

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST APRIL 2021
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CORONAVIRUS)
(WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

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

Apologies: Cllr. L. Veary.

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. F. Preece, Chairman of Radnor Scouts, re. erection of pergola at Scout Hut.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. R. Bennett, related to residents and to a business owner in High Street, re. grants etc High Street due to Covid-19.

Cllr. D. Davies, friend of applicant, re. planning application 21/0675/HH.

Prior to the start of the meeting Members held a minute's silence in memory of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and also in memory of former Mayor and Councillor Howard Owens.

MIN 3880 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2021 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3881 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Missing Bin, St. David's Street: Still not replaced and the Clerk had received a reply from the County Council saying no new bins were being installed. She had responded indicating that this would not be a new bin but the replacing of the bin removed to enable work to the post.

(2) Weathervane, Radnorshire Arms Garage: Cllr. Smith had not yet collected this from the Works Depot in Penybont. If another Member was travelling that way they were asked to collect it and deliver to Cllr. Smith. Cllr. Baynham reminded Members that an appointment should be made before calling.

(3) Fold Farm Footpath: Cllr. Kirkby informed Members that he had sent an additional map into the County Council but there was no progress on the formal determination of the modification of the definitive map.

(4) Proposed Bollards, Scottleton Street: Cllr. Baynham had not received any response as yet.

(5) Asset Register: The missing line had been added – this did not affect the totals.

(6) Use of Footpath by Horse Riders and Cyclists: Members noted the response from the County Council as follows – *'The use of a footpath by horse riders and cyclists is a civil trespass against the landowner, or possibly by private right granted by the landowner; we don't actually have any enforcement powers to tackle this, if we actually caught anyone. I have walked this path recently following other reports on the fenced in section being very difficult to use due to the surface condition and encroaching vegetation (these were copied to Cllr Bev Baynham). I am hopeful that we will get the funding I spoke to you about, as this is one location where I wanted to do the works (subject to funding, and consents for the works). Normally we would ask our volunteers to carry out the waymarking on our behalf, but due to Covid-19 all volunteering has been suspended. I can do*

the waymarking myself, the next time I am in Presteigne, and also include some other signs. No further action needed. The resident had been informed.

(7) Cemetery: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the contractor was progressing well and work was expected to be completed in the next few weeks. He pointed out that the car park was extending into the area originally purchased for burial plots and Members noted this.

(8) Smoke Free Premises: In response to a question from Cllr. Kirkby, the Clerk confirmed that she had been unable to see any reference to the need for a policy in the guidance available. The necessary signs had been received and would be put up shortly.

(9) Date for Sites and Buildings Committee: 26th April at 6pm on site.

(10) Radnorshire Chain: Cllr. Baynham reported that she had not yet been able to gain access to the Chain due to staff not being in the offices but that she would let the Council know if/when the situation changed.

(11) Presteigne and Norton Community Trust: Cllr. Bamford provided an update on the impending changes with the Trust becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and having an updated constitution. The intention was to reduce the number of Town Council Directors to allow spaces for other organisations. Cllr. Kirkby reported that the AGM of the Trust had been held and that the necessary papers had been sent to Companies House.

(12) Judge's Lodging Trust: Cllr. Kirkby reported that no one had come forward to discuss possibly joining the Board. He reminded Members that there was still time to do so.

(13) Refurbishment of Town Benches: Cllr. Kirkby reported that six had now been done and that Mr. Kendall had agreed to donate additional money towards a replacement for the bench in Station Road. The bench on Warden Road was on a damaged concrete plinth and Cllr. Kirkby had asked the County Council if it would re-do that plinth.

(14) Drug Raid, Presteigne: The following report was received from the local PCSO. *'On 25th March three positive drug warrants were executed in Presteigne following concerns raised by the community. Unfortunately I can't provide any further details than this at the current time but hopefully a number of community members saw the large Police present last night as support was received from the dog unit, Roads Policing Unit, Armed Response, Specials and the local Neighbourhood Policing team. Reassurance patrols and public engagement in the vicinity was conducted at the time but if anyone feels uneasy about the large Police presence last night, please drop me a message and I will happily call with them. Hopefully we will see a positive impact following this action, however as stated previously please encourage the community to report concerns to myself, via 101 or Crime stoppers should they have any moving forward as we rely on this information to be able to take action such as this.'*

MIN 3882 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donations were approved –

Mid Border Arts	£1250.00
	(precepted, inc £500 twds building maintenance)
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup	£500.00 (precepted)
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	£2000.00 (precepted)
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	£250.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Area Community Development Group	£250.00 (precepted)
East Radnorshire Day Centre	£2000.00 (precepted)
Warden Guardian Foundation	£250.00 (precepted)
Wales Air Ambulance	£300.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Memorial Hall	£750.00 (precepted)
Powys CAB	£200.00 (precepted)
Brecon & Radnor Samaritans	£200.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Youth Project	£1200.00 (precepted 2020-21)
Mid Border Arts (contribution towards tables)	£187.50 (agreed March 2021)

Request for a donation from Macmillan Cymru: Resolved to donate £100 from the miscellaneous donations budget.

Macmillan Cymru	£100.00
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(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£130.06
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1383.76

HM Revenue & Customs	£554.62
Mr. N. Close	£140.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mr. N. Close	£77.00
T. Lloyd-John (toilet cleaning)	£414.49
Highground Maintenance (grass cutting)	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT
One Voice Wales (annual membership)	£476.00
SLCC (Annual Membership)	£234.00
William Smith Limited (no parking sign)	£41.94
XMA Ltd (ink toner)	£257.07
Think Signs (No Smoking)	£57.00
EDF Energy (Hereford Street)	£130.98
Lyreco (office supplies)	£103.56
Presteigne Building Supplies	£13.79
EDF Energy (Meadow Barn)	£27.21 MEADOW ACCOUNT
JRB Enterprises Ltd (refund to T. Price)	£119.46 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –

Allotment Rent	£252.00 paid in March, Allotment Account
	£28.00 paid in April, Allotment Account

(4) Approval of Annual Accounts for 2020/21: The annual accounts were approved without change.

(5) Completion of annual VAT return and year end payroll information to HMRC: Noted.

(6) Review of Project and General Reserve Balances and budget information to 31st March: Members noted the reports provided and some administrative changes were made moving the zip wire spending to show more clearly that it was grant funded and the addition of the total amount of reserve allocations to be listed to enable a more accurate comparison with the budget. The use of brought forward/carried forward balances would also be noted separately. Cllr, Kirkby felt that the updated version would be a useful tool to use alongside the other documents already provided during the budget setting process.

(7) Final Report of Remuneration Panel for Wales: This had been re-circulated. No additional allowances were added but adjustments were made to the Mayor's Allowance (see (8)).

(8) Budget Allocation – Mayor's Allowance: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he felt that this was best managed by splitting the allowance into an amount for an allowance and a separate amount for expenses. This had been done on a flexible basis in 2019-20 and 2020-21. The current allowance for 2021-22 had been set at £1200. Following a discussion it was agreed to increase the overall budget for the Mayor to £1500, £1000 as the allowance and a budget of £500 for expenses to be claimed as needed.

(9) Payment by direct debit to EDF Energy for £62.44 (March Minutes) cancelled due to installation of SMART meter: Noted. An updated invoice would be issued.

MIN 3883 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –

21/0389/HH Grid Reference: E:330425 N: 267326 Proposal: Proposed rear single storey extension and minor alterations Site Address: Old Vicarage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2EN. Resolved no objection be raised providing the Built Heritage Officer had no problems with the proposals.

21/0390/LBC Grid Reference: E:330425 N: 267326 Proposal: Proposed rear single storey extension and minor alterations Site Address: The Old Vicarage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2EN. Resolved no objection be raised providing the Built Heritage Officer had no problems with the proposals.

Cllr. Davies was placed in the waiting room for the duration of the following item.

21/0675/HH Grid Reference: E:331028 N: 264036 Proposal: Erection an extension, to replace an existing conservatory Site Address: 5 Silia Meadow, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr. Davies returned to the meeting.

21/0604/HH Grid Reference: E:331088 N: 264080 Proposal: Erection of Single Storey Garden Room to replace Existing Conservatory Site Address: 44 Caenbrook Meadow, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Decisions: No decisions this month.

MIN 3884 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Active Travel Routes Update: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he continued to press for signage at the start of the route in Hereford Street and pointed out that the sign needed was only approximately six inches across, so very small and unobtrusive. There had been no progress on the Norton to Presteigne route and Cllr. Wilding stated that he felt the only way to proceed was for the Town Council to look at entering discussions with the landowners and purchasing the land so the scheme would be more quickly able to go ahead should funding be identified. Cllr. Bamford wondered if this could be tied in with the tree project. It was agreed that Cllr. Wilding attend the Sites and Buildings Committee meeting on 26th April so the matter could be discussed further.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: Members were pleased to hear that Welsh Government was able to accommodate the request for compatible lighting and that the County Council and Dark Source had forwarded the necessary information. On the scheme for the public lighting in Presteigne as a whole, Members agreed to support the recommendations of Mr. Asfuroglu at Dark Source.

(3) Climate Crisis: Cllr. Bamford reported that land was still being sourced. There had been no reply from the owner of the land adjacent to the Warden. The Working Group was looking at creating a woodland management group to carry out work in local woodland such as Silia Wood. Members had all received a copy of the email from a concerned resident raising a number of climate issues and it was agreed that the Working Group consider a full response. Members asked that, following the details on spraying supplied by the County Council last year, the Clerk write again to ask if there was any way that this could be avoided. *Cllr. Bennett was placed in the waiting room for the duration of the following item.*

(4) Covid-19 Measures and High Street Grant Update: The Clerk reported that the planning application was still ongoing and that additional information had been sought from the applicant. It had not, therefore, been possible to proceed with the grant application at present although the County Council had not indicated that it was too late to do so once planning permission was obtained.

Cllr. Bennett was returned to the meeting.

(5) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Cllr. Bennett confirmed that the trees discussed at the previous meeting as having been identified as needing attention had now been dealt with. Cllr. Wilding asked about the time scales for the work at the sewage works in Presteigne and Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that this was intended to start in May 2021 and take approximately one year to complete.

(6) Road Condition Stocken/Stonewall Hill: Herefordshire Councillor, Carole Gandy had indicated that a length of this road was to be re-surfaced in 2021-22 but had not as yet confirmed when or exactly where. The Highways Portfolio Holder had still not replied to the Clerk's letters. The Fire Service had travelled the road on a practice run and had been able to reach the properties.

MIN 3885 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Speedwatch Update: Cllr. Ruby reported that training was now able to recommence and that she would be getting in touch with the volunteers to discuss possible dates.

(2) Norton Community Trust Update: The planning application was ongoing. Nothing else to report.

MIN 3886 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: The electrical work was still awaited and also therefore the potential changes to the exterior lights to the front of the building.

(2) Allotments: Members considered the following -

- Waiting List Update: The Clerk confirmed there were now five people on the waiting list
- Email concerning recent bonfire on site and review of current allotment rules: Members considered the information supplied by the PNAA and it was agreed that all possible steps had been taken to minimise any inconvenience to others. Bonfires were infrequent events and it was agreed not to make any change to the allotment rules.
- Recent Fly Tipping: Several lots of rubbish were dumped in the allotment car park over the Easter period. This had been reported to PCC which had not only removed the rubbish but also investigated and were able to obtain the name and address details of two properties from the rubbish left. Those people were to be contacted by PCC and it is possible that prosecution may follow depending on the circumstances. Cllr. Baynham reported that there had been a number of local prosecutions in the recent past and that hopefully with action being taken now this would be a deterrent to further incidents. It was noted that the recycling and waste centres were open and so could be used and so official disposal was possible rather than fly tipping.

(3) Meadows: Members considered the following -

- Review of Amended Grass Cutting Pattern below bike track/orchard: Agreed to continue with this for a one year trial.
- Use by VSCC Welsh Weekend 7-9th October 2021: Agreed subject to covid conditions current at the time.
- Use Request 'The Menagerie of the Lost and Found' for performances of 'As you Like it' August 2021. Agreed subject to covid conditions current at the time.
- Use of Meadow by Radnorshire Wildlife Trust 28th August: Agreed subject to covid conditions current at the time.
- Use by Norton Community Hub Committee 30th August: Agreed subject to covid conditions current at the time.
- Scout Hut Possible Pergola. Agreed in principle and subject to full details being received in order to make a final decision. Cllr. Preece reported that it was expected that the structure would be permanent.
- Quotes for Tree Survey – deferred to the end of the meeting as quotes were to be discussed.
- Misuse of Zip Wire: Members noted the recent report. No further action at present.

MIN 3887 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Digital Connectivity Survey: Members had all been emailed details to complete the survey prior to the meeting. It was agreed to submit a comment from the Council expressing concern that some areas within the town of Presteigne were still not able to access superfast broadband and that access was far from uniform across the town.

(2) Mayor's Chain Update: Nothing to report.

(3) NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day: It was agreed to do nothing at present but that the matter could be reviewed should circumstances change.

(4) Burial Fees at Presteigne Cemetery: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the County Council currently charged double fees for those living outside the County and he had been approached by the Reverend Hollinghurst who believed this to be fundamentally unfair given that those living just over the border in Stapleton, where the cemetery is situated, used the town for shopping and other facilities and that the majority, if not all, the maintenance costs of the cemetery were met by a Trust set up by a Herefordshire resident. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council on this matter and request a review of the policy for the residents of Stapleton.

(5) Presteigne Youth Project Update: Members noted the update provided.

MIN 3888 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

No surgeries currently held.

MIN 3889 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported just one matter, a concern over the misuse of the verges despite attempts to leave them grow to encourage biodiversity. Some of the signs had also been removed. Efforts had been made to publicise the project and an item had been included in a community newsletter but Cllr. Baynham felt that more needed to be done to make the project known. Cllr. Bamford agreed and added that the parking/use of verges was, she felt down to lack of awareness of the project. Possible publicity discussed was inclusion on facebook, the town website and possibly a board for the railings outside the Assembly Rooms. It could also be publicised at the Radnor Wildlife Trust event in August.

MIN 3890 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Access for Fire Engine: A recent post on facebook had highlighted the issues the fire engine had recently experienced trying to return to base due to parking along the access road. Cllr. Baynham reported that she and the Clerk had met with the Traffic Officer at the County Council some time ago to discuss this and the Clerk was asked to check to find out why double yellow lines had not been possible. The Fire Service to also be contacted for its formal views.

(2) May Meeting: Following a discussion it was agreed to hold a physical face to face meeting in May and that because of the Mayor Making the meeting should be held in the Judge's Lodgings.

Given the ongoing covid situation it was felt that the meeting should not then move to the Assembly Rooms but remain at the Judge's Lodgings.

MIN 3891 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS

Due to the confidential nature of the following business, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it was resolved to exclude members of the public during discussion of the following agenda items.

MIN 3892 TREE SURVEY QUOTATIONS

Members agreed to award the work to John Cromar's Arboricultural Company Limited. Work would be carried out in the next month.

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm.