

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2022
HELD 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, N. Rogers, R. Bamford, C. Ruby.

Apologies: None.

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.

All present were advised that the meeting was being recorded and had no objections. The recording would be deleted once the Minutes had been produced.

MIN 3997 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December, 2021 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January, 2022 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3998 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Cleaning of the Scallions: Cllr. Kirkby reported that a very good job had been done of clearing up the leaves etc from the area.
- (2) Rat Problem: The Clerk reported that the signs were now in place and that there had been no further sign of any food being left on site. She had requested a quote for treatment from an accredited company and this should be received very soon.
- (3) Changes from Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Members noted the information provided on the forthcoming requirements for an annual report, training plans (Members and Clerk) and the introduction of the general power of competence. A decision on whether to adopt this power would be taken at the May meeting. The section on public participation would be discussed at the relevant point on the agenda.
- (4) Carnival Committee Donation towards Sheep Music Stage Repairs: Cllr. Davies confirmed that this would be paid by bank transfer.
- (5) Cemetery Fence: This was now complete.
- (6) Grass Cutting Contract: Members noted that this contract had now been issued.
- (7) Cleaning Contract: Members noted that this contract had been issued.
- (8) Review of Bus Routes: The Clerk had received no reply and would follow this up.
- (9) New Lease on Assembly Rooms Building: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this had still not been received.
- (10) Letter to Ambulance Service: Members noted the comments of James Evans MS as included within the Clerk's Report. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any reply from the Service itself and had chased this up a few days previously.
- (11) Reminder Next Staffing Committee Meeting: To be arranged for late February/early March.
- (12) Forthcoming Election Costs: Cllr. Kirkby asked that, given the significance for the coming year's budget, the estimated election costs for May 2022 (as included in the 2022-23 budget) be noted within the Minutes as £5500 if both Wards were contested.
- (13) Works to Footpath, Clatterbrook: Members were pleased that works were underway and noted that there would be an extension to the weekday closure with work expected to be completed by the end of

January. They considered the removal of the damaged stepping stones and it was agreed to press for these to be repaired/replaced as without them the path would be impassable for much of the year and this could lead to walkers using private land to allow them to pass. The email from a neighbour about the path was noted.

(14) Rambler's Cymru Paths to Well Being Project: The Clerk had some time ago applied for Presteigne and Norton to be part of this project. Sadly just three areas were successful in mid Wales - Llechryd, Penparcau and Rhayader.

(15) Boultibrooke Weir: The planned site visit by CPAT had not yet taken place but the officer was due to be on site shortly.

MIN 3999 FINANCE

(1) Donations: None this month.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1383.56
HM Revenue & Customs	£554.82
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£130.06
Mrs T.A. Price (refund cctv notices)	£27.96 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Lloyd-John	£378.49
N. Close	£14.00
N. Close	£147.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Barn) (Direct Debit)	£35.08 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£35.04 (Direct Debit)
EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£162.54 (Direct Debit)
HSBC (Bank Charges December – Treasurer Acc)	£8.00
HSBC (Bank charges December) – Meadow Acc)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace)	£77.94 (Direct Debit)

(3) Use of Climate Crisis Grant Fund to fund tree talks (deferred from December meeting): Cllr. Bamford confirmed that it was now hoped that no monies from this fund would be needed.

(4) Donation towards the repair of the Sheep Music Stage: Members were pleased to accept the offer of a £250 donation from Sheep Music towards the replacement of the stage. The Clerk would forward the necessary bank details.

(5) External Audit 2020-21: Members received the report of the external auditors on the 2020-21 accounts. It was noted that no matters of concern were raised although the auditors had stated that the internal audit had been completed after the approval of the annual return. The Clerk confirmed that this was not the case. She had posted the notices of completion of audit both on notice boards and on the Council website.

(6) Receipts: The following receipt was noted –

Website Advertising £78.00

MIN 3400 PLANNING

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

21/2306/FUL Grid Reference: E:331453 N: 263966 Proposal: Erection of 2 no. general industrial units and associated infrastructure Site Address: Plot 6 , Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne.

Resolved no objections but the following comments be made in addition - hours of operation/opening are not stated and this should be established to avoid noise or other nuisance, suggestion that solar panels be installed on the roof and that boxes for swifts be added.

22/0027/LBC Grid Reference: E:331663 N: 264552 Proposal: Listed building consent for replacement windows on side elevation (South West facing)- 5 windows (W1-W5) and refurbishment of existing windows to front elevation (South-East facing) - 6 windows (W6-W11) Site Address: Breeze Cottage, 3 Fold Farm, Broad Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

22/0026/HH Grid Reference: E:331663 N: 264552 Proposal: Replacement Windows on south side of Breeze Cottage - 5 windows (W1- W5) and Refurbishment Windows front of Breeze Cottage- 6 windows (W6-W11) Site Address: Breeze Cottage, 3 Fold Farm, Broad Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted –

21/1992/TRE Postings House, High Street, Presteigne: Approval 17th December.

21/2120/TRE, Harford House, Hereford Street, Presteigne: Approval 17th December.
21/2070/TRE, Golwg Yr Eglwys, Cannon's Lane, Presteigne: Approval 20th December.
21/0361/FUL, Former Church of St. Andrew's, Norton: Consent 30th December.
21/0362/LBC, Former Church of St. Andrew's, Norton: Consent 30th December.

(3) Consultation on planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets: After discussion Members agreed that the Clerk write in support of the proposed change in use classes to separate second homes and holiday let properties from dwelling houses.

(4) Powys Local Development Plan: Draft Delivery Agreement Consultation: Members noted the consultation document and it was agreed that the Clerk write reminding the County Council that many Town and Community Councils do not meet in August and on the need to allow adequate time for the sector to respond to any documents sent out.

MIN 3401 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting: Members noted that the change to the lights in Norton was underway. The Clerk had not received any proposals for an event to mark the Dark Skies Festival as the organiser in North Wales was off work. It was felt that in any event it might be better to organise something once the street lighting works were complete.

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

- Grant application for Nature Reserve: The draft expression of interest had been submitted for a first check by an advisor and initial feedback had been positive and helpful. It was agreed that once final the document be circulated to Members for any final comment before submission.
- School Garden: Some works were being arranged by the School and the possibility of planting more trees was being considered. Cllr. Bamford had some designs produced by the students and she would provide these.
- Tree Group – the group continued to meet.

(3) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Members noted the reply from Welsh Water as follows – *I can confirm that we have recently completed a scheme to pump all sewage flows from Norton to Presteigne Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). At the current time, there is no Phosphate permit at Presteigne WwTW but we are currently undertaking a scheme to introduce one by 31st March 2025 (which is the end of our current capital investment programme (AMP7)) in line with the environmental obligations identified by our environmental regulator Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in their National Environment Programme (NEP).* Cllr. Kirkby felt that taking this long to comply with regulations did not seem appropriate given the current problems with the phosphate levels in the River Wye. The Clerk was instructed to write asking why if it was necessary was it not being done as a matter of urgency.

The Clerk was also asked to chase up the progress of the compensation claim for works on Went's Meadow.

(4) Old Doctor's Surgery, Harpers Lane, Presteigne: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the nephew of the owner had been in touch with him and that the property had now been secured and the windows boarded up.

(5) Fold Farm Footpath: There had been no progress with the DMMO application and Cllr. Baynham reported that the Officer had nothing to report as yet although it was hoped to move DMMO work on in the next few months. Members agreed that, as previously discussed a formal complaint now be made given the extreme length of time the matter had already taken.

Members noted the improvements to the Council's website walks 3 and 4 with new stile kits about to be distributed and other access improvements. There would also be some new signage.

(6) Street Cleaning: The Clerk explained that she felt a meeting with PACDG would be beneficial prior to the start of the 2022-23 year. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange a meeting and Cllrs. Preece and Ruby would attend.

MIN 3402 NORTON

(1) Community Hub/Church Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that real progress was now being made and the group was in the process of addressing some of the planning conditions.

(2) Condition of Bus Stop, Norton: Members were pleased to note the intention to replace the timetable board and timetables. This should have been done in early January and Members were asked to check that it had been completed. The Clerk would follow up the request for a replacement sign.

MIN 3403 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: Nothing to report.

(2) Allotments: Members noted that the reminder letters for the year end had been sent out.

(3) Meadows: the following matters were discussed –

- Update re. low hanging tree branches – access track from Knighton Road and Footpath to Old Mill: The Clerk confirmed that Mr. Close would attend to the branches along the track and Radnorshire Wildlife Trust had agreed to attend to the branches over hanging the footpath.
- Quote for one off cut of car park field in late June: Members noted that a figure for this had been allocated in the budget based on the current quote. It was agreed that Cllr. Wilding obtain a further quote.
- Cost for one weed killing treatment in 2022: Noted.
- Mole Problem: Members had noted the increased numbers of moles on the Meadow and it was agreed that if possible the Clerk arrange for the return for the previous contractor and to offer to reimburse him for any damage to his equipment. She would also arrange for the field to be harrowed before the grass cutting commenced.
- Use of Meadow and Barns – 29th August: The use by Norton Community Hub was noted.

(4) Adopt a Bench Update: The Clerk reported that she had not as yet managed to progress this but would do so in time for a scheme to commence in the Spring.

MIN 3404 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Town Wifi Update: The Clerk confirmed that an Officer was covering the vacancy following the resignation of Mr. Simmons. Tender documents were now on the Sell2Wales site and the closing date was 21st January. It would be possible to provide an update on time scales for completion once tenders had been received and considered.

(2) Community Broadband Scheme Update: A first meeting with Broadway Partners was arranged for 24th January at 1.30pm. Working Group Members had been notified but if any other Member wished to attend they should contact the Clerk for joining details.

(3) Public Participation at Council Meetings: The Clerk explained the new statutory requirements that would come into force in May and recommended a review of Standing Orders 3e-3k in relation to public speaking. Members considered the existing rules and after some discussion on the possibilities it was agreed that for the time being no change be made but that a note be placed on future Agenda regarding the arrangements for the public to speak to make sure the public were aware of the option. Members were reminded that the public could approach the to raise any issues and that they could ask that an item be added to the agenda if appropriate.

(4) Defibrillator Training: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had been approached about defibrillator training and had investigated but that PAVO had advised that it was not necessary as the units provided full instruction on use. Their only training was on first aid generally and cost several hundred pounds. He was aware that the fire brigade had provided some instruction in the past on use of the defibrillator. Cllr. Baynham reminded Members that training had been on the December agenda and it had been agreed to arrange this is due course when covid conditions eased. The Clerk advised the training was possible through St. John's Ambulance and that Radnor First Responders had offered to carry out training in other areas. It was re-confirmed that training would be arranged in due course.

MIN 3405 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

No surgery in January.

Members to attend February Surgery to be – Cllr. Ruby and one other. Members to let the Clerk know if they were available. Members were reminded to get residents to complete the contact forms so that the Clerk could provide them with updates on their concern.

MIN 3406 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Information briefing on the School Transformation Programme: This had included a presentation on through schools with several in Powys now complete or underway. The intention was to create eight all through schools by 2025. She confirmed that Presteigne was on the list for review.
- Digital Updates: Grants for schemes had been received.
- My Powys Account: Members were encouraged to sign up for an account to make reporting of issues easier and to receive their Council Tax bill etc.
- Council Tax Increase: Proposal to increase by 3.9%. To be discussed by Full Council in February.
- Welsh Government Financial Settlement had increased.

MIN 3407 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Training Plans: Cllr. Owens asked for more detail on these and the Clerk confirmed that the plans would include an analysis of training need, recommended courses and time scales for completion.

(2) Ash Tree, near Bridge, Knighton Road: Cllr. Van Den Ende asked why this tree was marked and it was confirmed as having been marked by Welsh Water as part of their survey for the pipeline work and then identified for work during the Town Council's own survey. Cllr. Wilding confirmed that the tree was suffering from ash die back disease.

(3) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: Cllr. Baynham informed Members that the Norton celebrations were to take place on Thursday 2nd June and the Presteigne ones on Friday 3rd June. Further details to follow.

MIN 3408 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business because of the confidential nature of the item.

MIN 3409 TOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS INSTALLATION

The Clerk had sought three quotes all for either one year or three year contracts. Having considered the quotes obtained Members agreed to award the contract to Highline Electrical Ltd for a three year period - 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The meeting closed 9.17pm.