

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JULY 2020
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CORONAVIRUS)
(WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

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

Apologies: Cllrs. R. Bamford, L. Veary, 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: Cllr. R. Bennett, related to residents and to a business owner in High Street, re. proposed changes to High Street due to Covid-19.

MIN 3778 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 17th June, 2020 and 8th July, 2020 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3779 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Members of Sites and Buildings Committee: Members noted that both Gareth Graham and Richard Rimington had agreed to remain on the Committee as outside representatives. The Clerk had not yet heard back from the present allotment representative.
- (2) Tesco Bag of Help Grant: Cllr. Kirkby asked for clarification on the breakdown of the £500 and the Clerk confirmed that was - £200 for the local Food Bank, £100 towards the volunteer's costs and £200 for gel, masks, gloves etc for the volunteer effort.
- (3) Missing Bin, St. David's Street: Still not replaced. The Clerk would chase.
- (4) Garage, Radnorshire Arms: The Clerk confirmed that the concerns had been raised with building regulations and a site visit carried out. The Officer was now trying to trace the owners. Note: The building was not sold with the Hotel itself and the new owners have no responsibility for it.
- (5) Farmer's Market: This had gone ahead albeit with a reduced number of stalls for the first market.
- (6) Future Council Meetings: Members noted the advice included in the Clerk's report and would continue to meet via video conference for the time being.

MIN 3780 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donations were agreed –

Sheep Music (re. Tesco grant twds volunteer costs)	£100.00
Presteigne Guides	£75.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Brownies	£100.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Rainbows	£100.00 (precepted)

Members considered the request for support from Marie Curie Cancer Care and agreed to donate £50 from the miscellaneous donations budget.

Marie Curie Cancer Care	£50.00
-------------------------	--------

The letters of thanks from Knighton and East Radnor Food Bank, Hope House Children's Hospice, East Radnorshire Day Centre and Sheep Music were noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£122.99
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1318.92
HM Revenue & Customs	£509.25

T. Lloyd-John	£586.20		
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT		
N. Close	£91.00		
N. Close	£154.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT		
JRB Enterprises (dog bags)	£119.46 MEADOW ACCOUNT		
Border Office Supplies (hand gel – volunteers/dispensers)	£161.84		
(Note volunteer cost covered by Tesco grant)			
Dell UK (refund T. Price- laptop)	£590.82		
(NB allocate as capital expenditure)			
Presteigne Building Supplies	£37.62		
EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£69.66		
(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –			
Norton Sports Committee (contribution for defib battery)	£30.00		
HMRC VAT Refund for 2019-20	£8189.65		
(4) The following bank transfers were agreed –			
• Treasurer Account to Meadow Account (VAT Refund)	£5985.41		
• Treasurer Account to Allotment Account (VAT Refund)	£9.35		
• Treasurer Account to Money Manager Account (Budgeted Items for Reserves) (£2000 MUGA, £300 Election Expenses, £100 Xmas Lights Testing.)	£2400.00		
• Capital Account to Treasurer Account (laptop)	£492.35		
(5) Bank Balances: The bank balances as at 8 th July were noted as follows –			
Money Manager	£28,830.49	Meadow Account	£20,556.40
Capital Account	£36,140.05	Warden Reserve	£1241.98
Allotment Account	£2983.06	Treasurer (general current)	£39,644.21
(6) Budget Update: Members received the budget update to the end of June 2020 and agreed to adding the additional £2000 precepted in 2020-21 to the MUGA/New Barn project reserve within the capital account.			

MIN 3781 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –
 20/0860/CAC Grid Reference: E:331536 N: 264264 Proposal: Existing garage/ workshop removed & replaced with new timber frame summer house on the same footprint. Site Address: 43 Hereford Street, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2AT. Resolved no objections be raised.

20/0859/HH Grid Reference: E:331536 N: 264264 Proposal: Existing garage/ workshop removed & replaced with new timber frame summer house on the same footprint. Site Address: 43 Hereford Street, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2AT. Resolved no objections be raised.

20/0957/HH Grid Reference: E:330331 N: 266737 Proposal: Erection of single storey extensions to provide disabled facilities Site Address: Tiburon, 13A Caefelyn, Norton, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted –
 20/0458/FUL 9 Harper's Lane, Presteigne: Consent 25th June.
 20/0538/FUL Unit 1 Home Farm, Norton: Consent 26th June.
 20/0537/FUL Unit 2 Home Farm, Norton: Consent 26th June.

(3) General Planning Statement to accompany responses to Major Planning Applications: Members had all received a copy of the draft text and this was confirmed with no amendments. The full statement to be as follows –

The Town Council is concerned at the pace of climate change and the impact of development on the environment and asks that all buildings built within its area be constructed to the highest possible environmental standards, working towards eventual carbon neutral buildings with low energy use and with regard to the following areas -

- *Efficient use and management of materials and natural resources and use of sustainable materials and finishes.*
- *Long life buildings which cost less to maintain and hold their value.*
- *Good energy performance which reduces consumption, wasted energy, expensive bills and running costs for businesses and residents alike.*

- *Good, comfortable places to live and work which support well-being and aid workforce productivity.*
- *Good homes, neighbourhoods and green spaces that support quality of life, well-being and public health.*
- *Improved biodiversity and landscape networks • Greater access to green infrastructure which encourages healthy, active lifestyles. Development to be sensitive to existing wildlife on proposed development site.*

Note: Major is defined as developments of five or more dwellings or any industrial or business premises.

MIN 3782 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) PACDG Update: Cllr. Ruby reported that the Group had recommenced litter picking and the guerrilla gardening whilst complying with current Welsh Government regulations. The Group also asked if when recharging cars on the new electric points if owners would have to pay for parking as well as the electricity. The Clerk confirmed that this was the case.

(2) Active Travel Routes Update: Nothing to report this month.

(3) Dark Skies/Lighting Update: Cllr. Smith and the Clerk reported on the recent Working Group Meeting. The meeting had been very positive with the County Council Officer being very supportive and indicating a willingness to work closely with the Group. He had experience of working with Dark Sky areas elsewhere and he had already carried out an initial survey of Norton and now had discussed his findings with Kerem Asfuroglu from Dark Source. The Dark Skies/Intelligent Lighting project was hoped to tie in with the Powys work and the intention was to commence in the next financial year with the County Council being willing to delay this if the Group were not ready. Contact had been made with Fay Jones MP for support and the Dark Sky Association to look at the application process.

(4) Grass Cutting:

Norton: Members had all received the map of the present cutting regime in Norton. Members discussed the possibilities and Cllr. Baynham confirmed that no verges would be left uncut if there was a safety or visibility issue. She added that even if areas were left a one metre width would be cut to maintain visibility. Cllr. Ruby felt the area behind the bus stop was very overgrown and needed more frequent attention. As the second cut had now taken place it was agreed that the September cut should take place as planned and that following this a further site meeting should take place to both review the Presteigne verges and to look at the Norton ones with a view to making changes in 2021. Meeting to be attended by the grass cutting manager, Cllr. Baynham and Cllr. Smith. Remaining Members may be invited depending on the covid-19 restrictions current at the time.

Use of Weed killer: Members noted the reply from the County Council that the use of weed killer was kept to a minimum.

(5) Climate Crisis: In general the activity of the working group had been curtailed temporarily due to the corona virus crisis. Members completed the survey form from Llandrindod Wells Town Council, agreeing that a multi stakeholder group was a good idea, that Llandrindod Wells Town Council represent Presteigne and Norton for the time being and be asked to keep the Clerk informed. A town representative would possibly appointed at a later date.

(6) Proposed Speed Limit, Coombe: Members noted the most recent response from Herefordshire Council which was as follows –

To provide you with an update on the request to carry out a cross-border speed limit review along the B4362 across the Powys/Herefordshire boundary from Presteigne to Combe. I have been in discussion with Jo Lancey from Powys County Council regarding the best way to take this joint piece of work forward. At present Powys CC have not ranked this scheme yet. Once they do and have some sort of date to progress any assessment/proposal they will let me know so that we may coordinate the work on both sides of the boundary.

In the meantime we will consider this as we would any other new request within Herefordshire for a speed limit review and incorporate this into our Prioritised Traffic Regulation Order Programme when that is next re-ranked in January 2021. Once it is in this programme it will then be considered for future inclusion into an Annual Plan as normal.

If Powys CC reach a point before us when they may be about to investigate the request on their side of the border, rest assured, we will do likewise and look at our side of the B4362 as a matter of course so that whatever recommendations are made, both sides are consulted upon and potentially made effective at the same time.

Cllr. Bennett was placed in the waiting room for the meeting at this point having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item.

(7) Covid-19 Measures and High Street: Cllr. Baynham had been in detailed discussions with the Officers involved and she explained the current suggestions. Following discussion the following was agreed –

- No red strip to be laid down the edge of the road.
- No loss of parking.
- The top end of High Street to be coned, as discussed with Cllr. Beverley, to slow traffic and a covid advisory sign to be placed on the pavement (St David's Street side where it is wider). Members felt that this wording should include mention that the road is currently a shared space.
- Bottom end of High Street to again be sectioned off using bollards to prevent illegal parking and allow space for takeaway queues.
- Support for a traffic calming mat at the top end of the street, as traffic enters High Street and agreement to further consider proposals for a raised platform/ongoing shared space once these are developed in more detail.
- The suggestion of using some of the coned off space for outside tables and chairs again they agreed to consider once more details were available.

Cllr. Bennett was returned to the meeting.

MIN 3783 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Presteigne and Norton Community Trust had yet to meet to discuss the suggestion that the Norton Project be run through the Trust. The Clerk would ask Cllr. Veary (the Trust Company Secretary) if a meeting could be arranged. Cllrs. Edwards and Wilding advised that progress on the project was currently slow.

(2) Community Speedwatch: Cllr. Ruby reported that the two new volunteers were still waiting to be vetted by the police and for formal training. The Clerk informed Members that the local PCSO was not yet able to arrange training due to Covid-19 restrictions and she also confirmed that the easiest way to contact the PCSO was via the 101 number.

(3) Kiosk Defibrillator: The Clerk confirmed that this was now in full working order and responsibility had been transferred to the Town Council. Regular inspections were now taking place.

(4) Planning and Environmental Health Issues: Cllr. Ruby informed Members that she had been approached by a number of residents concerned at what they felt were long term problems involving the site in question. Members felt that the concerns that should be investigated were – health and safety issues, the siting of a bus on the land, noise problems and possible pollution of the adjacent stream. Cllr. Baynham reminded Members that she had arranged a multi-agency meeting some time ago and that she had recently been in touch with the Head of Planning who had explained the difficulty in carrying out further investigations or serving any enforcement notices due to the current covid-19 restrictions. Noise problems would however be under the remit of Environmental Health and Cllr. Baynham would speak to the Department. Members agreed that the Clerk contact the County Council regarding concerns over safety, noise pollution and planning contraventions. She would also contact Natural Resources Wales over the stream pollution concerns.

MIN 3784 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences:

Wilson Terrace Toilets: Members had all received the short report from the Clerk on options to be considered for re-opening. In particular they considered the installation of indoor gel dispensers in each section of the building together with one further unit for the Ladies section of Hereford Street toilets. Members agreed that the Clerk source the dispensers from Healthmatic or another supplier as appropriate. Members also asked that the Clerk continue to seek quotes for upgrading the building, including possible all year round opening. Quotes to be discussed at the next S&B meeting.

Hereford Street Toilets: Re-opened after a thorough clean, servicing of the Wallgate Units etc.

(2) Allotments: Two people were now on the waiting list.

(3) Meadows:

- Possible Future Event, Sheep Music: Cllr. Bennett reported that Sheep Music were considering holding an event later in the year but that he would bring details to the Council once he had more

information. Cllr Kirkby reported that the Mid Border Arts were looking to hold some events if the regulations permitted.

- Anti-Social Behaviour and Littering: Members noted the recent problems and that the police had increased patrols in the area.
- Re-opening of Outdoor Gym: The Clerk reported that this would be permitted from 20th July. The outdoor gel dispenser would be installed shortly and together with signage this should then allow re-opening. A risk assessment would be carried out as with the toilet blocks.
- Use of Meadow for Fitness Classes: Members felt that as the area was open to the public there was nothing to stop this happening but did ask that the person be reminded of the need to adhere fully to current Welsh Government regulations and to ensure hand sanitiser etc was used.
- Request to Use Meadow for Bike Track Event – August: Members considered how best to proceed with events on the Meadow in the coming weeks. The Clerk asked that they consider not only current and ongoing guidelines but also the implications of infections arising as a result of any events held on Council property. A vote was held and with five votes for and four against the following proposal was carried - No events to be permitted on the Meadow at present and this decision to be reviewed at the September meeting.
- Request to Use Meadow by VSCC – 10th October: Clerk to inform the organiser that the Council was not presently permitting events on the Meadow but would be reviewing the situation in September.
- Fields in Trust Information: Noted. To be included on the September Agenda.

(4) Community Storage inc. gazebo use: The Clerk reported that a request to use the gazebos by CONNECT had in fact been from a private business and asked for guidance on whether Members wished to allow such use. Members confirmed that use was for community groups and events only and the Clerk was asked to request the return of the gazebos.

(5) Assembly Rooms Building: Cllr. Kirkby stated that there was nothing to report at present and it was agreed that the item be removed from the Agenda for the time being.

(6) Meeting dates for Sites & Buildings Committee: These were normally April and late November. Members agreed not to re-schedule the April meeting and to meet in November as normal. A date would be set nearer the time.

MIN 3785 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Future Education Provision in Presteigne: Nothing to report. Cllr. Baynham confirmed that at present the County Council was concentrating on re-opening schools safely.

(2) Reply from Owner of Radnorshire Arms: Members noted the positive reply from the new owner of the Hotel and were pleased to learn that the Manager was intending to move to Presteigne.

(3) Consultation on the future of Special Educational/Additional Learning Needs in Powys: Resolved that the Clerk submit the following comments – *‘Members agreed that the principle of making access to this type of education as local as possible was something they supported. The Town Council has been working with both Schools in Presteigne with a view to creating a through school in the town and Members feel that your aims for SLN and ALN education could be easily incorporated into such plans and that this was something that they would like to see happen.’*

(4) GDPR and Requirements for Councillors: Members noted the check sheet circulated and were reminded by Cllr. Owens to get it completed and returned to the Clerk.

(5) High Street Volunteers: Cllr. Owens reported that the number of hours covered in the High Street by volunteers was being reduced as the need lessened and with many volunteers now returning to work. The Clerk was asked to minute the very sincere thanks of the Town Council for all the hard work of the volunteers. Cllr. Owens confirmed that a full list of all those involved was being obtained and the Clerk would then produce individual letters of thanks to be signed by him as Mayor.

MIN 3786 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY AND AUGUST TOWN WALK

No surgeries currently being held.

No Town Walk this August and Members encouraged to note down any areas of concern when walking or driving around the town and submit to the Clerk for inclusion on the September Agenda. Should the situation improve a walk would possibly be held in September.

MIN 3787 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Planning Committee now meeting virtually.
- Member's Briefing to take place on the current financial implications from the coronavirus crisis.
- Full Council meeting 30th July via video conferencing.
- Some redeployed staff now back on normal duties.

MIN 3788 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Sale of Cemetery Land: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this should happen during the next week.

(2) Knighton Hospital League of Friends: Cllr. Ruby raised concerns that the Hospital had not yet re-opened and that furniture had been removed and placed in storage. The Clerk was asked to contact the Health Board to ask when the Hospital and Physiotherapy Department would re-open.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm