

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 15TH MARCH 2017
AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

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

Apologies: Cllr. H. Owens.

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 and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016.

Personal: Cllr. Banks, position as County Councillor re. all County Council related matters.
Personal and Prejudicial: None.

MIN 3265 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2017 were approved without amendment and duly signed by the Chairman.

MIN 3266 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Killhorse and Newton Lanes, Norton: Still not attended to. The Clerk would remind the County Council.
- (2) War Memorial: Work to commence soon.
- (3) Pavements: Still not abraded as agreed by the County Council. Clerk to chase.
- (4) Recycling Site: New banks from the British Heart Society not yet on site.
- (5) Car Park Resident Permits: The Clerk confirmed that the suggested roads had submitted to the County Council.
- (6) Benches, Station Road/By Pass: Two benches had now been repaired, repainted and replaced.
- (7) Removal of Wood from the Warden: Cllr. Banks had spoken to the County Council Officer and could confirm that the wood had been given to a charity. It was noted that fallen wood was believed to be for the people of Presteigne but no further action would be taken.
- (8) Speeding, By-Pass: The Clerk had reported the Council's concerns and the temporary flashing speed signs would be on site following the spell in Norton. In addition the police had been on site on at least two occasions in the past month.

MIN 3267 FINANCE

(1) Donations: Members had all received a copy of the letter from Mid Border Arts requesting the re-instatement of the annual grant and providing more information on the organisation's finances. It was resolved that a grant of £500 be included in for payment in 2017-18 and that the payment be made from Council reserves.

The thank you email from Presteigne and Norton Community Trust was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved:

Mrs T. Price	£902.51
HMRC	£241.59
(income tax and employees and employers NI due on above)	
NEST (pension contributions) via direct debit	£19.71
Mrs T A Price (expenses/stamps)	£82.96
Clearview Cleaning Services Ltd	£405.76
Brunel Engraving (plaque for Norton bench)	£29.34

EDF Energy (Barn)	£5.78	
Artisan Print (posters etc for consultation	£26.50, £8.13, £12.06)	£46.69
SLCC Enterprises Ltd (Conference for Wales)	£82.80	
OCS Group Uk Ltd (Hereford Street Toilets)	£16.85	
Kington Building Supplies	£56.42	
Lyreco (office supplies)	£54.66	
N. Close	£116.25	
Presteigne Building Supplies	£42.58	
N. Close (Norton Notice Board)	£281.25	
Highground Maintenance (grass cutting)	£263.28	MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£50.00	MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) Risk Assessment Annual Review: The updated Risk Assessment was approved without amendment and duly signed by the Chairman.

(4) Asset Register: The updated Asset Register was confirmed.

(5) Bank Balances : The following balances (as at 8th March) were noted -

Treasurer Account	£36873.05	Allotment Account	£1623.22
Meadow Account	£6189.66	Warden Reserve	£2961.42
Money Manager	£40,394.70		

(6) Receipts: The following receipts were noted -

Allotment Rent	£270.00
HP Cashback (printer)	£100.00
Awards for All Grant	£2786.00

(7) Replacement Laptop: Members confirmed that using the budget set aside the Clerk could proceed to purchase a replacement laptop.

MIN 3268 PLANNING

(1) Planning Applications: The following applications were considered:

P/2017/0221 Grid Ref: 329613.17/263422.98 for Section 73 application for variation of condition 3 of P/2012/0019 in relation to occupancy at Northwood Slough Road Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

P/2017/0228, Grid Ref: 331381.55/263936.7 for Section 73 application - variation of condition 2 of approved application P/2014/0295 at Plot B Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted -

TREE/2017/0004: Conditional Consent 15/02/17

P/2017/0028 22 Orchard Close, Presteigne: Conditional Consent.

(3) LDP Further Focussed Changes: Hearing Dates: No representative would be attending the hearing on retail matters. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that he was no longer able to attend the renewable energy hearing. Under the circumstances it was agreed that the Clerk withdraw the request to speak.

MIN 3269 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) PACDG Update:

- Licence now received from County Council re. the cultivating of the small area on the by pass.
- Bennett's had now agreed to a notice board on the wall.
- Consultation: The consultation had now concluded and the results were circulated. It was noted that in general there was support for the Town Council's proposals. It was noted that some of the existing services/activities had not received as much support as expected. Two of these - the Carnival and the Christmas Fair would in any event not be receiving a grant from the Town Council in 2017-18. Other areas with lower support could be considered over the course of the year. Members asked that their thanks for the assistance of PACDG and in particular Ms Taylor-Saunders be noted and that a letter be sent confirming this. The results would now be publicised.

(2) Car Park Permits, Response from Cllr. Brunt: Members noted the response and agreed that the matter would be re-visited after the elections when a new portfolio holder would be in place.

(3) Town Improvements: Replacement Street Light, St. David's Street: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the replacement of the modern street light with a traditional fitting would cost £700. The funds being raised in memory of Nicola Humphreys would be made available to meet £600 of this cost. It was resolved that the

Clerk confirm an order for the changed light. Cllr. Kirkby reported that as part of the works on the roundabout in St. David's Street the surrounding road would also be re-surfaced.

(4) Part Removal of Recycling Banks, reply from PCC: The Clerk confirmed that the one bottle bank had been removed because it was damaged. There was presently no intention to remove the remaining bottle banks.

(5) Knighton Road, Proposed Speed Limit: The proposed extended speed limits were supported.

(6) Complaint re mud etc at Cemetery: Members noted the concerns and the Clerk reported that the County Council had met with the contracted grave digger to discuss the issues. No further action required at present.

(7) Preview Event, Walkers Meadow, Presteigne 27th March: Noted.

(8) Reporting of Highway Items for repair:

- Dog mess, Cllr. Kirkby reported that this had recurred at the Council property in Townend and the Clerk was asked to report the issue to the Housing Officer.
- Short length of footpath near the Mill: The County Council had now received the necessary information to add this to the definitive map.
- Albert Square, a letter had been received from a resident concerned at the general untidiness of the Square. It was agreed that this was not a Council issue.
- Pavements, Broad Street, Station Road etc., this had been raised by a resident but had already been requested.
- Fly tipping, a complaint had been received that rubbish bags were being dumped in Broad Street. The Clerk would ask for the details so that the person could be contacted and advised that this was not permissible and was in fact fly tipping and the illegal disposal of commercial waste. If this failed then the matter would be reported to the County Council for formal action.

MIN 3270 NORTON

(1) Replacement Bench: This was now in place on site.

(2) Notice Board: This had now been completely refurbished, re-painted and replaced on site.

Cllr. Baynham joined the meeting at this point.

MIN 3271 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences:

Refurbishment of Hereford Street: The Clerk had confirmed the order to Healthmatic and work was hoped to commence in late April/early May.

Painting of Wilson Terrace Toilets: The painting had been started.

Early Opening of Wilson Terrace Toilets: These were about to be re-opened to allow access for the play equipment contractor. The Clerk and Mr. Close would monitor the toilets until the cleaning contractor commenced on 1st April.

(2) Allotments:

Insurance Issue: Cllr. Baynham reported that the PNAA had suggested that the charge for their membership be raised by £2 to cover the cost of an insurance policy for both the Association and individual tenants. Members considered that it seemed unreasonable to request further monies and following a detailed discussion of possible options it was felt that the most reasonable solution would be to remove the requirement for PNAA membership but to amend the rules to include the need for insurance cover. The Clerk and Cllr. Baynham were asked to meet with the PNAA to discuss this possibility.

Plot Vacancies: The Clerk reported that there were two vacancies as present.

Theft from Plot: The Clerk reported that one plot holder had had several items stolen from her plot. It was hoped that this would prove to be an isolated incident but the plot holder had been advised to notify the police.

(3) Meadows:

- Arrangements for Annual Play Area Inspections: The Clerk reported that she was presently investigating the possibility of booking the inspections direct rather than through the County Council. The Clerk was authorised to book the most appropriate inspection in consultation with Cllr. Kirkby.
- Fields in Trust: Cllr. Kirkby informed Members that due to a recent proposal from Sheep Music he felt it would be best to defer any decision on this matter until the Sheep Music suggestion could be considered. Members agreed that the matter should be deferred and that Owen Rimmington should be invited to attend the April meeting to present the Sheep Music proposal.

- Hedge Planting, Lower Went's Meadow: Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the new plants were now in place. Members noted that David Fraser had helped with the planting and the Clerk was asked to write a letter thanking him for his assistance.
- Volunteer Work on Meadows: Cllr. Kirkby reported that a small group of volunteers from the Warden Guardian Foundation had now agreed to assist with clearing and tidying works on the Meadows.
- Moles: These were an increasing problem. The Clerk had been making enquiries with contractors licensed to deal with the problem but it was proving difficult due to the need to fully enclose the site during treatment.

(4) Play Area, Wilson Terrace:

- Installation of new equipment, Wilson Terrace Play Area: Due to commence 16th March.
- Oak Frame Shelter: The Clerk confirmed that as long as the structure was in the ownership of the Town Council public liability cover would be included.

MIN 3272 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Working with Young People/Youth Representation: The Clerk reported that she had followed up some of the matters raised during the meeting with students at the High School; Mid Border Arts were looking into holding some Saturday cinema events for young people, Wilson Terrace toilets were being re-painted and deodoriser was being used to reduce the smell and the goal mouths were to be looked at by both the Colts and the grass cutting contractor and the advice received would be reported to Council in due course.

Cllr. Marchant reported that the two Presteigne schools had now been in touch with each other and that a joint meeting was expected to take place in due course.

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that the Youth Project currently had excellent attendance at present.

(2) Boundary Commission for Wales Further Consultation on Review of Parliamentary Constituencies: Noted. The Clerk reported that two comments had been made from Presteigne (one was the Town Council) and around twelve in Powys. Agreed no further comment.

(3) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Annual Report for 2017/18: Noted. Further consideration would be given to the report at the Annual Meeting in May.

(4) Llandrindod and Builth Wells High Schools Objections Information: Noted.

(5) Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County of Powys: Cllr. Wilding had attended the presentation in Llandrindod Wells and reported on the implications for Norton in particular. Further consideration would be made at the April meeting.

(6) Welsh Government Consultation on Draft Circular for the planning of gypsy, traveller and show people sites: Noted. Resolved no comment to be made.

(7) First World War Commemorative Plans Request for Information: Noted. Members would advise the Clerk if they became aware of any events.

MIN 3273 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

March Surgery: Two matters had been raised -

- Funding for the Library Service: Cllr. Tennant-Eyles had explained the situation.
- Problems with delivery vehicles blocking High Street: Cllr. Tennant-Eyles agreed to speak to the shop concerned to see if a solution could be found to minimise disruption.

Arrangements for April Surgery: Cllrs. Tennant-Eyles and Baynham would attend.

MIN 3274 DEVOLVEMENT OF SERVICES

(1) Old School Building/Drill Hall EOI Update: Cllrs. Tennant-Eyles and Wilding had met with officers and Councillors from the County Council to look at the buildings and sites under consideration. It was noted that the Old School was subject to a leasehold agreement and the County Council did not own the freehold title. Mr. David Pritchard would from now on be the liaison officer at the County Council. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that he had reminded the County Council that the transfer of the trusteeship of the Memorial Hall was a possibility if the other asset transfers went ahead. The County Council was now considering its position on the requested transfers and a formal response would be made shortly. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles read out a draft letter, to be sent to the County Council, summarising the Town Council's position in relation to asset transfers, along with a copy of the Consultation results in respect of asset transfer. Members agreed that the letter should be sent.

(2) Assembly Rooms Update: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the initial request for a £50,000 capital transfer as part of the EOI request had been refused and that a reduced request for £25,000 had recently also been

refused. A further meeting of the potential trustees was to be held to discuss matters further. He added that it was likely that the Group would wish to commission its own building survey in order to more accurately assess the condition of the building.

Cllr. Baynham had attended the meeting of the Friends of Presteigne Library earlier that evening and gave a short report. Unfortunately due to the scheduling of the meeting on the same night as the Town Council meeting she had been unable to remain for the duration of the meeting.

Cllr. Kirkby reminded Members of the proposed funding arrangements for the library service in 2017-18 which were -

due to a change in staff circumstances the necessary reduction in staff costs was possible with no disadvantage to the remaining member of staff and a part reduction in opening hours.

volunteer cleaners had come forward and this would save the annual cleaning cost of approximately £1500. 50% of the remaining running costs (those costs excluding staffing and cleaning at approximately £3000) would be met by the Town Council.

(3) Presteigne Cemetery:

Burial Board and Existing Cemetery: Cllr. Kirkby reported on the recent meeting with Halls Funeral Directors. Grave digging was not a problem and could if necessary be arranged by the funeral directors direct. Overall Halls felt that the transfer of burial board responsibilities to the Town Council would be a very positive move and was most supportive of the proposal. Members considered the implications of proceeding a request to transfer both burial board responsibilities and the existing cemetery site and it was resolved that the Clerk make initial contact with the County Council to ask if the usual 40% of costs would accompany these transfers.

Cemetery Extension: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the borrowing approval was now through from Welsh Government. As it would now be impossible to complete the purchase in the current financial year it was agreed that the forms should be re-submitted for a renewal of the approval. Should the exchange of contracts occur during prior to this renewal then the deposit would be initially met from Council reserves in order not to delay the purchase. It was also agreed to appoint Dillwyns to act as solicitors for the transfer.

MIN 3275 INFORMATION

The following item of information was noted:

Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine

MIN 3276 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

None this month.

MIN 3277 ELECTION BRIEFING

The Clerk reminded Members of the points included in her Clerk's report and distributed papers to those Members intending to stand in the forthcoming elections.

The meeting closed at 10.07 pm.