

**Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton**  
**PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018**  
**AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE**

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

Apologies: Cllr. P. Linnett

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. Preece, former employee, Re. Future of Radnorshire Arms, Presteigne.*

Prior to the start of the meeting Members heard a presentation from Leigh Harling-Bowen on Dark Sky Communities. Mr Harling-Bowen asked for support for further investigations into the possibility of making Presteigne a dark sky community. Cllr. Kirkby asked that the project include Norton as well as both were within the Town Council area. The project would be run by the Marches Astronomy Group together with Transition Presteigne. Support for further investigation was agreed with a more detailed action plan to be brought back to the Council for further consideration. It was also felt that a survey to obtain community views would be needed as the plan progressed and prior to any formal application to become a Dark Sky Community. The Clerk would write a letter to confirm support for further investigations.

**MIN 3488 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 with one amendment – Minute 3478 (5) Should read Knighton not Norton. The Minutes of the Sites and Buildings Committee 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

**MIN 3489 CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE**

- (1) Active Travel Route: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the bid for grant money for phase two of the project had been submitted by the County Council and that the Town Council had sent a letter of support for the bid. County Councillor Baynham had also sent a letter of support.
- (2) Mobile Phone Mast, Norton: Still not in operation.
- (3) Welsh Water/Odour Issues, High Street: Analysis of the odour loggers indicated that the problem lay with the new pumping station at Walkers Meadow and that the change in pumping frequency seemed to have alleviated the problem. Odours, although now undetectable, were still higher than expected and the station would be monitored prior to its formal adoption by Welsh Water later in 2018. If necessary more work by the developer would be requested prior to its adoption.
- (4) Recycling Information: No visit had yet been made to Presteigne. The Clerk was asked to remind the Officers of their agreement to visit to publicise the recycling arrangements and if possible to attend the September Farmer's Market.
- (5) Idling Bus Engines, High School: Still no response from Owens Motors. Clerk to chase.
- (6) Overgrown Trees, By Pass Junction near garage: Clerk to report to Powys County Council.
- (7) Warden Close Name Sign: Ordered and should be replaced soon.
- (8) Overgrown Hedge, Knighton Road: The Clerk to arrange cutting as soon as possible from the MUGA down to the allotments.
- (8) Wilson Terrace Trees needing Trimming: Cllr. Baynham to report.

- (9) Wooden Fence on Verge, Allotments: It was confirmed that this had been installed by the County Council as a safety measure as there was a steep gully. For this reason it could not be removed.
- (10) Gravity Bowl Play Equipment: Now installed. Thanks to Cllr. Baynham and the County Council for installing free of charge.
- (11) Consultation on Diversity in Local Government: Cllr. Baynham had completed.
- (12) ATM Station Road: Final repairs due in the next few days following which the cashpoint should be in operation.
- (13) Allotment Car Park Potholes/Fence: Cllr. Wilding asked to fill potholes if possible and check riverside fence.
- (14) Strimming, Went's Meadow: Thanks to Cllr. Bennett for doing the strimming along the path above the Wither Beds and the short length of unmown footpath at the bottom corner of the far field.
- (15) Barbecue, Went's Meadow: New plate supplied by volunteer and fitted into place by Mr. Close. Volunteers had also offered to render the blocks.
- (16) Tree trimming on Meadow still to be done by Cllr. Bennett.

**MIN 3490 FINANCE**

(1) Donations: The request from PACDG for payment in advance for street cleaning costs was considered and it was agreed to pay 50% with the final 50% to be paid at a later date.

PACDG £250.00

The letters of thanks from Presteigne Little People's Playgroup, Powys Citizens Advice Bureau, Brecon and Radnor Samaritans and Presteigne Youth Project were noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£73.72
Mrs T.A. Price	£1282.29
HM Revenue and Customs	£487.11
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£25.16
Welsh Water (Hereford Street Toilets)	£211.73
Thermometers Direct	£22.12
Border Janitorial (toilet rolls)	£84.00
T. Lloyd-John (cleaning)	£648.70
Welsh Water (supply to Barn)	£12.89 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£35.97 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd (grass cutting)	£278.92 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£215.62 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£24.99
N. Close	£43.75 ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT
Pump International	£56.09 ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT

The re-issue of a cheque from June – change of payee – Fire Fighter's Charity to Presteigne Fire Station Welfare Fund was confirmed.

**MIN 3491 PLANNING**

- (1) No planning applications this month.
- (2) Planning Application Decisions – None this month.
- (3) Classes Consultation on Consolidation of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 and Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995: Cllr. Baynham reported briefly on the LDP Working Group meeting which had considered the proposed changes to this order. The full response would be circulated to Members before submission to Welsh Government.
- (4) Powys Local Development Plan Consultation: Supplementary Planning Guidance on Biodiversity, Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations: Cllr. Baynham reported briefly on the LDP Working Group meeting which had considered the new supplementary planning guidance on planning obligations, affordable housing and biodiversity. The full responses on Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations would be circulated to Members before submission to the County Council. No response was proposed on bio diversity.

**MIN 3492 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

(1) PACDG Update: Cllr. Ruby reported that the Group would like to meet with a selection of Members to discuss the community plan and the way forward. Cllr. Kirkby felt that it would be best to present

suggestions to the full Council and it was agreed that PACDG be invited to present at the September meeting.

(2) Plastic Free Presteigne Report on first meeting: Cllr. Dixon reported on the first meeting and agreed to act as Town Council representative at future meetings. Cllr. Baynham had attended as County Councillor and indicated that she would personally be trying to visit a number of shops and cafes to ask if they would consider using paper bags/straws rather than plastic.

(3) Request for Speed Limit, Rockbridge: Despite several reminders there had as yet been no response from the County Council Officer.

(4) Footpath across John Beddoes School Field: Cllr. Baynham reported that the School was no longer concerned about the footpath and that dog fouling issues had decreased. It was also concerned at the possible cost of fencing off a diverted path. Given the Town Council dispenser soon to be sited near the school field and with the School no longer having problems it was agreed that no further action was necessary.

(5) Temporary Closure of CB1446, Orchard House Bridge: Noted. Members noted the comment from a member of the public on a restructuring of the bridge it was agreed that given the present financial situation at the County Council this was not a possibility and that the Town Council was grateful that the repairs were being done. The Clerk was asked request the clearance of the blocked culvert near to the bridge at the same time.

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

- Lugg Bridge damaged and needing repair.
- Potholes, upper part of Broadaxe Lane towards the Folly.

#### **MIN 3493      NORTON**

(1) Norton Church Progress Report: Further meeting to be held in the near future.

(2) Site for Possible Bus shelter: Agreed that there was no suitable site and in the light of this and the lack of available funding from the County Council it was agreed no further action to be taken.

(3) Noticeboard Update: The Clerk reported that the present board was not suitable for an open board and could not just be converted by removing the doors. It was agreed that the lock be removed and an alternative fastening be added so all could access. It was also agreed that as there was presently a Board in a private garden, the householder be asked if this could be moved to the grass bank in front of Corte Cottage.

(4) Community Speed Awareness Scheme: Cllr. Edwards had received forms for completion by members of the public interested in being part of the Scheme and so far fifteen people had expressed an interest. A local resident had also offered to become the Scheme Co-Ordinator. Before the Scheme could commence it would be necessary for health and safety checks to be carried out and also training of the volunteers.

#### **MIN 3494      SITES AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE**

(1) Public Conveniences:

Legionella Temperature Checks to be carried out monthly by Mr. Close for trial period: Agreed.

Re-Painting Update: Now completed. Some issues during work but now resolved.

(2) Allotments.

Untended Plot Update: Members of the PNAA had met with the plot holder and the plot should be tidied very soon.

Pump Repairs: Several repairs had been done in recent weeks.

Future of PNAA: The Committee was still considering its future and had asked if the Council would consider transferring the operation of the site to the Association. It was agreed that this would not be considered. The Clerk also confirmed that the Council could not collect PNAA subscriptions/insurance payments. The possibility of re-introducing membership of the PNAA as a condition of tenancy was again reviewed but it was agreed that no change be made. The possibility of introducing a Friends of the Allotments Society as an alternative was suggested.

(3) Meadows.

Community Building Update: The grant application to Powys County Council had been agreed and the decisions on two others were still awaited.

Works at Old Reservoir and grant application: Unfortunately the Tesco grant application had been withdrawn due to rule changes meaning the Town Council could not apply for further grants for 9 months. It was agreed that the project go ahead using monies from the Warden Reserve Fund.

Bench, Warden: Agreed that Mr. Close be asked to repair the bench.

Recommendations of Sites and Buildings Committee -

Approval of proposed sites for dog bag dispensers and for purchase of four units and necessary bags: Agreed that four dispensers be purchased plus the necessary bags. Sites to be near to John Beddoes School Field, High Street/St. David's Street corner, entrance to the Warden and Went's Meadow car park by Scout Hut.

Reply from Kirsty Williams AM re dna testing: Agreed no further action.

Preferred site for Outdoor Gym - adjacent to Scout's Hut Car Park. Exact location to be discussed on site with supplier. The grant application to Big Lottery Awards for All had been successful and the equipment would now be ordered. The purchase of additional grass matting was considered but it was agreed that this was too costly.

Maintenance Works were confirmed as follows –

Skateboard area to be swept of wood chips: Mr. Close to be asked to do this.

Edging brick, Skateboard Park: R. Rimington to grind off sharp edge.

Re-stoning of paths to be considered when constructing the community building.

Hedge cutting of Meadow Site: Cllr. Kirkby to arrange in the Autumn.

Pond Cleaning: To be done as soon as practicable.

Former Plinths for Information Boards: Cllr Bennett to consider converting into seats. To be done later in the year as time permits.

Grassed Area leading to Beach/Lower Went's Meadow: To be mown once per year. Cllr. Kirkby to arrange.

Trees in Area of Barn/Ligne Garden: Cllr. Bennett had agreed to trim.

Ironwork at Barn: Now straightened by Mr. Smith and Mr Graham.

(4) Wilson Terrace Play Area: Work on fence completed and roof now in place on oak shelter. The Clerk reminded Members that the Shelter had been permitted by the County Council on the understanding that the Town Council was responsible for maintenance. The Shelter had therefore been added to the fortnightly inspection list. The Clerk was asked to thank Mr. S. Gealy for his help both at the Wilson Terrace Play Area and the Warden.

(5) Defibrillator: Cllr. Baynham reported that she was having difficulty obtaining permission to site a unit on any premises in High Street but she was still looking for a suitable site.

#### **MIN 3495 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

(1) One Voice Wales/SLCC Conference Report: Cllr. Veary reported on the conference and circulated the Agenda listing the presentations given. Copies of the presentations were available on request.

(2) Youth Representation and Secondary School Feedback: Cllr Veary had visited the Primary School to speak to the School Council. She reported that the students had been very well prepared and had produced a list of comments/requests for consideration. Several were considered to be particularly relevant and these were –

Lugg View Play Area: Clerk to speak to County Council and consider applying for grant funding.

Dog Fouling: Agreed to ask Primary School if it would hold a poster designing competition with the best designs being made into signs to place in suitable spots. £20 to be donated towards the cost of prizes.

Bird Watching Hut: Agreed that Cllr. Kirkby would discuss this with Heather Lewis for siting on the top of Eddie's Meadow.

More Litter Bins: Members felt that the County Council provided sufficient bins but noted the child friendly animal talking bins produced by Amberol. The Clerk was asked to investigate grant opportunities so these could be sited on the Meadows/Play Area.

Members also noted the summary of comments from the feedback forms completed by the John Beddoes School Council, many of which were repeated in the Primary School list.

Cllrs. Veary, Bennett and Rogers, as the Youth Representatives would be visiting both the Primary and Secondary Schools in September.

(3) PCC Consultation: Home to School Transport Policy: Agreed no comment.

(4) Request that Council Meetings be webcast: Agreed that there was no demand for this, it was not practical and that the cost for the Town Council would be prohibitive. It was noted that the County Council, a much larger organisation, only webcast a very small percentage of its meetings.

(5) One Voice Wales Brecon & Radnor Area Committee Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> July: No one had been able to attend.

(6) Council Newsletter: Cllr. Ruby asked that a newsletter be produced for placing on local notice boards etc and for sending to the Schools. It was agreed that the Clerk would send the newsletter currently prepared for the parish magazine to Cllr. Ruby for placing on notice boards.

- (7) Reply from Competition and Markets Authority re. Countrywide: Noted. No further action.
- (8) Mid and West Fires Fire Service Consultation: Members were encouraged to complete the survey.
- (9) Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner Report: Cllrs. Baynham and Edwards had attended. *Cllr. Preece left the room for the duration of the following item.*
- (10) Radnorshire Arms Update: Members had all received details of the grants awarded for work on the Radnorshire Arms. The property remained closed. Wigmore Parish Council and their Ward Member, Cllr. Gandy were in touch with the Clerk and monitoring the situation. The Castle Hotel also remained closed. *Cllr. Preece returned to the room.*
- (11) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted.
- (12) Update re. Doctor's Surgery: Cllr. Baynham reported that the surgery was to be run by the Health Board following the withdrawal of Red Kite Healthcare.

#### **MIN 3496 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

- (1) Report on July Surgery: Cllr. Owens had attended. Comments were mainly from those expressing concern about the closure of the Radnorshire Arms. There had also been a comment on grass cutting and a member of the Allotment Association had discussed the future of the PNAA.
- (2) Arrangements for August Surgery: No Surgery to be held in August.
- (3) September Surgery: Cllrs. Baynham and Dixon to attend.

#### **MIN 3497 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Items noted were –

- Discussions with Kirsty Williams AM on the closure of Barclays Bank.
- Former Chief Executive leaving Powys County Council.

#### **MIN 3498 DEVOLVED SERVICES**

- (1) Assembly Rooms Building: It had not been possible for either the Town Council or Mid Border Arts to take over the proposed works and the County Council would now be arranging these.
- (2) Sale of Drill Hall: Home Presteigne had been informed but were unable to consider purchasing the building at this point in time. The County Council had deemed the site too small and therefore not viable for Council Housing.

#### **MIN 3499 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

- (1) Letters of thanks to be sent to the Carnival Committee and the organisers of the Wheelbarrow Race.
- (2) Thanks from Carnival Committee: The following letter of thanks was noted – 'Presteigne Carnival Committee would like to thank everyone who supported, helped and attended the Carnival on Saturday. The day was another wonderful community event which wouldn't have been possible without the support of the many businesses, organisations and individuals in the town and surrounding area. We would particularly like to thank the amazing band of volunteers who helped construct, run and deconstruct the carnival, all of which takes an enormous amount of time and effort for which we are eternally grateful. Thank you to the Town Council for the use of Went's meadow - I don't think there could be a better carnival venue anywhere - and also for arranging the grass cutting and lending out the tables and gazebos.'
- (3) Nicola's Picnic Party: Another successful event.
- (4) Grass Cutting Complaint: The Clerk had composed a reply explaining the grass cutting arrangements.
- (5) Colts Football Group: As this was a private event it was not necessary to complete a use form. Cllr. Baynham would remind the Group of the need to be very careful of the fire risk when using the barbecue.
- (6) Alternative Meeting Location: Cllr. Kirkby to investigate availability at the Assembly Rooms and also the current hire charges.

Members were reminded to email the Clerk details of any items/places they felt should be looked at on the Town Walk.

The meeting closed at 9.47pm