

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2021 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. F. Preece (Mayor), D. Davies, T. Owens, R. Bamford (via video link), C. Ruby C. Kirkby MBE, B. Baynham, R. Bennett, P. Smith, J. Wilding, N. Rogers.

Apologies: Cllr. D. Edwards (Deputy Mayor).

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: None.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. Baynham, Cabinet Member at Powys County Council and related to member of staff, re letter from Dolau School.

Cllr. Bennett, close friend of applicant, re. Planning applications 21/1910/FUL and 21/1911/LBC.

Cllr. Kirkby, close friend of applicant, re. Planning applications 21/1910/FUL and 21/1911/LBC.

close friend of one applicant, re. co-option.

Cllr. P. Smith, close friend of one applicant, re. co-option.

MIN 3966 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2021 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3967 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Cemetery: Cllr. Kirkby asked if there had been progress on the fencing works and Cllr. Baynham agreed to ask the Officer if they would accept the verbal quote or if they required something in writing.

(2) CCTV: The Clerk reported that she had not heard anything further from the police and agreed to chase this up.

(3) Trees by Pond, Lower Went's Meadow: The Clerk confirmed that the tree work contractor had been asked to attend to the extra two trees although he had not yet been on site.

(4) December meeting – New Projects: Members were reminded about putting forward of projects for the 2022-23 budget. There was no requirement for detailed figures however an estimate of cost would be useful.

(5) Council Tax Base: The figure for 2022-23 would be £1308.28 per £1 precepted, up from last year's figure which was £1287.30. (In 2021-22 a precept of £54 was set). Full calculations of the options would be provided with the January meeting papers.

MIN 3968 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The email of thanks from PACDG (street cleaning) was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1461.91 (inc allotment hours)
HM Revenue & Customs	£607.53
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£130.06
T. Lloyd-John	£678.23
N. Close	£77.00
N. Close	£160.99 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Artisan Print (leaflets – nature reserve)	£7.96
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT

Arrow Plant & Tool Hire (for new barn)	£200.58 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mrs T.A. Price (expenses)	£44.67
Mrs T.A. Price (expenses – Meadow locks)	£8.99 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Branching Out (forest school) (climate crisis grant)	£250.00
Border Janitorial Supplies	£74.40
Kington Building Supplies (wood bark)	£177.58 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) Advertisements on Town Website 2022: Members agreed to keep the advertising charges the same as 2019 (2020 was free due to covid). They also agreed to continue the advertisement for the site in Broad Sheep magazine at a cost of £40 per year.

Broad Sheep (advertisement)	£40.00
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(4) Remuneration of Members: Noted that all Members had now refused the annual £150 allowance for 2021-22.

(5) Request for British Sign Language Posters at Wilson Terrace Playground: Members considered the request for some signs at the playground. Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council had given permission but had asked for bilingual signage. It was agreed that a maximum budget of £100 be allocated from free reserves to purchase some signs.

(6) Bank Transfer: The following bank transfer was approved –
Meadow Account to Treasurer Account £131.06 (to cover allotment hours worked by Clerk).

MIN 3969 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –
21/1839/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331282 N: 264547 Proposal: Lopping of branches that are low/diseased or threatening buildings, numbered on plan with species and action required Location: Radnorshire Arms Hotel, High Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/1864/REM Grid Reference: E:330425 N: 267326 Proposal: Section 73 application to remove condition 6 from planning approval 21/0389/HH in relation to archaeological contractors and groundworks Site Address: The Old Vicarage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2EN. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/1900/FUL Grid Reference: E:330707 N: 264485 Proposal: Erection of a holiday let chalet, connection to an existing package treatment plant and formation of internal access track Site Address: Holiday Chalet at Harp Meadow, Warden Road, Presteigne, LD8 2NL. Resolved no objections subject to the following - a suitable condition be placed on the dwelling to ensure it remains permanently as a holiday unit only; the chalet is no larger in size than the one already on site and given there will now be four chalets in close proximity that the Planning Department feels this is an acceptable density.

Cllrs. Bennett and Kirkby left the room for the duration of the following two items.

21/1911/LBC Grid Reference: E:331414 N: 264389 Proposal: Listed building consent to renovate existing domestic accommodation including re-siting stairs; to provide a new external door opening; to replace an existing rooflight and add 2 additional rooflights; to enlarge proposed storage shed Site Address: Corner House, High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections subject to the approval of the Built Heritage Officer.

21/1910/HH Grid Reference: E:331414 N: 264389 Proposal: Renovations to existing domestic accommodation including re siting stairs; to provide a new external door opening; to replace an existing rooflight and add 2 additional rooflights; to enlarge proposed storage shed Site Address: Corner House, High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections subject to the approval of the Built Heritage Officer.

Cllrs. Bennett and Kirkby returned to the room.

It was noted that building work had commenced in the Radnorshire Arms Garage without any planning permission being sought. Cllr Baynham had asked the Built Heritage Officer for clarification regarding the necessity for Listed Building Consent for the works.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted –

- 21/1044/HH, Thistlebrook, Meeting House Lane, Norton: Consent 22nd September.
- 21/0987/FUL, Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne: Consent 5th October.
- 21/1453/CAC, Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne: Consent 5th October.

- 21/1523/FUL, Faraway, Stonewall Hill, Presteigne: Consent 11th October.
- 21/116/FUL, Unit 4, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne: Consent 25th October.
- 21/0977/FUL, Thistlebrook, Meeting House Lane, Norton: Consent 1st November.
- 21/0702/FUL, Plot 4 Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne: Approval 2nd November.

MIN 3970 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Active Travel Route: The Clerk had raised the various queries on the one-way trial and received the following replies –

- The Area Traffic Officer is aware of the lighting issue with the one no entry sign, which is due to difficulties connecting to an electrical supply. Street Lighting are still looking at this but, in the meantime, an assessment had been made and the combination of the street lighting, the other (lit) no entry sign, as well as the recently installed road markings, was sufficient at this time.
- With regards to the extra signage at the bottom of Station Road, again an assessment was made and there was no additional signage recommended, with all that required by Highway legislation having been installed already.
- The one-way system is a trial so all queries and feedback can be reviewed as part of the analysis process at the end of the eighteen months.
- Unsure where google get their road information from but the highway layouts which Powys County Council are responsible for (as Highways Authority) are recorded on a national gazetteer.

Cllr. Baynham confirmed that there was no likelihood of any further routes in the Presteigne and Norton area for some time and so it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda for the time being.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: The following items were discussed –

- General Update: The County Council are expecting the first batch of lanterns to be delivered in November and to start installing in Norton at the start of December.
- The Streetlighting department have got a huge amount of work on this winter, so they will only have one electrician installing lanterns in Presteigne and maybe not on it full time, so the work may roll over into the new financial year.
- Agreement to fund difference in cost for future replacements to the Pudsey Diamond Light fittings confirmed.
- Light Readings (as previously circulated): Members noted the light fittings and asked Mr. Harling-Bowen to explain the reasons for the differences to the earlier readings. Mr. Harling-Bowen confirmed that this was probably due to different weather conditions at the time the readings were taken.
- Letters of support, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, Radnorshire Mammal Group, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Caring for God's Acre: Noted.
- Welsh Water Community Fund Grant Application: Members were delighted to learn that the project had been awarded £500. The Clerk would write a formal letter of thanks to Welsh Water, not only for this grant but also as thanks for all the grants given to organisations in the Presteigne and Norton area by the Fund.
- Lighting of Welsh Water Sites: The Clerk was asked to chase the enquiry re. the use of 'dark sky friendly' permanent lighting on the Welsh water sites once work was complete.

(3) Climate Crisis: Update: Cllr. Bamford reported that the tree weekend had been a great success.

(4) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Cllr. Kirkby asked about progress with the compensation claim and the Clerk confirmed it was still with Welsh Water for review.

(5) Lugg Bridge: Members noted the reply from the County Council which was as follows –

Lugg Bridge is a structure that spans the border between Powys and Herefordshire. The bridge is maintained as a joint structure by Powys as the designated Maintaining Authority. The bridge was last formally inspected on 28/12/2020 which identified a number of low priority remedial works including pointing and vegetation removal to various parts of the structure. These identified works will be scheduled in due course but may be subject to delays due to other higher priority works and available budget. No concern was raised at the time of the inspection about the overall integrity of the bridge.

With regard to the weight capacity of the bridge, the structure was strengthened back in 1981 where a reinforced concrete saddle was constructed over the three arches. This substantially increased the load

carrying capacity to well in excess of even the current permitted maximum allowable load of vehicles that can travel without authorisation, currently set at 44 tonnes, which is the typical articulated HGV with a 3-axle tractor unit and a 3-axle trailer. Any loads in excess of this are deemed to be Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL's) and require authorisation from the Highway Authority to travel the route. These are assessed on a case-by-case basis. As such no weight restriction is considered necessary at this time.

Cllr. Kirkby expressed concern that the pointing the top side of the bridge at the bottom of the arches needed more urgent attention than stated as it would leave the stones very vulnerable to damage from flood water. He wanted PCC to confirm that the small bridge over the leat had also been strengthened for these large loads. He also pointed out that the end stone was at an angle and needed re-setting correctly. This had been reported some 3-4 years ago. He repeated his offer to meet an officer on site. The Clerk would report these concerns to the County Council.

(6) Update on Footpath Issues: Cllr. Baynham reported that, using the funding obtained for spending in the Presteigne area, extensive works were to be carried out on a length of the path along the Clatterbrook, initially from the Joe Deakins Road and the BOAT. The path would be improved and patches of vegetation cut back hard to improve access. The Officer had looked at the issues with the walks on the town website but only one landowner had accepted the offer of a free metal gate and installation. Free stile kits would be provided to the remainder but these would have to be installed by the landowner themselves. Still no formal reply had been received regarding the Fold Farm footpath. Cllr Baynham reported that issue had been discussed with the Senior Officer in charge who had also discussed it further with the member of staff involved.

(7) Update on Street Cleaning from PACDG: Members noted that over the last month or so the cleaner has cleaned around the cenotaph twice, the length of Broad Street twice including the Scallions, the car parks and around the Secondary School. He had also been up to Norton and had a good go at the drains and manhole covers on the main road up to the church. The big problem at present of course was leaves. The cleaner focusses on whichever areas look most in need, and is very happy to respond to more requests from the Members if they see areas that need doing. He will now be doing a regular Norton visit. Members would notify the Clerk of any areas needing attention.

MIN 3971 NORTON

(1) Community Speedwatch Update: Cllr. Ruby had nothing to report and asked that the item be removed from the agenda for the time being.

(2) Community Hub/Church Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that the planning permission was still awaited.

(3) Bus Timetable Boards: Members viewed the photographs provided by a member of the public and the Clerk confirmed that the Boards were not the responsibility of the bus companies. The Clerk was asked to submit a request for refurbishment to the County Council.

At this point Cllr. Baynham suggested that a review of the bus routes themselves would be sensible and the Clerk was asked to include this on the December agenda.

MIN 3972 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The Wilson Terrace toilets were now closed for the Winter.

(2) Allotments: All items would be on the Sites and Buildings Committee agenda for the end of November.

(3) Meadows: the following matters were discussed –

- Concerns over rats/feeding of rats by barn. Members noted the reply from Environmental Health and the suggestion that the Clerk contact a professional pest controller. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for the necessary pest control. They also agreed that the Clerk produce specific notices stating the rats should not be fed.
- Update re. tree planting request Chatterbrook WI: Members noted that the WI had now found another location for a tree and so would no longer be planting one on Went's Meadow.
- Use of new Barn for Leominster Morris Men (Sunday mornings): Noted.
- Use Request from Pop Choir, 19th December: The Clerk would check the diary and confirm.

(4) Play Sufficiency Assessment: Cllr. Kirkby had reviewed the document and suggested that the following comments be submitted – to note that the Town Council has worked closely with PCC to improve the Presteigne play areas with works including the zip wire and the other items of play equipment plus the new grant for the Lugg View site. Local young people had also improved the bike track area on Went's Meadow.

Cllr. Kirkby had also noted a provision for the removal of 'No Ball Game' signs but pointed out that one remained in Lugg View. Cllr. Baynham would arrange for this to be removed.

(5) Weir: Members noted the reply from CPAT and the Clerk confirmed that the Officer was planning to visit and take photographs.

(6) Lugg View Playground Grant Update: Members noted that the new equipment would be installed early in the new year weather permitting.

(7) Adopt A Bench: Members were pleased to hear that the County Council had no objections to the scheme but that volunteers would not be covered but its insurance. The Clerk felt it would be possible to include this under the Town Council insurance but would need to check this. Members agree that the scheme go ahead subject to the Clerk being able to confirm insurance arrangements.

(8) Wilson Terrace Playground: Members agreed to allocate the £1000 donation for the new roundabout.

MIN 3973 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Update Mid Border Arts: Members noted that the information on the lift had been sent to the County Council but that the grant money needed to be spent within six months and so a decision from the County Council was needed urgently. The group were still waiting for the formal lease. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the County Council to ask that the issue with the lift be expedited with urgency.

(2) Town Wifi Update: No progress could be made until a contractor was appointed. Cllr. Ruby suggested that a letter be sent at once to all the businesses in High Street and Broad Street advising them of the scheme but it was agreed that it was better to do this once the contractor was in place and had carried out some initial surveys. Cllr. Kirkby asked that it be noted that the Judge's Lodgings was willing to host a modem.

(3) Community Broadband Scheme Update: The Working Group had met with the Community Broadband Officer and Broadway Partners earlier in the week and had been impressed with the information provided. It was agreed to ask Broadway Partners to undertake the scheme with the Town Council, that the Clerk draft an initial letter for Broadway to send to residents and businesses and that project group comprise the working group of Members with interested members of the public to be possibly added at a later stage. The Clerk would inform Broadway Partners. Members also considered the extension of the scheme over the border to the properties in Ford Street, properties which had LD8 postcodes. The Working Group would discuss this further with Broadway Partners and the Broadband Officer.

(4) Update on Presteigne Library Service/Volunteers: Cllr. Baynham reported on a meeting held with the current Acting Principal Librarian and was pleased to confirm that work had begun on getting the volunteers back into the library. Cllr. Kirkby added that he was aware that volunteers had received a communication from the Branch Librarian that day. Members also noted the details supplied on the new outreach project and asked if the mobile library would be continuing. Cllr. Baynham would check.

(5) Letter from Police and Crime Commissioner re. public survey: Noted. Members could complete this as individuals if they wished.

(6) Update re. Old Doctor's Surgery, Presteigne: Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council had no power to board up the building although Environmental Health had visited to investigate a rat problem. Residents were advised to report the problems via 101 and Members were encouraged to do this also. The Clerk was also asked to do so on behalf of the Town Council. The issues would also be discussed at the Community Safety Partnership meetings. Cllr. Kirkby had suggested that the police contact their colleagues in West Mercia and ask that they call on the registered owner but this had not happened as yet. Cllr. Baynham had asked for details of the charge on the property and if the sum involved would ever mean that the building would be re-possessed but had as yet had no reply.

(7) One Voice Wales Survey on Hybrid Meetings: Agreed that the Clerk respond appropriately.

(8) Letter of Congratulations from James Evans MS re Lugg View Playground Grant: Members noted the letter and it was agreed to invite Mr. Evans to visit the new barn and the new playground equipment in due course.

(9) Reply from Welsh Government re. Multi Location Meetings: Members noted that a reply had been received and Welsh Government had confirmed that it would be funding a three year Digital Delivery Manager post, hosted within One Voice Wales, one role for the new post will be to advise the Minister on supporting the Local Council Sector to meet its statutory obligations under the new Act.

Cllr. Baynham left the room for the duration of the following item.

(10) Statutory Notice of Closure – Llanfihangel Rhydithon School and letter/email from Chair of Dolau School Action Group: Whilst sympathising with the position Members did not wish to submit any comment as a Council. Members could object as individuals if they wished.

Cllr. Baynham returned to the room.

(11) Painting Of Information Board Posts Update and Painting of Fingerposts: The Clerk reported that there were three finger posts that would probably need re-painting. It was agreed to get more detailed costs for repainting the finger posts and for the work anyway to be delayed until the better weather in the Spring. This would also allow an amount to be considered for inclusion in the 2022-23 budget.

MIN 3974 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

Agreed to re-start in December. Cllrs. Wilding and Ruby would attend.

MIN 3975 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Sensors to be installed on refuse bins so the County Council would know automatically when full.
- Investment in schools continuing via the 'Transforming Education' programme but taking longer than anticipated. Presteigne would be in phase two of the project.

Cllrs. Kirkby and Smith left the room for the duration of the following item.

MIN 3976 CO-OPTION

Members unanimously agreed that the vote be held by ballot. The Clerk circulated ballot papers. Following a vote Kate Van Den Ende was duly elected.

Cllrs. Kirkby and Smith returned to the room.

MIN 3977 DATES FOR JANUARY MEETINGS

12th January – Budget Setting Meeting.

19th January – Full Ordinary Meeting.

MIN 3978 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Judge's Lodgings AGM: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the organisation had done well post pandemic and that plans for the flats were progressing.

(2) Radio 4 Any Questions: Recording in Presteigne on 3rd December.

(3) Presteigne Bonfire and Fireworks: Congratulations and thanks to Sheep Music for an excellent fireworks event.

(4) Norton Bonfire and Fireworks: Congratulations and thanks to Norton Sports Committee for an excellent fireworks event.

(5) Staffing Committee: Agreed to amend start time to 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.31 pm.