

# **PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

**MARCH 2018**

1. Community and Town Council Review: Latest news is that the framework for the review remains unchanged despite the replacement of Mark Drakeford with Alan Davies. Instructions are to rule nothing in and nothing out! A Welsh Local Government bill is expected in the Summer and the Panel has been instructed to inform the Minister of any recommendations requiring legislative changes in June/July so they can be considered for inclusion in that bill with the main recommendations to be presented in the Autumn. The Review Panel consultation meeting was postponed due to the snow and is now taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> March. The present phase of the review will close in April.

2. National Training Advisory Group: The Group is presently looking at a self-accreditation scheme for Councils. I will update you as soon as I hear anything further.

3. Practitioners' Conference: 185 Clerks attended this two day conference. A wide range of exhibitors were also there to display their goods and services and I did chat to a couple about outdoor gym equipment. Presentations included the new general data protection regulations (more later), VAT issues, grant funding, Fields in Trust, Wales Matters and rural housing. All very interesting and useful. Thank you for letting me attend.

4. General Data Protection Regulations: These new regulations come into force in May and there has been an enormous volume of advice and guidance issued. Still under discussion is the ability of the Clerk to also act as the Council Data Protection Officer and also a possible relaxing of the regulations for smaller bodies. It is looking as though the fee for us will be £40, a £5 increase on the present data registration fee. As soon as I know more I will report to Council fully.

5. Dog Fouling: I have now had a chat with Cllr. J. Wilkinson, the relevant portfolio holder. He is supportive of dna testing, believing it would also be of use to trace dogs responsible for worrying sheep etc. He is also in favour of the reintroduction of dog licences. He is going to discuss matters further with his officers but is currently hoping to approach Welsh Government about the issue, both Lesley Griffiths, the appropriate Minister and his local AM. He asks that the Town Council also make representations in this way and this is on the Agenda for your approval.

6. Planning Enforcement Issue, Norton: Good news in that a new case officer has been appointed and will be carrying out a site visit, hopefully by the end of the month.

7. Speeding Bus, Greenfield Road: I have spoken to the company director and all drivers will be spoken to and reminded to keep within the speed limit.

8. Facebook Page: Facebook has picked up that Presteigne and Norton TC is not a person and has insisted that the page name be changed to a person and requested ID to confirm the name. I have therefore had to change it to Tracey Price Town Clerk but there is now an organisation page linked to it and called Presteigne Norton TC. Updates/information will be put on both.