

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2015
AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

Present: Cllrs. C. Kirkby MBE (Mayor), J. Tennant-Eyles (Deputy Mayor), Ms B. Baynham, Ms. H. Marchant, J. Matthews, H. Owens, Ms. F. Preece, P. Robinson, B. Price, Cllr. P. Smith, J Wilding.

Apologies: Cllr. G. Banks, Ms. N. Humphreys.

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: Cllr. B. Price, Committee Member Norton Sports: re. adopted kiosk, Norton

Personal and Prejudicial: None

The meeting commenced with a discussion on the Welsh Government White Paper: Reforming Local Government the formal resolved comments on the Paper are included under Minute 2947(2).

Ms. Lin Scrannage then spoke on behalf of the PNAA to support the request from a resident living just over the Town Council border to rent an allotment garden. It was agreed to take this item as first on the Agenda.

MIN 2938 ALLOTMENTS

Out of Area Plot Allocation: A request to acquire an allotment garden tenancy had been received from a resident residing just over the border in Stapleton parish. This resident was presently assisting a friend on their allotment but that tenancy was being relinquished. Members considered the request, bearing in mind the need to protect the rights of those residing within the Town Council boundary. It was resolved that the request for the tenancy of plot 9 to be allocated to Ms Van De Ende be agreed because there was presently no waiting list for plots and as an exceptional case. There was to be no permanent change to the rules governing allocation of plots but future cases would be considered on merit and decided at a meeting of the full Council.

Risk Assessment: Cllr. Ms. Baynham reported that she had reviewed the risk assessment for the allotment site. The need for signs warning of the river was considered but felt not to be needed as the site was now fully fenced and no direct access to the river was available. The Mayor signed the updated document.

MIN 2939 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 11th February, 2015 were approved without amendment. The Mayor then duly signed the Minutes

MIN 2940 CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE

(1) Clerk's Report: The Clerk's report was noted.

(2) Cheaper Energy Scheme: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had forwarded the details to Transition Town but that he had received a reply to say it did not feel it appropriate for that organisation. Details had therefore been passed to the Chamber of Trade.

(3) Additional White Lining of Highway: The Clerk reported that the additional requests would be considered by the County Council in the new financial year.

(4) Use of Meadow: Cllr. Kirkby informed Members that the use request form for the August event by Compagnie Nicole and Martin had been completed. Queries on water, electricity, showers etc had been answered.

(5) Dead Tree, Killhorse Lane: Cllr. Robinson reminded the Clerk that the landowner should be contacted during the next month.

(6) Letter of Congratulations, Mr. Garman OBE: Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the letter had been written and a reply received from Mr. Garman.

(7) Local Health Service Concerns: Cllr. Ms. Baynham reported that she had compiled a draft list of local concerns as requested. Members considered the suggested issues and it was resolved that the following concerns be submitted to Mr. Adams at the Community Health Council -

- lack of information locally
- no meetings of the Health Focus Group for some considerable time and no indication of when or if meetings are likely to recommence
- information on the provision and security of general facilities in the local area (doctors/hospitals)
cross border arrangements with Hereford Hospital
- the future of Knighton hospital, particularly in the light of the reduced number of beds.

(8) Parked Van, Pound Lane: It was confirmed that the van had now been removed.

MIN 2941 FINANCE

(1) Donations: There were no donations.

Members noted that the remaining amount of donation to the Play Radnor Rubbish After School Club would be used to fund rent of the Youth Centre for holiday sessions.

(2) Payments: to approve any payments –

Mrs T. Price	£664.06
HMRC (income tax/employees and employers NI due on above)	£222.48
SLCC Enterprises Ltd (finance course for Clerk)	£114.00
Npower (electricity account Toilets)	£15.13
Powys County Council (play area inspection)	£72.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Welsh Water	£19.51 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Npower (electricity account Barn)	£40.29 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£40.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
S. Ruell (mowing of paths Eddie's Meadow 2014)	£79.20 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) Receipts: Allotment Rental £450.00

(4) Risk Assessment Annual Review: (including review the of Council's financial regulations and control systems). The updated Risk Assessment was approved and signed by the Mayor.

(5) Internal Audit Review/Plan: The internal audit review and plan was approved and signed by the Mayor.

(6) **Asset Register:** The updated Asset Register was approved.

(7) **Bank Balances:** The following bank balances were noted:

High Interest	£15,374.06	Treasurer	£30,991.56
Meadow	£404.10	Allotments	£1049.16
Warden Reserve	£ 2957.66		

MIN 2942 PLANNING

(1) Planning Applications:

DEM/2015/0003, demolition notification for demolition of old derelict stone and timber barn building at land adjoining 11 Green End, Presteigne. Resolved that no objections be raised.

TREE/2015/0008, application for the removal of trees T1, T2 and T5 works to trees T3 and T4 with the conservation area at Church Close, Cannon's Lane, Presteigne. Resolved that no objections be made.

TREE/2015/0009, proposed tree works to oak tree at 6 St. David's Street, Presteigne. Resolved that no objections be raised.

(2) **Investigation, Powys Planning Department:** The press release from the County Council was noted. In the absence of Cllr. Banks no further update was available.

(3) **Housing Development Knighton Road, Presteigne/Email re progress on Knighton Road Site for Affordable Homes:** The Clerk reported that work was hoped to start on site in late April/early May.

(4) **Positive Planning Newsletter:** Noted.

MIN 2943 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) **Tennis Courts:** Cllr. Robinson had met Stephen Gealy on site and discussed the remaining works and the Town Council concerns. Works remaining were - to deep clean the surface and re-paint it, to mark on the appropriate court lines and to reposition the posts for the tennis court nets. Demountable posts would be provided in the MUGA area to allow tennis to be played on that court when required.

The Clerk was asked to thank Mr. Gealy for the meeting and to ask for a completion date as this was holding up the transfer of the site to the Town Council. The grass cutting season would soon commence and until the land was transferred this would remain the responsibility of the County Council.

(2) **Presteigne Cemetery Possible Expansion:** Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had now received a reply from the portfolio holder indicating the County Council was not willing to proceed with any expansion of the cemetery. He had also spoken to the landowner who was still, in principle willing to sell an area of land to extend the present site. Given that planning permission for such expansion would need to be sought from Hereford Council Cllr. Kirkby had made some initial enquiries both at that Council and at the Environment Agency. Cllrs. Kirkby and Wilding agreed to make further enquiries so that details could be supplied to the County Council. It was noted that just 40 (approx) spaces remained on the present site.

The Clerk was also asked to request information from the County Council on the bequest made for maintenance of the cemetery and on the use of the proceeds from the sale of cemetery cottage. She was also asked to reply to the portfolio holder indicating that the Town Council was not happy with his reply and pointing out that the Town Council had been highlighting the dwindling amount of space for many years but that nothing had been done.

Cllr. Robinson also asked for clarification on the wording concerning burials of those residing outside Powys.

Members agreed that a statement should be given to the press on the situation.

(3) Community Led Plan: The Clerk had heard nothing further on this.

(4) Devolution of Services: The Clerk had nothing further to report.

(5) Transfer of Public Conveniences: Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that as it was not going to be possible to sign either a leasehold or asset transfer agreement before 1st April the County Council would be issuing a licence to allow the Town Council to operate the public toilets in Hereford Street. Members approved the signing of the licence agreement and the licence was duly signed by Cllrs. Kirkby and Tennant-Eyles, witnessed by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive expressing concern that the conditions required as part of the various asset transfers being considered were unfair and asking for the opportunity to meet with the relevant officers and Councillors to discuss this further.

Members discussed the site visit to the Cemetery Toilet. Following discussion it was resolved not to takeover the toilet from 1st April.

(6) Street Lighting Hereford Street and PR392 (car park): The Clerk confirmed that light PR392 was faulty and was on the list for repair. The lighting in Hereford Street had been reviewed and all the lights were scheduled for changing to LED over the course of the next few months.

(7) On Street Parking Review: Cllr. Kirkby explained that he had contacted Mr. Caine at the County Council and asked that he review the decision not to include the change to the parking opposite the Farmers Arms as requested by the Town Council. Mr. Caine had refused to do so. Members expressed disappointment that the view of the Town Council was being ignored and the Clerk was asked to write to the County Chief Executive on the matter and also to write to each Member of the Radnorshire Committee to ask that the Town Council suggestion be included in the review. She was also asked to contact the local bus company to inform them of the situation.

(8) Illegal Parking, Church Street: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had become aware of this and had spoken to the resident concerned who had now moved his vehicles.

(9) Branches, Pound Lane: These were again overgrown and the Clerk was asked to report this to the County Council.

(10) Fence, Industrial Estate: The Clerk was asked to write to Mangar to ask if it was responsible for the fence and if so could it be repaired.

MIN 2944 NORTON

(1) Adopted Kiosk: Cllr. Price explained that Norton Sports Committee was in the process of applying for a grant towards a community defibrillator and that he hoped that this could be sited in the kiosk as had been the Council's intention when the adoption had first been considered in mid 2013. The request for use of the kiosk for a book exchange from the Norton Civic Society was considered but it was agreed that the community and local groups should be invited to suggest possible uses. The request by the Civic Society was therefore deferred until a future meeting.

(2) Norton Traffic Scheme: A report on the scheme was due to be put to the Radnorshire Committee of the County Council in April and it was hoped that the scheme would get approval for the 2015/16 financial year.

MIN 2945 WENT'S MEADOW AND EDDIE'S MEADOW

(1) Annual ROSPA inspection Skateboard Area: This had been booked for 2015. ROSPA had agreed to meet Cllr. Kirkby on site when the inspection was carried out.

(2) Annual Tree Inspection: This had been carried out by Mr. Close and two trees on the reservoir ground had been identified as needing a further check. Cllrs. Kirkby and Wilding agreed to check on the two trees to see if any immediate work was required.

(3) Incident: Cllr. Kirkby reported that there had recently been an incident with an unruly dog. This had been dealt with by PCSO Simon Caine.

MIN 2946 YOUTH MATTERS

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that numbers were increasing with a number of young people attending from Knighton. One new volunteer had been found but more were always needed.

MIN 2947 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Maths Results John Beddoes Campus: Members noted the excellent results and asked that the Clerk write to the school to congratulate the teachers and pupils.

(2) Welsh Government White Paper, Reforming Local Government: Cllr Kirkby led a discussion on the implications of this report. He expressed concern that there would be a need for fully qualified, competent and able County Councillors to deliver the aspirations of the report and felt that this was unlikely to be achieved via elected positions. It was felt that potential Councillors should be made fully aware of the requirements of a Councillor and be able to demonstrate their suitability. The section referring to Town and Community Councils was considered in detail. Members were concerned at the proposed increased involvement in services, particularly those such as social services and education, and in the proposed competency requirement for a minimum budget of £200,000 which would mean local Councils needing to amalgamate. This would have severe consequences for rural areas and result in a loss of local accountability. It was noted that the County Council would be responsible for reviewing the Community Councils in its area. Members then completed the section of the survey referring to Community Councils and the Clerk was asked to return this together with a covering letter expressing the Council's main concerns.

(3) Kayes Factory Site: The Clerk reported that she had contacted the agents and technical work was ongoing.

(4) Letter from Roger Williams MP on post office services: Noted.

(5) Land Tax Consultation: Noted. No comment to be made.

(6) Powys County Council: Confirmation of reduction in Library opening hours: Noted.

(7) Mid Wales Joint Local Transport Plan: Noted.

(8) Report on Meeting with Police Commissioner: A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Those attending confirmed that the meeting had been very successful.

(9) Review of Secondary Schools: The recent press release on the review was noted. Members were pleased that there were no implications for the John Beddoes campus.

(10) National Training Strategy: Noted.

(11) Email re community run facilities (Plunkett Foundation): Noted.

MIN 2948 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

A number of matters had been raised at the March Surgery. These were -

- the re-routing of the footpath at the former Kayes factory: this would be considered when the site is redeveloped.
- the need to thoroughly clean Hereford Street and unblock the drains: the Clerk had reported this to the County Council.
- messy site between number 26 and the little shop: Cllr Tennant-Eyles had spoken to the owner.
- request for allotment plot from person resident outside area): dealt with under Min 2938.
- a compliment had been received on the new MUGA.
- 2015/16 Precept Amount for Norton Community Facility: the Clerk had replied.
- Access Problems for those on mobility scooters: the Clerk had spoken to the resident and Cllr. Kirkby would be arranging to meet to discuss the concerns.

Cllrs. Kirkby and Smith agreed to attend the April Surgery.

MIN 2949 INFORMATION ITEMS

The items for information were noted.

MIN 2950 URGENT INFORMATION

Cllr. Kirkby had been invited to the opening of the new unit at St. Michael's Hospice. A visit to twinned town Ligne was also planned.

The Clerk asked if the removal of a hedge on the industrial estate was still a concern and Cllr. Ms. Baynham agreed to check.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.