FUL Grid Reference: E:331348 N: 264155 Proposal: Proposed open fronted storage building Site Address: Seconds and Co, Presteigne. Resolved no objections to this application.

19/1102/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331589 N: 264598 Proposal: To remove 2x conifer trees and branch trim of copper beech tree within a conservation area Location: River Cottage, Church Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections to the application providing the relevant authorities are informed of the work (adjacent to the river) as they are in a SSSI.

Cllr. Owens left the room for the duration of the following two items and Cllr. Preece assumed the Chair.

19/0963/FUL Grid Reference: E:332056 N: 264116 Proposal: Erection of a dwelling and all associated works Site Address: Land North of Clatterbrune, Clatterbrune, Presteigne. Members were invited to give their views on this full application. Members felt that the issues remained broadly unchanged from the outline application in 2016. The Clerk was asked to reiterate the issues raised then, stressing in particular the following –

- The height of the proposed dwelling in relation to adjacent single storey dwellings.
- The adverse effect on light to adjacent properties and overlooking/privacy for those properties.

- Proposed dwelling sited too close to the boundary.
- Materials not in keeping with adjacent properties.
- Narrow access road with no pavements despite pavements being shown on the block plan.

In addition, Members noted that some work had already commenced and tree roots had been damaged, perhaps permanently. Members requested that the Clerk ask if this should be considered criminal damage as it may well affect the long term viability of these trees.

19/0912/FUL Grid Reference: E:333946 N: 263259 Proposal: Erection of a building to cover a manure store Site Address: Broadheath Farm, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr. Owens returned to the room.

- (2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted –
- 19/0835/TRE, Harley House, 7 Broad Street, Presteigne: Approval 12th June.
 - 19/0235/FUL, Warren Villa Garage, Wherby Lane, Presteigne: Approval 21st June.
- (3) Planning Committee 4th July re.18/0779/FUL, Old Impton Farm, Norton: Application deferred for a site meeting. (Information Only).

MIN 3643 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- (1) Highway Items for repair: The following items were noted –
- Dropped kerb, Drill Hall: Now complete.
 - Potholes School Lane, Norton: Done.
 - Potholes Mynd Road, Norton: Not done. Clerk to chase.
 - Pavement outside Corte Cottage: Still not repaired.
 - Tree Branch, Lugg View: Removed.
- (2) PACDG Update: The following items were reported –
- Information Boards: Work ongoing. Cllr. Baynham stated that the County Council had agreed to the updating but had stressed that no funding was available.
 - Working with PCC and ACE to bring tetrapak recycling to the By Pass Recycling Centre.
 - Meeting with Town Council re. Community Plan: Arranged for 2nd September.
 - Offer to work with Town Council Climate Change Working Group.
 - Concern that the various advertisement hoardings at the entrance to the Industrial Estate were unsightly. Town Council to view on August walk.
 - Concern over the rear of the Premier Shop. Town Council to view on August walk.
- (3) Active Travel Route: Members noted the two emails received from residents commenting on the scheme and supporting the introduction of a one way system along part of Hereford Street. Cllr. Baynham reported that a decision on the suggested one way had not yet been taken. Cllr. Kirkby noted that as yet there was no signage.
- (4) Plastic Free Presteigne Update: Cllr. Bamford had nothing to report from the Group. Cllr. Baynham raised a concern that many of the glasses used for the wheelbarrow race before the Carnival were not suitable for recycling and stated that she had raised this with Plastic Free Presteigne. The Carnival Committee had ensured that appropriate glasses were used. It was confirmed that all the glasses to be used at Norton Show would be eco friendly.
- (5) Climate Emergency Working Group Update: The Group had met on 16th July and agreed a draft policy and action plan as follows –

Draft Policy

TC acknowledges the climate emergency and has agreed the following policy. The Town Council will

- Take action to improve its practices and thus reduce its own contribution to climate change.
- call on Wales and UK Government to provide the support and resources to enable communities to move to becoming a net-zero carbon producer.
- Work with other organisations such as Renew Wales, Powys County Council, other Town & Community Councils and local businesses to help counter climate change.
- Encourage resilience to climate impacts for example through encouraging sustainable practices.

- Increase biodiversity.
- Produce an action plan.

Action Plan

1. Bring together interested parties to share knowledge and to support those groups and residents.
2. Consider an annual budget for climate related small grant awards.
3. Encourage the use of sustainable practices when responding to planning applications.
4. To join Renew Wales and agree to an entry on its website.
5. To support the use of renewable energy and where possible use renewable energy in Council buildings.
6. To publicise events etc via the Town Council Newsletter.
7. To seek to continue the Active Travel Route, particularly to Norton.
8. To improve bus routes and consider local leaflet with timetables etc. Press for Traws Cymru bus route from Presteigne.
9. To write to Walkers Crisps to ask for details on the recycling process for crisp packets.
10. To ask Renew Wales to facilitate a first meeting of Community Groups involved with Climate Change.
11. To ask those organising town events to consider their use of single use plastic and reduce this as much as possible.

Members agreed the above without change and the Clerk was asked to contact Vanessa Garwood from Renew Wales to request attendance at the initial meeting for interested members of the community. Additionally Members noted that the Day Centre recycled mobile phones and ink cartridges.

(6) Dark Skies Project: Many Members had managed to attend the presentation from Dark Source and had been impressed by the possibilities. It was agreed to support further development of the plans. The Clerk was asked to stress that this was without firm commitment at this stage and to stress that the Town Council could not provide financial support or backing but was otherwise willing to assist with the project. Cllr. Kirkby agreed to consider attending the Smart Cities conference and the Clerk would obtain further information.

(7) Complaint re. overgrown ivy, entrance to Industrial Estate: To be inspected as part of town walk in August.

(8) Parking by Lloyds Bank Cashpoint. Members noted the emails from a resident and the Fire Service. Cllr. Baynham stated that the police had agreed to ticket vehicles parking illegally and it was hoped that this would have a deterrent effect. The Clerk was also asked to write to the police to request similar action for vehicles in Scottleton Street.

(9) Electric Vehicle Charging Points Survey: Members noted the recent survey but were concerned that the process was taking far too long and the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council stressing the need for immediate action and requesting two charging points for the Hereford Street and Shoppers Car Parks.

(10) Report on Initial Tri Towns Meeting: Cllr. Preece reported on the initial meeting of representatives from the three Councils (Kington, Knighton and Presteigne & Norton). Topics discussed included a Walking Leaflet/Map for Marches area; a campaign for Traws Cymru Bus service to link to Cardiff (with the bonus of free travel on summer Saturdays; cross linking of events in the three towns, possibly via a website/facebook and joint facebook event page; flower planting; Christmas Lights arrangements; Christmas late night shopping event over the three town; creation of Tri Towns Logo for this group; promotion of the Marches as an area and map of attractions. The next meeting would be on 13th August and would concentrate on a joint facebook page for local events.

(11) Short Term Closure of Byway, PR1807A: Noted.

MIN 3644 NORTON

- (1) Norton Show – 28th July.
- (2) Pre-Show Dinner – 26th July.
- (3) Church: A planning application was currently being prepared to remove the pews and install toilets etc. The Diocese had agreed that the Community Group could take over the Church building subject to the necessary consents.

MIN 3645 SITES AND BUILDINGS

- (1) Public Conveniences:

- Exemption from Business Rates: Members were pleased to note that the Minister for Finance had now confirmed that, from 1st April 2020, standalone public toilets will have their rates bill reduced to zero. The Mayor thanked those who had worked hard to achieve this.
 - Senate of Older People: The Clerk would circulate the link to the toilet provision survey.
- (2) Allotments: Cllr. Ruby reported on a growing problem with voles eating produce. She was asked to seek formal advice from a professional pest control expert and to report back to Council.
- (3) Meadows:
- Community Building Update: The building was now complete although some landscaping remained, and insurance for the building was in place. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Sheep Music confirming the start of the ten year period for use on 1st August 2019 (in accordance with Welsh Government grant conditions). The building had been used for the Carnival and had been a great success. The Clerk would produce an updated form for applications for use of the new building by community groups or for community events.
 - Restoration/repair of paths Lower Went's Meadow etc: Cllr Bennett estimated £300-400 for stone and £200-280 for digger hire. Members agreed that he proceed to carry out the work and also charge for labour at an estimated cost of £240. Cllr. Bennett confirmed that he hoped to carry out the work in late August/September.
 - Request by Play Radnor to use on 14th and 21st August: Agreed.
 - Request by Pop Choir to use on 18th July: Agreed.
 - Vandalism on Picnic Bench: Members noted this with concern. The police had identified the person involved and would be interviewing them shortly. Cllr. Bennett suggested some form of restorative justice work on the Meadow and the Clerk would ask the police if this was possible.
 - Tidying of Ligne Garden/Barn by Carnival Volunteers: Members asked that their thanks be noted and sent formally to the Carnival Committee. The Clerk was also asked to write to Mr. D. Williams to thank him for the work he had done on various paths around the site.
 - Zip Wire Quotes and Grant Application: The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Mr. Gealy at the County Council and he had indicated his preferred supplier citing quality and after sales service as being excellent. Cllr. Kirkby was hopeful that the request to Kingspan for grant money to cover the cost would be successful although the Clerk was almost ready to apply to Awards for All. Cllr. Kirkby agreed to try to press for a decision.
 - Grant Applications Withy Beds/Lower Went's Meadow: The Clerk confirmed that she had again met with the Wildlife Trust to discuss works to Lower Went's Meadow and the Withy Beds including replacement of the Boardwalk, a nature trail, restoration of the pond and leat etc. Members agreed that she continue to work towards obtaining quotes to support grant applications. Member's noted that Julian Jones had recently retired from the Wildlife Trust and agreed to write and thank him for the help and advice he had given the Town Council over the years.
- (4) Silia Wood: Members noted that the John Beddoes Trust had refused the request for a strip of land. Cllr. Wilding suggested that a site meeting be arranged with the Woodland Trust to discuss other possibilities.
- (5) Community Storage: The Headteacher had confirmed that the governing body had no objection to the use of the former sixth form building for storage. Cllr. Preece agreed to speak to the School before the end of term to secure keys for access. Access would be at weekends with keys or between 4pm and 6pm during the week via the caretaker.
- (6) Grass Verge Cutting/Wildflowers: Members considered the options for wildflower verges in the future and noted the information on the plantlife website. The Clerk had obtained a price for an additional cut in Presteigne and Norton but it was agreed not to proceed at this point. Cllr. Baynham confirmed that she would be meeting with County Council Officers to discuss the best way forward given the orchids that have recently been noted in the verge.

MIN 3646 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- (1) Liaison with Schools: Cllr. Veary reported that she would be attending the Primary School on Friday with the results of the poster competition. She had also now managed to speak to several of the secondary school teachers and the possibility of school event in the new community barn had been mentioned.
- (2) Christmas Lights 2019: The lights had now been returned and were stored with Cllr. Bennett who confirmed that either he or CONNECT would install them. Formal proposals would be submitted for the work.
- (3) Education in Presteigne: Cllr. Kirkby reported on the meeting with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors at John Beddoes Campus. The need to secure future education provision in Presteigne was felt

to be the most important issue and the possibility of a through school had been discussed further. Next steps would be to discuss the matter with the Primary School (date awaited from Primary School) and to consider discussing the future with the other feeder schools for the John Beddoes catchment.

(4) Grant Awarding Policy: Members considered the discussions of the Working Group and the new forms and amended policy were agreed.

(5) Letter from Herefordshire Council: Members noted the update from Herefordshire Council.

MIN 3647 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

July Surgery: Cllrs. Linnett and Veary had attended. The following matters were discussed –

- Comments on the suggested one way for Hereford Street: No action needed.
- Request for a covered bike shelter in Hereford Street Car Park: Clerk to contact resident.

Arrangements for August Surgery: Cllr. Ruby to attend.

MIN 3648 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- County Council in purdah before the By Election.
- Meeting Prince Charles in Machynlleth and near Llandoverly.
- Civic Service in Presteigne.
- Silver Kite Award for Owen Davies.
- Dealing with a number of ongoing issues for residents.

MIN 3649 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR DIXON

The Clerk informed Members that no formal election had been called and the Council could now proceed to co-opt to fill the vacancy. It was agreed that applications be invited and that the closing date would be 31st August.

MIN 3650 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) To formally record the thanks of the Council to the Carnival and Wheelbarrow Race organisers.

(2) Judge's Lodgings: Work now complete.

(3) Nicole et Martin: Returning in August.

(4) Rotten Gatepost, Went's Meadow: Agreed not to replace.

MIN 3651 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 3652 FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICE/ASSEMBLY ROOMS BUILDING IN PRESTEIGNE

Members noted that the motion to One Voice Wales on business rates had been amended to remove the reference to public toilets.

Next meeting of the Working Group – 5th August. Library volunteers and friends of the library to meet the group on the same evening.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm