

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2018 AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

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

Apologies: Cllr. N. Rogers.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk; one member 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. J. Wilding, related to applicant, planning application P/2018/0244.

MIN 3433 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 21st February, 2018 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3434 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Obstruction of Pavements, Royal Oak Public House: Cllr. Wilding had yet to discuss the matter with the landlord.

(2) Speeding Bus, Greenfield Road: The Clerk confirmed that the Manager had agreed to remind the drivers about the speed limit within the town.

(3) Drill Hall/Old School Update: Cllr. Wilding was in the process of preparing an update for publication.

(4) Changes to Council Facebook Page: The Clerk reminded Members of the changes to the Council page due to facebook requirements.

MIN 3435 FINANCE

(1) Donations:

Request for donation Children's Wales Air Ambulance Appeal: Agreed not to donate as an annual donation was already made.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£28.80
Mrs T.A. Price	£1420.00
HM Revenue and Customs	571.16
Mrs T. Price (expenses)	£36.90
Clearview Cleaning Services Ltd.	£425.93
Lyreco	£17.99
Presteigne Building Supplies	£5.28
Presteigne Gates (allotment fencing)	£226.80 ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd (grass cutting)	£268.55 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Artisan Print (plans for application)	£12.62 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Powys County Council (planning application)	£570.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
(confirmed following February Meeting)	
N. Close	£25.00
N. Close	£43.75.

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted -

Allotment Rent	£560.00 cheques)
	£56.00 (bank transfer)
Powys County Council (sale of cemetery land)	£46595.84

Note: Legal fees of £450.00 plus VAT of £90.00 deducted before payment. The sum includes a net figure of £6595.84 as reimbursement of the Town Council's expenses.

(4) Review of Risk Assessment: Approved as circulated.

(5) Review of Asset Register: Approved as circulated.

(6) Bank Balances: The following bank balances at 5th March were noted.

Treasurer Account	£36,743.69	Meadow Account	£9543.73
Allotment Account	£1880.16	High Interest Account	£3737.36
Warden Reserve Account	£2962.84.		

(7) The transfer of £277.00 from the Allotment account to the Treasurer Account to cover the salary payment to Clerk for hours worked on allotments (includes employers National Insurance) was agreed.

MIN 3436 PLANNING

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

P/2018/0227, Grid Ref: 330999/264671 for Outline - Erection of 2x dwellings (all matters reserved) at Land off Joe Deakins Road, Presteigne: Resolved to object to the application on the following grounds - whilst car parking is provided for the new properties the development removes the parking from the existing properties; the site is outside the current development plan; the current sewerage system is reaching capacity and this should be borne in mind when granting permission. Also to be noted that the Town Council has a right of access across part of the land to enter the community field known as Eddie's Meadow. Finally the Council would like to point out that a covenant is in place on part of the land which prevents the building of structures.

P/2018/0156, Grid Ref: 331705.7/264523.8 for Outline: Erection of a dwelling and all associated works at Plot 1, Fold Farm Lane, Presteigne. Resolved no objections to the application but the Town Council would like the limited sewerage capacity in the town to be borne in mind when granting permission.

Cllr. Wilding left the room during the consideration of the next application. Cllr. Kirkby assumed the Chair. P/2018/0244, Grid Ref: 330323.95/266890.71 for Full: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two detached dwellings and all associated works at Orchard End, Norton. Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Application Decisions: There were no planning application decisions to report.

(3) Planning Application for Went's Meadow Community Building. P/2018/0295, Full: Erection of a building for community events at Went's Meadow, Knighton Road, Presteigne: Members noted that the application was now with the County Council for determination. The Town Council would not comment as it was the applicant.

MIN 3437 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) PACDG Update: Members noted the update from PACDG. The snow clearing efforts of the group of volunteers were praised although it was felt important to co-ordinate these efforts with the work schedule of the County Council. The request for a plan for sudden severe weather was noted. Cllr. Baynham indicated that the County Council already listed areas in order of priority. She agreed to obtain this for information. She was also asked to add the entrance to Warden Close to the priority areas as this was very steep and led directly on to the Knighton Road junction.

(2) Station Road ATM Update: The Clerk reported that the company intended to remove the cashpoint. Members were concerned at the town having only one 24 hour cashpoint remaining and the Clerk was asked to contact the company suggesting that the cashpoint be moved to the car park adjacent to the Police Station.

(3) Dog Fouling Update: The Clerk reported that the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Wilkinson had been very supportive of the suggestion that DNA testing be introduced for all dogs. He had also suggested the re-introduction of dog licences. Members did not support the introduction of dog licences but wished to continue to press for DNA testing. Cllr. Baynham reported that Cllr. Wilkinson had resigned his position on the Cabinet and agreed to remind the new Portfolio Holder of the suggestion as soon as one was appointed. She also stressed that there was a form on the County Council website to report incidences of dog fouling and these would be followed up, initially by an informal visit. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to write to Welsh Government to press for DNA testing for all dogs.

(4) Parking for Church at The Scallions: Cllr. Baynham reported that the Traffic Officer had visited the town and had suggested installing droppable bollards. The Church was presently considering this as an option.

(5) Fold Farm Footpath: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the stile had been removed and a wider gate installed. This was locked when not in use. The Clerk was asked to write to the new landowners asking that pedestrian access be reinstated. The Clerk would also check for progress on the DMMO for both the Fold

Farm route and on the progress of the addition of the short length of path missing from the map at the Old Mill.

(6) Street Lighting: The County Council had refused to change the light fitting on PR151 in Mill Lane but had agreed to turn the light on at the Depot.

(7) Reporting of Highway Items for repair: Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council would probably delay refilling potholes until the cold weather was over. No specific items were reported.

(8) Odour Issues, High Street: Welsh Water had indicated that the problem was resolved but Members heard that both the Royal Oak and the Radnorshire Arms were still experiencing problems. The Clerk was asked to contact Welsh Water to say there was still a problem and also to suggest that pumping frequencies were considered as a solution.

(9) Active Travel Routes: The new route maps included proposed routes to Norton and Rockbridge although these were dependant on successful funding being obtained. County Council Officer David Allday had been invited to the April meeting.

MIN 3438 NORTON

(1) Broadband Issue: Members noted the reply and felt that it was inadequate. The Clerk was asked to reply to this effect. She was also asked to raise the issue with both Kirsty Williams AM and Chris Davies MP.

(2) Future of Church: A consultation had been delivered to each household in the village.

MIN 3439 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences:

- Electricity Usage: The electrician had now checked the building and the only possibility was the small heater in the store room. The pipes would be lagged, gaps around the door filled and the heater turned down. Usage would continue to be monitored.
- Painting: The company had agreed to repaint.

(2) Allotments:

- Rent: Around two thirds of the rent had now been collected and a second reminder had been issued.

(3) Meadows:

- Use by Vintage Sports Car Club: 13th October was agreed.
- Orchard Pruning: Carried out as planned despite the snow. Seven volunteers assisted.
- Outdoor Gym: Further meetings had been held with potential suppliers and Members were shown two ranges. It was agreed that Cllr Linnett proceed to select a preferred range.

(4) Wilson Terrace Play Area:

- Missing Swing still not replaced.
- Tesco Bags of Help Grant: The voting result had not yet been received.

MIN 3440 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life Information: Noted.

(2) Community and Town Council Review February Newsletter and report on Review Panel Meeting 19th March: The Clerk reported that the call for evidence would close in April with a final report to the Minister in the Autumn. It was agreed that the following comments be submitted – The Town Council appreciates the difficulty in defining a model for the future that encompasses Councils of all sizes and budgets but asked that I stress the importance of all Community Councils, however small, in providing a direct link to the communities they serve, a link that would be lost should Councils be merged and made larger. Small Community Councils often bring their communities together and provide a vital focal point for residents. Amalgamated Councils would be much less effective in providing community representation and would dilute the local knowledge often provided by local Councillors.

(3) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted.

(4) Review of County Electoral Arrangements for the County of Powys - Draft Proposals: The changes to the present Presteigne and Norton County area were considered and the Clerk was asked to submit the following comments –

- the Town Council feels the present level of representation, being geographically compact, with residents using the same facilities and services and having strong community links is working well and provides an excellent representation of its residents.
- the proposed new Division to include Norton is geographically huge, it is not linked by any direct road or rail links and would take up much of a representative's time in travelling. Its

size would make it difficult to remain aware of issues throughout the proposed area and waste much of the time available in travel rather than active work and representation.

- the review should not be primarily about numbers and a perceived equality of representation but that emphasis should be placed on community links, ease of management by the elected representative and natural community boundaries. Effective representation is about electing the correct person not evening out the numbers.
- The Council asks that the proposal for Presteigne and Norton be amended so that the Town Council area remains as one County Division.

(5) Creating a Parliament for Wales: Consultation: The Clerk reported briefly on the contents of the consultation. It was resolved to comment as follows - Given the present financial constraints on government budgets at all levels to spend money on increasing the number of Members in the Assembly/Parliament is inappropriate. This money would be much better spent on providing local services and amenities and the suggested increase in numbers was not be justified

(6) Wales Audit Office Survey: The Clerk was asked to complete this on behalf of the Council.

(7) Knighton Town Council Transport Review: There was no volunteer to represent the Town Council on the proposed forum. Cllr. Baynham was aware of a local resident with a lot of knowledge of the transport network and agreed to speak to him to see if he was willing to share the information with Knighton Town Council.

MIN 3441 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

(1) No March Surgery due to the heavy snow.

(2) April Surgery: Cllrs. Baynham, Dixon and Ruby would attend.

MIN 3442 DEVOLVEMENT OF SERVICES

(1) Cemetery Land: The sale was completed on 19th March and the monies had been received. Cllrs. Kirkby and Wilding had met County Council Officers to discuss the development of the site and outlined the initial plans.

MIN 3443 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Items of note this month were –

- Newtown High School currently in special measures.
- Cycle Path on target for completion by the end of the month.
- High Street and Scottleton Street to be resurfaced.
- Presteigne voted 8th Best place to live in the Sunday Times. The only town in Powys to be named.

MIN 3444 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

None.

The Meeting closed at 9.27 pm.