

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2022 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards (Mayor), B. Baynham (Deputy Mayor), T. Owens, R. Bamford, M. Williams, L. Abecasis, M. Price J. Poster, J. Gray, J. Wilding, L. Firth.

Apologies: Cllr. F. Preece.

Absent: Cllr. Van Huls.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. Member of the public. PCSO Gareth Morris from Dyfed-Powys Police.

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. L. Abecasis, host of one of town wifi units, re. free website advertisement for hosts of wifi units.

The meeting commenced with a discussion with representatives of Dyfed-Powys Police on the concerns regarding vandalism and anti-social behaviour on Went's Meadow, on the increased patrols etc being carried out by the police and other possible solutions.

MIN 4124 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October, 2022 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4125 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Street Lighting: Cllr. Baynham had looked into this immediately after the last meeting and had been told replacement with new LED fittings. Unfortunately this had been delayed due to an issue with the electrics. Streetlight PR321 was in a dangerous condition and had been removed

(2) Pensions and Re-Enrolment: Re-enrolment paperwork completed as required.

(3) Warm Spaces: The library will not now be opening as a warm space between Christmas and New Year.

(3) County Council Briefing Meeting: The Clerk had attended this just after the October meeting Topics raised were Budget Pressures, School Transformation, Presentation on Countryside Access Warm Spaces, Ukrainian Refugees, Test, Trace, Protect, Planning and the LDP Review process and a Climate Crisis: Spring Conference planned for Town and Community Councils.

(4) Council Condolence Book: Now lodged with the County Archives.

(5) Knighton and Presteigne Food Bank -Update: 'We do hope to have secured premises in Presteigne, as of Feb/March 2023. We are busier than ever now at the food bank and I can confirm that we are delivering each week to Presteigne, sometimes out of hours as well if a crisis has been notified to us and cannot wait for a Tuesday or a Friday.

(6) Street Lighting, Broadaxe Business Park: The Clerk had asked about these lights being on all night and had chased it but as yet had had no reply.

MIN 4126 FINANCE

(1) Donations: Members considered the deferred application for a grant of £250 to replace a table tennis table. Cllr. Baynham had contacted the group to offer to help with a gofundme page but this had been

refused. Given the lack of a bank account or formal organisation to provide monies to it was decided to refuse the application.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACC
NEST (pension payment)	£132.30
Mrs T.A. Price (salary Nov)	£1423.04
HM Revenue & Customs	£561.73
N. Close	£42.00
N. Close	£147.00 MEADOW ACC
T. Lloyd-John (cleaning)	£667.23
Amazon (refund T. Price – replacement condolence book)	£34.95
Presteigne Building Supplies	£36.28 MEADOW ACC
Orphans Press Ltd (website updates)	£144.00
Cartridge People Ltd (ink toner) (debit card)	£199.80
JRB Enterprises Ltd (dog bags)	£137.10
HSBC (bank charges October)	£9.00
HSBC (bank charges October)	£8.00 MEADOW ACC
Border Janitorial	£85.70

(3) Completion of mid-year Interim Audit: Completed with no issues raised.

(4) Request for support to plant a hedge at the Wilson Terrace Play Area: Whilst appreciating the intention behind the proposal Members felt that the play area was just not the right place for a hedge, mentioning proximity to the new zip wire and site security as being primary concerns. Resolved that the Council is against the planting of a hedge in this location and consequently also not willing to provide any ongoing maintenance or funding for maintenance costs.

(5) Website Advertising Charges for 2023: Having reviewed the charges Members agreed that the current charge of £26 per year (with a second advert at a reduced charge) remain unchanged but advertisers be notified that this would be further reviewed in twelve months.

Cllr. Abecasis left the room for the consideration of the following item.

It was agreed that any business or organisation hosting a town wifi unit be offered a free advertisement on the town website.

Cllr. Abecasis returned to the room.

(6) Reminder: Applications from local organisations to apply for Town Council small grants by 30th November for allocation in the 2023/24: Noted.

(7) Local Government Pay Award for 2022/23: Members noted the national pay award for the current year.

(8) Update re. Grant towards Community Energy Survey: Members noted that the cost to be invoiced had now reduced to £227.

(9) Receipts: The following receipt was noted –

H. Roberts (donation for use of barn)	£85.00 MEADOW ACC
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(10) Bank Balances: The balances on 3rd November were noted as -

Money Manager Account £218,187.38	Meadow Account £32,810.71
Capital Reserve Account £30,673.21	Warden Reserve Account £1,017.58
Treasurer Account £33,459.11	

(11) Member Training: Members note the training modules available from One Voice Wales over the coming weeks, in particular the Councillor Induction Module and new Members were encouraged to attend.

(12) Cost of Elections May 2022: The costs were noted as follows –

Norton Ward	£343.67
Presteigne Town Ward	£702.47
Total	£1046.14 (both Wards uncontested)

An invoice for the total would be sent by the County Council in due course.

MIN 4127 PLANNING

Cllr. Edwards left the room for the duration of the planning application items due to her position on the County Council Planning Committee. Cllr. Baynham took the Chair for these items.

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

22/1775/DEM Grid Ref: E: 331081 N: 264211 Proposal: Demolition Notification for 1) Swimming Pool Building, Plant room & tiled swimming pool 2) Mobile Teaching Unit: Pre-fabricated mobile unit with flat roof. Location: Presteigne C P School, Slough Road, Presteigne LD8 2NH. Resolved to support the application.

22/1871/HH Grid Reference: E:331249 N: 267628 Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding and replacement with an ancillary domestic building. Site Address: Westering, Stonewall Hill, Presteigne, LD8 2HB. Resolved no objections to the application providing a condition is included that the building remains ancillary to the main property.

(2) Deferred Planning Application 22/1526/FUL, Presteigne Depot, Mill Lane, Presteigne. Resolved to object to the application until the concerns of Natural Resources Wales and the County Council Ecology Officer have been fully addressed and resolved.

(3) Planning Decisions: No decisions this month.

Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.

(3) LDP Update: Members noted that the call for candidate sites was now public and that sites could therefore now be submitted for development. Details had been published on the town website and Council facebook pages.

(4) Tree Preservation Orders: The Clerk had received information on a new interactive map on which TPOs could be located but had not found it easy to use and had again requested the written list. She had now been told that all the information was held online on the map. She was asked to forward the link to all Members so they could view the map and consider whether any further steps were needed.

MIN 4128 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting Application Update: Cllr. Baynham believed the changes to the Presteigne street lighting were almost complete. Work on the dark skies application was continuing and it was noted that, whilst not proposed for any changes, details of the lighting would need including within the application.

(2) Climate Crisis Update: The following matters were discussed -

a) Nature Reserve Grant Update: Cllr. Bamford had very good news as contracts had been exchanged earlier that day. Completion was scheduled for 30th November. The following matters were agreed to move the project forward –

- Application be submitted to receive trees from the ‘My Tree, Our Forest’ scheme which would not only benefit the reserve but also allow residents unable to plant a tree themselves to feel that trees from the scheme were being planted locally.
- New Gateway to Primary School Site: Cllr. Bamford to discuss with the Headteacher.
- Request for extension of time limit to be submitted to Lottery Fund.
- Non native trees – a small number of these were to be planted and Cllr. Poster would advise. It was hoped that these would be donated and Cllr. Bamford was already aware of two possible donors.
- Community Engagement: Presteigne Tree Group to consider possible ideas for this.

b) Tree Hub Update: Trees to be delivered on 17th. Project to commence on 19th November.

(3) Lugg Bridge Update: Natural Resources Wales had put some very temporary flood barriers in place.

(4) Proposed reduction of 30mph limit to 20mph: Agreed that the Clerk inform the County Council that the Town Council would not wish the by pass speed limit to be reduced to 20mph, feeling this was inappropriate for that road.

(5) Fold Farm Footpath Update: Members noted that James Evans MS had written to the Welsh Minister and received a brief response but was awaiting a fully one in due course. In the meantime Cllr. Baynham was hopeful that work on the application was re-starting.

MIN 4129 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding informed Members that the work had now gone out to tender. Members had all received a copy of the recent newsletter.

(2) Bonfire and Fireworks: A very successful event had been held.

MIN 4130 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Members noted that both premises were currently on fixed rate contracts for the electricity supplies.

(2) Allotments: The annual PNAA report would be discussed at the forthcoming Sites and Buildings Committee Meeting.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Use by Presteigne Pop Choir on 18th December: Agreed.
- Replace damaged oak posts, Scout Hut Car Park: Agreed to accept the estimate from RB Landscaping.
- Recent Attempted Vandalism: Members heard about recent vandalism on the site.

- Sites and Buildings Committee – To be held on 21st November.
 - Use by Morris Dancers for practices: Agreed.
- (4) Withy Beds Management: Site meeting to be held on 23rd November.

MIN 4131 CORRESPONDENCE AND GENERAL ITEMS

- (1) Town Wifi Update: The Clerk reported that permission had now been given by the County Council for installation of two units on the Assembly Rooms building but that installation had been held up pending the signing of the agreements and in order to arrange access.
- (2) Community Broadband Scheme Update: The Clerk was still awaiting a provisional timetable from Broadway Partners but was hopeful that the scheme would proceed.
- (3) Powys Investment Plans Initiative: The draft plan was still with the County Council for consideration.
- (4) Warm Places: Cllr. Baynham reported that opening arrangements were being finalised and it was hoped to open in the next few weeks.
- (5) Christmas Fair: Cllr. Abecasis reported that the Fair had now been moved to the Friday evening and was being held in conjunction with the Church. There was therefore no current need to bring the event under the responsibility of the Town Council.
- (6) Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper Consultation: Deferred to the December meeting. Cllr. Baynham would circulate a short report beforehand.
- (7) Climate Crisis Committee:
- Appointment of Outside Representatives to the Climate Crisis Committee: Agreed to appoint Kate Van Den Ende and Jenny Mottershead as the outside representatives.
 - Committee Terms of Reference: Agreed as circulated.
- (8) Revised Community Action Plan (revised and supplied by PACDG): Members felt that there were items contained in the plan that required full and open consultation and as such it was not appropriate to publicise it. The Clerk was instructed not to publish the plan on the Council website.
- (9) Operation London Bridge: Members agreed the updated plan/policy.
- (10) Christmas Lights: It was agreed that the lights be turned on during 3rd December by Cllr. Edwards.
- (11) Meeting with Co-Responders: Cllrs. Edwards, Baynham and Owens had attended a meeting to discuss the concerns of the co-responders over a reduction in the number of incidents they were called to attend. The Clerk was asked to request a representative of the Welsh Ambulance Service to attend.
- (12) Presteigne and Norton Community Support Warehouse: Members noted that new premises had been found.
- (13) THINK Grant Funding Information: Noted.

MIN 4132 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- PAVO Training attended on social inclusion, warm spaces etc.
- Wales Air Ambulance Public Meeting: Cllr. Baynham had attended.
- East Radnor Care still not receiving no funding to open as a Day Centre.
- Wales Air Ambulance Consultation Meeting: Cllr. Baynham to attend.
- Appearance on BBC Radio Wales to discuss schools' cost crisis.
- Budget Update to Cabinet to take place on 22nd November.

Cllr. Edwards reported on the following –

- Attendance at first two meetings above as Cllr. Baynham.
- Garden Waste Collections to cease for the year soon.
- Library Competition to Design a Library Card for 4-16 year olds.

MIN 4133 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

- (1) Free Christmas Dinner on 18th December for people using the local food bank. Cllr. Abecasis to provide an update at the January meeting.
- (2) Remembrance Sunday: Cllr. Edwards thanked those that had attended but expressed disappointment that more Members had not been present.
- (3) Presteigne Bonfire and Fireworks: Members noted their thanks and congratulations on a very successful event.

MIN 4134 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Items to be include were –

- Additions to Christmas Street Decorations in 2023 (Cllr. Abecasis)
- Ground Surface, Wilson Terrace Play Area: Cllr. Baynham and Clerk to meet officer on site and will report to January meeting).

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.