

# Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: Cllr. N. Rogers.

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: None.*

*Personal and Prejudicial: None.*

### **MIN 4010 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

### **MIN 4011 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

- (1) Rat Problem, Meadow Barn: The Clerk reported that she now had a quote from an accredited pest control company but that it would be necessary to secure the site. Cllr, Wilding had sufficient security fencing and was willing to install this when necessary. Members approved the acceptance of the quote and the Clerk would arrange the firm's attendance on site as soon as possible.
- (2) Lease for Assembly Rooms, Building: Cllr. Kirkby reported that a draft lease had now been received by Mid Border Arts and was with their solicitors. Work on the new lift had now started.
- (3) Ambulance Service Letter: The Clerk had chased this up but still not received any reply.
- (4) CPAT Visit to Boultribrooke Weir: The Clerk had heard nothing since the promised visit in January. She would contact the officer and ask for their findings.
- (5) Norton Bus Stop: The timetables had not yet been replaced but new cases had been ordered for several bus stops and it would be done in due course.
- (6) Fold Farm Footpath: The Clerk reported that the formal complaint had been submitted as requested and that a reply was due by 22<sup>nd</sup> February. There was no further action to take until that reply was received.
- (7) Tree Works - Branches overhanging Footpath to Old Mill: Radnorshire Wildlife Trust had had these done as part of planned works in late January. There remained one higher branch that the Trust were keeping an eye on. Two of the fence rails were broken at the time of the works and will be replaced
- (8) Tree Works – Warden/Eddie's Meadow Boundary: The County Council had had a tree surgeon on site to look at works to trees 1 and 2 as identified in the Town Council survey in 2021. The oak tree the surgeon believed to need no immediate work. The ash tree had a hollow trunk and would be reduced to the height of the ivy and the base be retained for wildlife.
- (9) Mole Problem: A jointly funded visit is to be arranged by the County Council. The County Council had generously agreed to fund travel and set up costs. Work to be carried out shortly.
- (10) Defibrillator Training: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the local Fire Service had agreed to carry out some training in the basic use of the defibrillators. He would advise when he had more information.
- (11) Jubilee Celebrations: Cllr. Baynham updated Members on the plans for celebrations on the afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup> June from 2pm. Full details would follow in due course.
- (12) Lugg View Playground Work: Work was now complete.
- (13) Donations awarded in 2022-23: All the organisations had been notified of the amount awarded. The following organisations asked that their thanks be passed on –

East Radnorshire Care, Radnor Wildlife Trust, Mid Border Arts, PACDG, Wales Air Ambulance, Presteigne Festival, Judge's Lodgings, Presteigne Youth Project Brecon & Radnor Samaritans, Powys CAB and Norton Community Hub.

(14) County Council Liaison Meeting for Town and Community Councils: This took place on 1<sup>st</sup> February and the following items were discussed – Digital Powys 2019-2025 74 projects ongoing including website accessibility improvements, business intelligence data and the expansion of online access via the PCC website for reporting fly tipping, road issues etc, accessing Council Tax bills and records etc.; update of Regional Skills Partnership; Update on Mid Wales Growth Deal; Marches Growth Deal – discussions just starting with Shropshire; Covid Recovery Grants. Fund presently closed for applications but re-opening around June; Phosphate problems: update and further information sent out.

(15) Clerk's Practitioner's Conference: Members noted that this was taking place over three days from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February and the Clerk was attending.

#### **MIN 4012 FINANCE**

(1) Donations: None this month. The letter of thanks from Tenovus Cancer Care was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Mrs T.A. Price                                  | £1383.56                |
| HM Revenue & Customs                            | £554.82                 |
| NEST Pensions (direct debit)                    | £130.06                 |
| T. Lloyd-John                                   | £390.49                 |
| N. Close  | £14.00                  |
| N. Close  | £70.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT   |
| Welsh Water (barn)                              | £16.51 MEADOW ACCOUNT   |
| Welsh Water (H'fd Street Toilets)               | £226.10                 |
| T. Price (refund stamps)                        | £30.96                  |
| Lyreco (office supplies)                        | £44.86                  |
| Presteigne Building Supplies (sleepers)         | £1244.16 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Dragon Play & Sports (Lugg View play equipment) | £11,997.60              |
| Highground Maintenance (grass cutting)          | £319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT  |
| Andrew Mills (tree works)                       | £810.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT  |
| HSBC (Bank Charges January)                     | £10.50                  |
| HSBC (Bank Charges January)                     | £8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT    |

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Sheep Music (twds stage)                       | £250.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Presteigne Carnival (twds stage)               | £250.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| H. Roberts (use of new barn – donation)        | £100.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Allotment Rent (2022-23)                       | £56.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT  |
| Website Advertising                            | £104.00                |
| Powys County Council (covid grant re. toilets) | £3772.00               |

(to be spent on toilets only – to be added to toilet allocated reserve – PCC hoped to do the same in 2022-23).

(4) Request for £250 from Climate Grants Fund for Foraging Walks: Cllr. Bamford reported that the intention was to suggest a donation from those taking part and she was therefore asking that the Council support the project by allocating funds of up to £250 from the Climate Grants Fund in the event of a loss being made. Members approved the request.

#### **MIN 4013 PLANNING**

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

22/0045/HH Grid Reference: E:331724 N: 264129 Proposal: Single storey extension to front and side of existing bungalow dwelling Site Address: 22 Orchard Close, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

22/0108/FUL Grid Reference: E:329622 N: 265350 Proposal: Retrospective approval of window on southern elevation, lean to shed on northern elevation and balcony supports on western elevation Site Address: Cottage, Wild Meadow, Discoed. Resolved no objections be raised.

22/0112/HH Grid Reference: E:331161 N: 264256. Proposal: Erection of a conservatory. Site Address: New Barn Bungalow, Slough Road, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

22/0186/LBC Grid Reference: E:331582 N: 264503 Proposal: Listed building consent to renew rear facing timber and glass door, replace 2 no. rear facing Upvc windows with painted timber casements; to alter and improve attic room Site Address: Ivy House, Broad Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AF. Resolved no objections be raised subject to Built Heritage Officer approval.

(2) Planning Decisions: No decisions to note this month.

(3) Riverine SACs and Phosphorous Update Feb 2022 for Community and Town Councils Information: To be taken under MIN 4014 (3).

#### **MIN 4014 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting: Works to replace the street lights were ongoing. Members noted the letter of support for the project from Iolo Williams and it was agreed that the Clerk write thanking him for his support and suggesting that he visit the town once Dark Sky Status was achieved. The Dark Skies application was being held until the street lighting work was complete.

(2) Climate Crisis: Cllr. Bamford provided an update as follows –

- Consideration of PACE activities and further involvement/Councillor representative: Agreed that Cllr. Van Den Ende attend meetings as the Town Council representative.
- Call for Interest from communities to be part of a Home Energy Audit Project: Members approved Council involvement in this project if selected.
- Nature Reserve Project Update: The grant application had been submitted and a decision was expected in the coming weeks.

(3) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Members noted the latest reply re. the phosphate permit for Norton Sewage Works: *'Although the scheme to introduce the phosphate permit at Presteigne WwTW is required to be in place by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 in line the environmental obligations identified by our environmental regulator NRW, we do have a target completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. If you require further information, please let me know'*. Cllr. Kirkby raised concerns that the upgraded sewage stations would not include the necessary technology for phosphate stripping as referenced in the report from the County Council. The lack of this technology could mean that future development in the town was still prevented. Cllr. Wilding stated that he understood the problem to be to do with improvements needed to the technology to be installed. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Welsh Water to get confirmation that both stations would have the technology necessary. Members were also briefed on the latest information on the compensation due from Welsh Water for the use of the Meadow and it was agreed to reject the latest offer and the Clerk would draft a response in conjunction with Cllrs. Kirkby and Wilding.

(4) Speed Signs/Community Speedwatch Updates: Training was still awaited for the Norton Speedwatch Group but the Whitton Group had offered to attend occasionally on request.

Cllr. Wilding asked that the Clerk write to the County Council to request permanent flashing speed indicator signs for Norton as had recently been sited in Penybont and Bleddfa. Should this request be successful then further signs would be requested for Presteigne in due course. Members agreed that this be done.

(5) Street Cleaning: Report on PACDG Meeting: Members noted the details as contained within the Clerk's Report and Cllr. Ruby advised that as there were funds in reserve the cleaner would increase his hours from two to three temporarily. Members had just two additional areas to add the regular list – around both schools - but did voice concerns over cleaning on the by pass and the Clerk was instructed to contact PACDG to advise that every care be taken and the cleaner be directed elsewhere if he had any concerns and that concentrating on the Town Centre should be the priority.

(6) Clatterbrook Footpath Stepping Stones/Bridges Update: Members noted the plan to re-set the stepping stones in the Summer as another works permit would be needed and also low water levels. The offer to build bridges was noted and details of how to volunteer for the volunteer works group had been provided to the volunteer. The Clerk was asked to diarise this for June so the Officer could be reminded that this needed to be done.

#### **MIN 4015 NORTON**

(1) Community Hub/Church Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that the plans were proceeding and that the requirements of the planning permission were gradually being worked through.

(2) Defibrillator at Norton Manor Park: The Clerk explained that she had been contacted to ask if the Council would take over full responsibility for the unit. There was some concern that the unit was sited on private property and that the site owner was not willing to take over the maintenance of the unit. The Clerk

was asked to request more information on age, date of last service, electricity supply if any etc so the request could be further considered.

#### **MIN 4016 SITES AND BUILDINGS**

(1) Public Conveniences: Nothing to report.

(2) Allotments: Members noted that two plots had so far been surrendered for 2022-23 and were in the process of being re-let.

PNAAs report: Members considered the following -

- Plot 36 Trial Arrangement Details: Agreed.
- Seed Swap Event – 26<sup>th</sup> March: Use of Barn agreed. Event noted.  
Action to be taken on communal paths: Agreed to provide up to £60 towards the maintenance of the paths. To be reviewed after one year.
- Repairs to barge boards: Cllr. Bennett agreed to replace these and also to replace the rotten posts.
- Siting of possible Green Bin for Guerrilla Gardeners/Mr. Close: Agreed that the Clerk arrange and pay for a bin.
- Possible communal compost area on site for tenants: Agreed providing the PNAAs took responsibility for keeping the area tidy.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- purchase of dog bags for dispensers: Members noted the price difference and the problems with converting the existing dispensers to take the new bags. Given the small difference in price it was agreed to continue with the original bags which were designed for use with the dispensers.
- Condition of decking at Ligne Garden: Members agreed that Mr. Close be asked to cover the decking with chicken wire to aid grip and cover the slippery surface.
- Tree Work Update: The work identified in the tree survey had now been carried out together with the work requested at the pond. Western Power Distribution had also carried out the work identified in its recent survey.
- Use of new barn by PNAAs 26<sup>th</sup> March: Agreed.
- Use of Barn - Radnor Scouts Fun Day, 19<sup>th</sup> March: Agreed.
- Use from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June Nicole et Martin: Provisionally agreed subject to the date being free.
- Sheep Music Natural Stage: Cllr. Bennett was in the process of doing this work.

(4) Adopt a Bench Update: Now ready for scheme to commence. Agreed to include the two benches by the Warden and Cllr. Kirkby would mention this to the Warden Guardian Foundation.

(5) Withy Beds Boardwalk Update: Work to commence very soon.

#### **MIN 4017 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

(1) Town Wifi Update: Cllr. Ruby and the Clerk had met the successful company on site and short listed a number of locations for the units to be sited. Members agreed that the businesses hosting the units could be mentioned as supporting the Town Wifi and the Clerk added that it would be possible to add those businesses to the home page of the wifi as an additional thank you.

(2) Community Broadband Scheme Update: The letters were due to go out to all residents in the next couple of weeks. The final location for a banner in Norton was agreed to be one of the gates by the Welsh Water site. Permission had been obtained for the other banner locations.

(3) Bullying of Clerks - MP to raise question in Parliament: Agreed to write a letter to Fay Jones MP asking that she support the early days motion.

(4) Correspondence re. speed of traffic B3456: Members had all received details of the concerns over speeding/narrow pavement etc. Cllr. Baynham pointed out that speeding was a police issue and the Clerk advised that the resident had been asked to also contact the police. Cllr. Baynham added that work on the next phase of the safe route was unlikely to be in the short term although it was on the list of routes to be done. It was agreed that the Clerk make a request for a crossing from Warden Close to be urgently considered. The Clerk would also check the planning permission to see if there was any requirement for a crossing on Knighton Road from Walkers Meadow.

(5) Letter re. area in front of Presteigne Primary School: The Clerk reported that she had raised the issues with the County Council and the sweeper was due on site any day. The County Council would also attend to the gullies and blocked drains. An officer would check on the health of the tree covered with ivy.

- (6) Library Services Update: Members noted the latest information from Cllr. Baynham on the home delivery service.
- (7) Planting a Tree for the Jubilee – Email from Royal British Legion: Noted. Agreed that Cllrs. Wilding and Baynham investigate the purchase of a suitable tree.
- (8) Review of Bus Routes: The comment from the member of the public on maintaining existing service was noted.
- (9) Location for secure storage of Archived Council Documents: Members to consider possibilities. Deferred to March meeting.
- (10) PAVO Localities Initiative meeting: The Clerk was asked to request a synopsis of the meeting and ask what the future plans would be and how the meetings were expected to progress. The time of the first meeting (9am) was noted as not being convenient for those in work.

#### **MIN 4018 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

Matters raised in February were -

- Speed Humps when accessing to Presteigne Surgery: Clerk to report that the middle hump on Broadaxe outside John Beddoes School was out of shape and needed attention. Also to raise concerns at the increased volume of traffic now travelling along Broadaxe by the Secondary School since the introduction of the one-way system.
- Condition of Timetables and Sign, By Pass Layby Bus Stop: The Clerk had reported this.
- Re-starting of bus to Leominster: To be part of the Bus Routes Review when held.
- Issues with Street Lights near Methodist Chapel and also near 13 Warden Close: Clerk to report that these were coming on at the wrong times.
- Request to be included in Broadband Project: Noted that all households would receive a letter.
- Energy Audits: As discussed earlier. See Min 4014 (2).
- Blocked Drains, Slough Road: These had been reported.
- Situation re. Town Clock: Cllr. Baynham would check to see if there was any technical problem/repair needed.

Members to attend March Surgery to be Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Bennett or Cllr. Preece.

#### **MIN 4019 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Recent Site Meeting to discuss the re-routing of the footpath across the secondary school field.
- Budget Discussions with a projected Council Tax increase of 3.9%
- Gully Sucker due in town the following week.
- Garden Waste Scheme starting again on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **MIN 4020 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

- (1) Taxation of Member Allowances: The Clerk reported that One Voice Wales had indicated that a dispensation from income tax was now expected from HMRC and that it would be operational from 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- (2) Wilson Terrace Play Area: Work due to start 17th February.
- (3) Recent Medical Emergency, Norton: Cllr. Owens reported that the ambulance had had to come from Welshpool. The arrival of the First Responders had also been delayed. Cllr. Wilding stated that the First Responders had arrived at the wrong property and that this had probably contributed to the delay. The Clerk was asked to mention this incident when chasing up the reply from the Ambulance Service. Cllr. Van Den Ende reported that a Presteigne incident recently had been very promptly and successfully attended by the First Responders.
- (4) Removal of Business Rates from Libraries etc: The Clerk was asked to check on the progress of this motion with One Voice Wales.
- (5) Lugg View Playground: Members commented that they were very pleased with the work.
- (6) Buses outside Secondary School: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the buses were again parked up with the engines left on. The Clerk would contact the school.
- (7) Future Covid Recovery Grants: Cllr. Baynham reported that these would be again available in the coming months and that application could be made for various items including digital signage and possibly play equipment.

(8) Recent Emergency Work, Welsh Water: Cllr. Kirkby complained that the recent work had taken a number of days to complete causing great inconvenience to residents and also creating safety issues due to the detour that would need to be taken by the emergency services as access was not maintained. Each stage of the repair seemed to have been undertaken by a different work gang and this had greatly extended the process. The Clerk was asked to write to ask about the procedures in place to minimise disruption.

(9) Library Service Volunteers: Cllr. Ruby reported that a recent community newsletter reported that the volunteer days at the library were due to re-start but that nothing had happened as yet.

The meeting closed 10.05 pm.