

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2016 AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

Present: Cllrs. C. Kirkby MBE (Mayor), J. Tennant-Eyles (Deputy Mayor), Ms B. Baynham, Ms N. Humphreys, Ms. H. Marchant, H. Owens, B. Price, P. Smith, J. Wilding.

Apologies: Cllrs. G. Banks, J. Matthews, Ms F. Preece, P. Robinson.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk; Members of the public; Mr. G. Harkness, Head teacher, Newtown High School.

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.

Cllr. Kirkby, Company Secretary, Shirehall Museum, NB Dispensation from February 2013 applies to membership of clubs and charities.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. Owens, neighbour of applicant, re. Planning Application P/2016/0379

Cllr. Ms. Marchant, employee of Powys Library Service, re future of Presteigne Library.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Mr. G. Harkness, Head Teacher at Newtown Council spoke to Members on his first weeks at the School and his background before taking up the Headship. He confirmed his intention to put the School at the heart of the community and outlined early ways in which he intended this would be done. He informed Members of the Founders Day celebrations on 6th May. Mr. Harkness then answered questions from Members on various matters including his experience as Head of a through school for 3-16 year olds, the structure of the Governing Body and the value of the School Field as an asset for the School.

MIN 3112 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 16th March 2016 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3113 CLERKS REPORT/UPDATE

- (1) Parking Restrictions Sign, Near Bennett's Shop: The County Council had now confirmed that this would be moved although no date had yet been set.
- (2) Footpath, Fold Farm: Cllr. Kirkby reported that there had still been no reply from the landowner and that six months had now passed. It was agreed that the Clerk write again asking for a reply by the end of May. If no response was received by that date then the landowner to be advised that the Council would commence the process for a Definitive Map Modification Order.
- (3) Site in Hereford Street: Cllr. Tennant-Eyles had not yet managed to speak again to the owner.
- (4) Road Infrastructure, Development at Knighton Road: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the roads were still not in place and asked that the Clerk again press the County Council to resolve the issues causing the delay.
- (5) Sustrans Work at High School: This had been discussed with the Head Teacher and the Clerk would forward his contact details to Sustrans.

(6) Future of Presteigne Works Depot: No decision had yet been made. The Clerk was asked to write again stressing the Town Council's concern at the potential closure and stressing the need for a Depot in the town, in particular for the storage of salt supplies to be used in the Winter months.

(7) Future of Kayes Site: It was reported that the developer was still looking at solutions to the site ground conditions and drainage.

(8) Request for Additional Bollard, Hereford Street: Cllr. Kirkby had met with the local works officer and discussed the issue. It was felt that it was very unlikely that a bollard would be permitted as large vehicles would then have a very long distance to reverse. Cllr. Kirkby agreed to speak to the resident making the suggestion and to explain the situation.

(9) Quote for re-setting pavings, new pavings, Scout hut: Still not received despite a number of requests.

(10) Google Translate Button for Website: Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that this could be provided in two languages for around £50. As the button could be added to every page for the same cost as just the Council pages the Trust had agreed to pay the charge.

(11) Cleaning of Toilet Blocks: Cllr. Kirkby reported that there had been an issue over the recent bank holiday and that the Clerk had become aware that the cleaner had been told not to work bank holidays. Discussions with the company had resolved the issue. Cleaning would now take place on bank holidays and the cleaner would be appropriately paid for her time.

(12) B4363 Walton to Presteigne Road: The Clerk reported that a 600 metre length of the road would be re-surfaced in 2016.

MIN 3114 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donations were approved -

Mid Border Arts	£500.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup	£500.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Youth Project	£1200.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Primary School (twds crossing patrol)	£403.75 (precepted)
Presteigne Shirehall Museum Trust	£1500.00 (precepted)

In addition Members considered requests from All Things Bright and Beautiful Flower Festival and the Knighton Food Bank (which also serves Presteigne). It was resolved to grant £100 to each organisation from the miscellaneous donations budget.

All Things Bright and Beautiful Flower Festival (St. Andrews PCC)	£100.00
Knighton Food Bank	£100.00

(2) Payments: the following payments were approved –

Mrs T. Price (inc 26.5 hours allotments)	£1172.40
HMRC	£417.47
(income tax and employees and employers NI due on above)	
Clearview Cleaning Services Ltd	£405.76
One Voice Wales (annual membership)	£381.00
OCS Group UK Ltd (Cannon)	£39.60
Amazon (ink cartridges)	£40.58
Border Janitorial Supplies	£102.24
Npower (Wilson Terrace)	£6.86
Npower (barn)	£27.31 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Clive Williams (tree report)	£225.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£37.50
N. Close	£75.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted -

Allotment Rent	£621.00
VAT Refund 2015/16	£2486.25
Powys County Council (grant, public conveniences)	£7500

- (4) Project Balances at 31st March. Each project allocation was considered in turn. The following changes would be made -
the Skateboard Park reserve would be closed and the £1000 transferred to the Election Reserve;
the Landscape Recording reserve would be closed and the £500 transferred to the general reserves.
the Norton Traffic Scheme and Bypass Footpath reserves both now had nil balances and would be closed.
- (5) Bank Transfer: The transfer of £449.34 from the Allotment Account to the Treasurer Account to cover the Clerk's Additional Hours was approved.
- (6) Approval of Annual Accounts: The Annual Accounts were approved as circulated. The Clerk would now arrange for the year end internal audit to be completed.
- (7) Completion of Annual VAT Return: The Clerk confirmed that this had been completed and the refund had just been received (noted above under receipts).

MIN 3115 PLANNING

- (1) Planning Applications:
P/2016/0306, proposed single storey extension 2 Warden Terrace, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.
P/2016/0379 Grid Ref: 333426.1/263245.69 for Erection of an agricultural building, an auxiliary workers office and installation of a septic tank at Upper Heath Farm, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.
- (2) Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6) Consultation: Resolved no comment be made.
- (3) Examination of Powys Local Development Plan: Notice of Exploratory Meeting: The date was noted.
- (4) Removal of Hedge, Knighton Road: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the Planning Officer had now carried out the site visit but as yet had not made a decision on whether planning conditions had been breached. Cllr. Wilding suggested that the Clerk write to the Planning Department asking for a meadow seed mix on the visibility splay, re-planting of the snowdrops, daffodils and primroses removed and a wildflower mix along the new hedge. The Clerk also to ask for liaison with the developer on the details.
- (5) Reply from Chris Davies re withdrawal of Paper Plans: Noted.
- (6) Outstanding Planning Applications, Norton: The Clerk reported that applications P/2014/0438 ajd. Wills View) and P/2014/0067 (land at Orchard End and Jacks View were to be heard at the Planning Committee Meeting on 28th April.

MIN 3116 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- (1) Community Led Plan: It was agreed to defer the selection of main strategic issues to a future meeting. Cllr Tennant-Eyles reported on current projects being investigated by the Group (PACDG). Possible grants for the proposed community hub had been investigated and the Group was looking at other smaller projects for the area. The Community Newsletter was produced regularly and it was expected that this would in future be issued monthly. The Group would be holding a launch event in June and this would include a presentation on the Plan. A Community Group Fair was planned for later in the year.
- (2) Copy Letter from Talgarth TC on car park charges: Noted.

(3) Parking Spaces Opposite Library: It was resolved that Cllr. Banks be asked to bring the issue of the parking spaces to the Radnorshire Committee and a draft letter was read to the meeting and agreed. The current Chair of the Radnorshire Committee and the Committee Officer to be copied into the letter.

(4) Request for Street Cleaning, Broad Street and High Street: Cllr. Kirkby had received a request. The Clerk would confirm this in writing.

(5) Wildflower Seeding of Verges etc: The area around the dragon and the beds on the Kington roundabout had now been seeded. It was agreed that the grass area on that roundabout be seeded in the Autumn. Members noted the safety requirements for carrying out the work. The Clerk was asked to remind the County Council only to cut the visibility splay around the area.

(6) Street Lighting: The Clerk was asked to remind the County Council of the various issues with lighting in Presteigne and also to ask why PR366, a lamp in the Scallions and part of the original upgrading of the lights in Broad St had not been included in the recent works and why the PR166 on the side of Church House had not had the new energy efficient lamp

(7) Reporting of Highway Items for repair: The Clerk was asked to report cracked slabs in Broad Street.

MIN 3117 NORTON

(1) Reply from Chris Davies MP re mobile Infrastructure Project: Noted.

MIN 3118 WENT'S MEADOW AND EDDIE'S MEADOW

(1) Damage to New Bench: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the new bench had been tipped over and an attempt made to move it. It had now been re-fixed in place.

(2) Tree Maintenance Plan and Immediate tree works: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the report had been received and that work had been recommended for the coming year. Resolved that Mr. Williams be asked to carry out the immediate work needed as outlined in the report. Cllr Kirkby also reported that Danny and Adam Davies had kindly pruned the orchard trees and the Clerk was asked to write and thank them for their efforts.

(3) Overhanging Trees, Footpath adj. to Wither Beds: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust had been asked to contribute 50% towards the cost of this work. A site meeting was arranged for 29th April to discuss. Cllr. Wilding reported that the inside of the hedge would be trimmed this Autumn and that assistance would be needed to close the footpath briefly during the work.

(4) Grant Applications: The Clerk had investigated a number of possible funds but many would not consider funding any form of ongoing maintenance. It was agreed that a smaller Awards for All grant would be applied for to extend the car park adjacent to the allotments.

(5) Grow Wild Seed Kits: The Clerk had received two small kits. It was agreed one would be given to the Guides, one to the Scouts.

(6) Donation of Bench: Cllr. Kirkby reported that another bench had been donated and would be installed in May.

(7) New Picnic Table, The Warden: The Warden Guardians Foundation wished to donate a new picnic table for the Warden. The Clerk would contact the new Treasurer and pass on the contact details for the County Council.

(8) Weed-Killing, Went's Meadow: The first treatment should now have been completed.

MIN 3119 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) One Voice Wales Area Meeting 22nd April, 2016: No one was able to attend.

(2) Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations Update: Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that the Chamber of Trade had now made a grant application to Awards for All. A number of events were planned for the day including a bake the cake competition, street games and a theatre group. Community Support were providing tablecloths, the Women's Institute members were making bunting. Residents would be asked to bring their own food or buy it from High Street shops. The street closure request had been submitted. The Chamber of Trade had asked that the Town Council purchase commemorative

medals. The cost to be deducted from either the Town Council grant towards the event or from the annual contribution towards the Christmas Fair and lights.

(3) County Council Consultation: Secondary Schools Brecon and Gwernyfed. Resolved no comment be made.

(4) Dog Mess, email from resident: The Clerk had received a complaint from a local resident about a quantity of dog mess in the garden of a County Council property. The Clerk had asked to local Housing Officer to visit informally. It was agreed that the Clerk follow the matter up with both the Housing Department and Environmental Health if necessary.

MIN 3120 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

(1) Report on April Surgery: Cllr. Owens reported two items - fly tipping, Dog Kennel Lane: already reported, County Council investigating potholes, Killhorse Lane, Norton

(2) Arrangements for May Surgery: Cllr. Smith, and if available Cllr. Ms. Humphreys, to attend.

MIN 3121 DEVOLVEMENT OF SERVICES

(1) Buildings: Cllrs. Wilding, Tennant-Eyles and the Clerk had attended a meeting with County Council Officers and Cllr. Darren Mayor to discuss the proposals. It was hoped that a report would go to County Council Cabinet in May.

(2) Presteigne Cemetery: Provisional dates were now being circulated for a meeting with the Gabbs Solicitors and the trustees of the Pryce Williams Trust. It was hoped that a meeting would take place in May. Cllr. Kirkby had kept the landowner (cemetery extension land) informed.

(3) Transfer of Tennis Courts: The Town Council's remaining queries had been passed to the County Council but no reply had yet been received.

The Clerk and Cllr. Ms. Marchant left the room for the duration of the next item.

(4) Future of Library Service: Noted that the Library Service was holding a drop in session on 27th April from 2-4 for anyone to speak with them regarding the future of the library. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Kirkby explore the possibility of a CAT transfer of the Assembly Rooms building through the setting up of a Trust. Cllrs. Kirkby and Tennant-Eyles to meet with Mid Border Arts initially to discuss the possibilities. Consideration would also be given to setting up two groups - the Friends of the Library and the Friends of Mid Border Arts and to accepting donations towards running costs.

MIN 3122 INFORMATION

No items for information this month.

MIN 3123 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

Baptist Church, Min Job Club - opening from 22nd April.

Youth Project: Additional sessions each week for primary school age children only throughout the summer term .

Open Afternoon, East Radnorshire Day Centre: 20th May, 1.30pm to 3.30pm as part of Dementia Awareness Week. All Members invited.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm