

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th FEBRUARY 2019 AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, PRESTEIGNE

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

Apologies: Cllrs. R. Bennett, C. Ruby, N. Rogers.

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: None.

Personal and Prejudicial: None.

MIN 3567 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 23rd January, 2019 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3568 CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE

- (1) Cycle Racks: Cllr. Baynham was meeting with the Headteacher at the Secondary School on 22nd February.
- (2) Lighting, Seconds & Co: Cllr. Kirkby had spoken to the owner and he had agreed to consider moving or adjusting the lights.
- (3) Road Safety Unit: A reply had been received providing current contact details.
- (4) Broken Pavings, High Street: The Clerk had not yet received any response on any possible long term solution to the continued damage to pavings.
- (5) PACDG Working Together Meeting: This had been postponed due to the bad weather forecast.
- (6) Noise Complaint: The Clerk had contacted the resident who did not wish the matter to be raised with environmental health at this stage and was hoping to resolve the matter by approaching the company direct. The Clerk would contact the resident in two months to check that the problem had been resolved.
- (7) Replacement Heater, Hereford Street Toilets Store Room: This was to be fitted that evening.
- (8) Attendance at Schools: Cllr. Veary confirmed that she would be attending the next Primary School Council Meeting but that she had still not received any response from the Secondary School. Cllr. Baynham would raise this when meeting with the Headteacher on 22nd February.
- (9) Transition Presteigne: Reminder AGM on 7th March.
- (10) Dog Fouling: Cllr. Baynham had contacted the resident who was willing to assist with PACDG litter picks in the town.
- (11) Potholes, By Pass Car Park: Cllr. Baynham was still trying to find a solution.
- (12) Potholes Allotment Car Park: The Clerk reported that these were getting worse and that there was now one in the centre of the parking area. Cllr. Kirkby agreed to arrange for some stone from the community building to be used to fill in the holes.
- (13) Through School: The Portfolio Holder had agreed to meet although a date was yet to be arranged.
- (14) Outdoor Gym Signage: Now installed on site.
- (15) Death of A Senior National Figure: It was agreed that Cllrs. Baynham, Kirkby and Owens meet to discuss the information provided to the Clerk at the recent conference.

MIN 3569 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The request for a donation from Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod was refused. The email of thanks from PACDG for the allocation of the 2019-20 precept amount and letter of thanks from Radnorshire Wildlife Trust were noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (pension payment)	£73.72
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£39.87
William Smith Group (signage Outdoor Gym)	£88.10
Wallgate Ltd (parts/supplies toilets)	£109.06
Welsh Water (Hereford Street Toilets)	£235.63
Welsh Water (Meadow Barn)	£18.87 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1276.29
HM Revenue & Customs (Tax/NI)	£493.11
Lyreco	£22.16
XMA Ltd (ink toner)	£77.32
SLCC Enterprises Ltd (conference fee)	£339.00
Highground Maintenance (grass cutting)	£278.92 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Artisan Print (poster)	£6.53 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£10.20
Presteigne Building Supplies	£15.76 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Lloyd-John	£417.20
J A Francis & Sons (community building)	£11,257.41 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£87.50 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£93.75
R.J. Laurie (community building)	£11613.60 MEADOW ACCOUNT

Due to the tight timescales for processing of other invoices for the new building it was agreed that the Clerk should process any invoices received and advise of those payments at the next meeting.

(3) Receipt: To note the receipt of the following –

Allotment Rent for 2019-20	£28.00
C. Kirkby (contribution towards third defibrillator)	£65.00

(4) Utility Bills: Resolved that the Clerk set up direct debits for the electricity and water accounts for the Meadow, Hereford Street Toilets and Wilson Terrace Toilets.

(5) Wales Audit Office Fee Schedule for 2019/20: Members noted the revised hourly rates for external audit staff and the expected fee range for the Council.

MIN 3570 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following application was considered –

19/0089/HH Grid Reference: E:331612 N: 264187 Proposal: Proposed 2 storey extension with new boundary walls to roadside Site Address: 25 Hereford Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised providing the Highways Section has no issues with the height of the proposed walls and is satisfied with the resulting visibility splay.

(2) Planning Application Decisions: No decisions this month.

(3) Supplementary Planning Guidance for LDP: Cllr. Wilding would take a further look at the policies currently out for consultation and contact the Clerk if he had any concerns.

MIN 3571 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Reporting of Highway Items for repair: The following items were reported –

- Faulty Street Lights, Norton: Cllr. Owens to obtain the numbers for the Clerk to report.
- Overgrown Hedge, Offas Green: Now cleared.
- Pavements, Offas Green: Still not cleaned. Clerk to chase.
- Slippery pavement, Lloyds Bank towards Station Road: Clerk to report.
- Parking by Lloyds Cashpoint: Members noted the email. Having met with the County Council on site there was little else that the Town Council could do. It was noted that there had been no complaints from the Fire Service and Cllr. Kirkby agreed to speak to the Station Officer to ask if this was a problem. In the meantime, Cllr. Baynham would raise the matter with the Active Travel Route Engineer in case there was anything that could be done alongside the present works.

- Parking on Pavement, Scottleton Street (near to Forge Meadow): Cllr. Baynham had spoken to the police who had said they could only act in instances of actual obstruction.
 - Fall near to Former Little Shop: Members noted that a resident had recently had a bad fall here. Cllr. Baynham had reported the incident.
- (2) PACDG Update: In the absence of Cllr. Ruby there was no detailed update this month. Cllr. Kirkby reported that the Group had requested a meeting with himself, Deputy Mayor and the Clerk and that a date for this would be arranged.
- (3) Powys County Council Draft Public Toilet Strategy Consultation: Resolved no comment be made.
- (4) Plastic Free Presteigne: Cllr. Baynham reported that the Group was seeking a nominated representative and for Town Council support for the project. Cllr. Bamford agreed to be the Town Council representative and she was asked to report back to the Council so that Members could further consider the request for support.
- (5) Lugg Bridge Repairs: Cllr. Kirkby had not yet managed to meet the County Council Officer.
- (6) Active Travel Route Update: Members considered the draft traffic regulation orders supplied. There was concern that the statement of reasons indicated that routes in Presteigne would then be complete with the section through the centre of the town, the Wilson Terrace area and the routes to Norton and Rockbridge still to be planned and funding sought. The Clerk was asked to remind the Officers of this. In addition Cllr. Baynham reported that she had met representatives of the Bowling Club to discuss the changes in Greenfield Road.
- (7) Email response from Welsh Water: Members felt that plans for the upgrade should have progressed further by this stage in the preparation of the 2020-25 capital schemes and that given the new Local Development Plan and various applications for housing in Presteigne the Company should have been well aware of the urgent need for increased capacity. It was agreed to wait for the next three monthly update before responding further.

MIN 3572 NORTON

- (1) Church: Norton Members reported that despite several meetings there had been no real progress and that the Church was re-visiting the decision to close the Church. There was nothing further to report at present.
- (2) Daffodil Planting: Bulbs were now appearing and should provide an excellent display this Spring.
- (3) Litter Picking: Members reported that one resident had spent some time litter picking after the recent windy spell.
- (4) Community Speedwatch: Now underway.

MIN 3573 SITES AND BUILDINGS

- (1) Public Conveniences: The Wilson Terrace site would re-open on 1st April.
- (2) Allotments:
- Two plots to be re-let.
 - Rent reminder letters had been sent out.
- (3) Meadows:
- Community Building Update: Cllr. Kirkby reported that work had now started and was progressing well. The footpath diversion had proved to not be necessary.
 - Request for Use by Pinders Circus (no animals used) 12-15th September: Agreed.
 - Request for Use for Dark Skies Event 2nd March: Agreed.
 - Request for Use by Presteigne Carnival 13th July: Agreed.
 - Pruning of Community Orchard: To take place on 24th February.
 - Risk Assessments: Clerk to attend a course on this in April.
 - Zip Wire: Cllr. Kirkby had met the representative of one company on site that day and a formal quote would be supplied in due course.
 - Withy Beds: The County Council and Wildlife Trust had requested a meeting with representatives of the Town Council and the Clerk was awaiting possible dates.
- (4) Defibrillator: The cabinet had now been installed and the defibrillator was on site. Cllr. Owens to arrange a photograph of those donating towards the project to form part of a press release. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to the owner of the sandwich shop for allowing the unit to be placed on the exterior wall of that building.
- (5) Silia Wood: Cllr. Kirkby reported that a successful site meeting had been held and that following consideration it was felt that a request for a lease (at a peppercorn rent) of a five metre wide strip of ground

alongside the wood would be sufficient to provide parking for those wishing to walk the wood. The Clerk was asked to write formally requesting the strip of land from the John Beddoes Charity. Cllr. Kirkby would contact the Woodland Trust to discuss the plan and to seek full or part funding. He would also contact the owner of the nearby land about designating a permissive path to allow a route to be created across to the Warden.

(6) Community Storage: Cllr. Baynham reported that the Head Teacher was willing to consider this and that she would discuss it with him further at her meeting on 22nd February.

(7) Date for Next Sites and Buildings Committee Meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 1st April at 6pm. Members to meet at the Scout Hut for a site meeting, this to be followed by a formal meeting. Cllr. Baynham offered the use of the Day Centre and this was agreed.

MIN 3574 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Tri Towns Meeting: Members were advised that a new project for the towns of Presteigne, Kington and Knighton was being set up with the first meeting to be on 6th March. Cllrs. Kirkby and Baynham to attend.

(2) Side by Side, Grant Opportunities: Members had all received the information and would circulate it to anyone who might be interested.

MIN 3575 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

February Surgery: Cllrs. Baynham and Bennett had attended. The following matters were discussed –

- Various positive comments on the current phase of the active travel route.
- Speed limit query: Cllr. Baynham to discuss with the relevant officers.
- Bollard request for Hereford Street: Active Travel Officer to be asked to visit and consider.
- Request for Disabled Access to all shops for mobility scooters: Cllr. Baynham had explained that given the nature of many of the shops this would not be practical.

Arrangements for March Surgery: Cllrs. Baynham and Bamford to attend.

MIN 3576 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reminded Members that the County Council budget meeting would be webcast the following day.

MIN 3577 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Community Café: Cllr. Baynham reported that the café, held at the monthly Farmer's Market, had raised £5000 for local groups/causes. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to the Ms Curtis who ran the café to congratulate her and her helpers and thank them for all their hard work.

(2) Royal British Legion Club: Members noted that the Club was in difficulties and was expected close.

MIN 3578 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 3579 FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICE/ASSEMBLY ROOMS BUILDING IN PRESTEIGNE

Members agreed unanimously that they wished to support the retention of the library in Presteigne as much as possible and also to retain at least some hours from a paid librarian. Cllrs. Kirkby, Baynham, Wilding and the Clerk had met with the Portfolio Holder and County Officers to discuss possibilities both for the service and for the future of the Assembly Rooms meeting. Members noted that a community asset transfer request would happen in two stages – the completion of an expression of interest form and then if that was accepted the submission of a full business case.

Members were concerned that business rates were payable on library buildings, as they were on public toilets. The Clerk was still in discussions with Kirsty Williams AM and One Voice Wales on this issue.

Following a discussion on the options for the future it was agreed to await the decisions on the 2019-20 budget by the County Council before taking any action. If necessary an urgent meeting would be called.

The meeting closed at 9.51 pm