

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2019
AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

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

Apologies: Cllrs. C. Ruby and P. Linett.

Absent: 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:

Cllr. R. Bennett, involved in volunteers for erection of Xmas lights re. Xmas Lights 2019.

Cllr. D. Edwards, related to helper at Leg Club re. request for a donation, Knighton and Presteigne Leg Club.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. B. Baynham, related to applicant re. planning application 19/1608/RES.

Cllr. F. Preece, close personal friend of applicant re. planning application 19/1608/RES.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Cllr. P. Smith duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members heard from Heather Ransom, Powys Ambulance Operations Manager who outlined various matters including the change from a time based to a clinical based working model; local defibrillators and the need to register with the Ambulance Service; First Responders and Mangar Lifting Aids (as used by East Radnor Home Support). Ms. Ransom then answered Member's questions, in particular on cross border working and the provision of 24/7 ambulance cover in the Presteigne area. Cllr. Owens thanked Ms. Ransom for attending.

MIN 3673 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September, 2019 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes

MIN 3674 CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE

(1) Environment (Wales) Act 2016: Cllr. Kirkby asked if further guidance had yet been received and the Clerk advised that there had been nothing further. She would follow this up given the need to produce a first report by the end of the year.

(2) Printer: The Clerk confirmed that a new printer had been purchased and that she had been able to secure a £100 cashback offer.

(3) Lugg Bridge: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had now managed to meet the Powys Officer and explained the problem with the repairs. A proper repair would be arranged as soon as possible.

(4) Vintage Car Reception/Weekend: Members thanked Cllr. Preece for all her hard work with the organisation of the weekend.

(5) Use of Personal Emails: The Clerk advised that a dedicated email address for Council correspondence was strongly recommended in order to protect any personal data that may be received. Devices used to access emails should be password protected, have an auto lock if not used for a short period of time and have appropriate anti virus.

(6) Date for Meeting of Sites and Buildings Committee: Agreed to meet on 18th November.

MIN 3675 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donations was approved –

Royal British Legion £60.00 (precepted)

The letters of thanks from Powys CAB, Brecon and Radnor Samaritans, Presteigne Brownies and Presteigne Rainbows were noted.

Application for a Donation by Knighton & Presteigne Leg Club: Members considered the application and agreed to donate £100 this year and to consider the Club for inclusion in the 2020-21 precept.

Knighton and Presteigne Leg Club £100.00

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T A Price (Oct pay)	£1312.56
HM Revenue & Customs	£517.40
NEST (direct debit)	£122.99
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£297.07 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Powys County Council (twds library service)	£1073.00
Amazon (combination lock Meadow Gate)	£5.99 MEADOW ACCOUNT
One Voice Wales (conference fee J. Wilding)	£100.00
Presteigne Building Supplies	£13.68 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Lyreco (stationery)	£8.69
Playdale (part payment zip wire)	£5859.60
R. Bennett (path works)	£920.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
M.E. Jones Haulage Ltd	£200.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
William Smith Group (signage)	£294.52 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Lloyd-John	£636.70
N. Close	£30.34
N. Close	£97.86 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£65.56 Direct Debit
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£34.34 Direct Debit
EDF Energy (Meadow Barn)	£97.02 Direct Debit
Workhouse Gallery (prizes school competition)	£38.52
HP UK Ltd (printer)	£369.00
Powys County Council (bunting licence)	£105.00

(3) Budget Update to 30th September, 2019: Members noted the budget update as circulated.

(4) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –

Pinders Circus (donation) £100.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

National Lottery Awards for All £9766.00

(5) Annual Inspection of Invoices: Members noted that Cllr. Owens had completed the annual inspection.

(6) Review of Internal Audit arrangements for 2019-20: Members considered the report and proposed scheme of internal audit and agreed -

- that the document outlining the scope of the internal audit for the 2019/20 year be confirmed unchanged.
- To re-appoint Mr. L. Stephens for the 2019/20 year audit.
- The planning and reporting arrangements for the 2019/20 internal audit were agreed unchanged.

(7) Attendance of Clerk at One Voice Wales Training (December) – Advanced Finance: Attendance was agreed.

(8) Bank Balances: The following bank balances were noted as at 6th October –

Meadow Account	£15,592.73	Treasurer Account	£45,248.41
Allotment Account	£2144.06	Warden Reserve	£1464.96
Capital Account	£36,092.60	Money Manager	£28,792.64

(9) Arrangements for the interim internal audit: The Clerk confirmed that the interim audit to the end of September had been arranged for 18th October.

MIN 3676 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following planning application was considered –

Cllrs. Baynham and Preece left the room for the duration of the next item.

19/1608/RES Grid Reference: E:330459 N: 266566 Proposal: Reserved matters application following outline approval P/2014/0438 for all matters relating to the erection of 9 dwellings Site

Address: Development South of Wills View, Will's View, Norton, Presteigne: Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllrs. Baynham and Preece returned to the room.

(2) Planning Decisions: To note the following decision:

19/1258/FUL: Land at rear of 23/24 Jack's View Norton: Approval 11th October.

(3) Planning Application Land North of Clatterbrune (19/0963/FUL): Cllr. Baynham had attended the County Council committee meeting and addressed members about the concerns raised by residents and the Town Council. Members noted that the application had been approved.

(4) Publication of 3rd Party Correspondence on PCC Planning Website Reply from WLGA: Members noted the response from the Welsh Local Government Association. Members were disappointed at the response although pleased that the comments submitted would be included in a future review of planning processes. The Clerk was asked to write to the Portfolio Holder at the County Council stating that the Town Council was very unhappy that the matter had not been re-visited and also to notify Kirsty Williams AM of the response of the WLGA.

MIN 3677 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Highway Items for repair: Members reviewed the list of outstanding matters. It was noted that the white lining and re-surfacing from the Clatterbrune roundabout to the by pass junction had been completed.

Additional items for reporting were –

- Trees along the road outside the Clatterbrune Estate need trimming.
- Trees in Station Road needing trimming.
- Trees at The Scallions needing trimming.
- No Entry Sign to Broadaxe Lane by John Beddoes: One bulb not working.
- Trees Forge Meadow overhanging.
- The Clerk was asked to remind the County Council re the problem of parking on the pavement in Scottleton Street and to ask again if a traffic order for the requested double yellow lines could be added into the Active Travel Order. If this was agreed the Town Council would then consider funding the actual yellow lining work, depending on cost.

(2) PACDG Update: The following items were reported –

- Guerrilla Gardeners/Tidy Town work in advance of Veteran Car weekend.
- Further working group meeting this month on replacing the Tourist information Boards.
- Daffodil and cowslip/primrose planting planned end of the month and thanks for TC contribution of local variety daffodil bulbs.
- Community Groups Fair planning well-advanced.
- Community Juicing event planned by Presteigne Plenty for 27th October
- Request for Item from Town Council on the Library for the Community News.

Members noted from the Minutes of the Group that a query had been raised on the election process for the recent co-option and on the need to declare a climate emergency which the Town Council had already done. The Clerk advised that she had asked if the Group would encourage anyone with a query to contact her for clarification.

(3) Active Travel Route: The Clerk reported that the Officers had agreed to meet and had asked for some possible dates. Cllr. Baynham would consult her diary and suggest some possible dates/times.

(4) Dark Skies/Lighting Update: The project would be launched in Rotterdam the following week and Dark Source had already had talks with some companies interested in providing discounted equipment. Presteigne and Norton Community Trust had agreed to receive any monies raised through the fund raising appeal.

(5) Grass Verge Cutting/Wildflower Planting: Cllr. Baynham had not yet managed to meet with the Officers to discuss the verges but would do so as soon as possible. Cllr. Smith reminded Members that hogweed could be a problem in unmanaged verges and that some people reacted badly to contact with this plant. It was agreed that Cllr. Smith would meet join the meeting with County Council Officers to discuss the verges. Members also noted the suggestion for wildflower seed sowing on the roundabouts but agreed with Cllr. Baynham that more information would be needed on costs and safety issues. Cllr. Baynham had already enquired about cost but not yet received a reply.

(6) Climate Crisis: Members received the notes from the last Climate Change Meeting on 18th Sept (as reported verbally to the September meeting) and a short verbal report on the Public Meeting which had been very well attended. The Clerk had now compiled a list of the written comments made at the meeting

for further consideration. The petition for the County Council had been prepared and was ready for signing at the Community Group Fair. The Working Group would now meet again to consider next steps.

Cllr. Bamford asked that the Policy/Action Plan be amended with 'climate change' being amended to 'climate crisis'. The name of the Council Working Group also to be amended to 'Climate Crisis' Working Group.

Cllr. Baynham reported that she had noticed posters locally liberally sellotaped to trees and suggested that the various notice boards should be used. She also reported that the County Council had declared a climate emergency in January and also that County Council pension fund managers were no longer investing into fossil fuels.

Times for attendance at the Community Group Fair were revised as Cllr. Owens was no longer able to attend.

(7) Letter from Powys County Council re electric vehicle charging points: Members noted that a double charging point would be installed in the Hereford Street Car Park and that this was expected to happen before the end of March.

(8) Presteigne Cemetery Bins etc: Members noted the reply from the County Council. The extra bins were being removed and stored in the Chapel and a single 1100L bin for rubbish would be left for use and regularly emptied.

(9) Re-Painting of Graffitied Sections of Underpass: Cllr. Bamford provided information on the current state of the painting which had been examined by Mr. O. Rimington. It was agreed that if Mr. Rimington could supply a date to re-do the sections then volunteer helpers would be invited to assist. A further coat of anti vandal paint could be considered in the Spring as this would need to be applied in better weather.

(10) Fold Farm Footpath Update: Cllr. Kirkby reported that as yet the County Council had not even begun considering the DMMO application and he was concerned that it would therefore not be completed within the time scale set by Welsh Government. The Clerk was asked to write to the current Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Aled Davies to express the Town Council's concerns and to copy the Planning Inspector into the letter. Cllr. Davies to be supplied with a copy of the Inspector's determination.

MIN 3678 NORTON

(1) St. Andrews Church, Norton: Matters were progressing albeit quite slowly.

(2) Annual Bonfire and Fireworks: To take place on 27th October.

(3) Harvest Supper: Held on 16th October.

(4) Community Speedwatch: Cllr. Edwards to enquire how the project was going and how often checks were being carried out.

MIN 3679 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: Members noted the following -

- Cleaning Quotes had been invited for 2020-21.
- Wilson Terrace Toilets to be closed after the annual fireworks event.

(2) Allotments: Members noted the comment about at least one rat on the site however as the site was organic they didn't feel there was anything that could be done.

(3) Meadows:

- Restoration/repair of paths Lower Went's Meadow: Members noted that this had been done and that the path leading up past the skateboard park had also been cleared. A sign for the entrance to the site had been considered by the Sites & Buildings Committee and this was something to pursue.
- Zip Wire Grant Application Update: This had now been ordered.
- Grant Applications Withy Beds/Lower Went's Meadow: The Clerk confirmed that she had completed an application to the Gannett Foundation following liaison with the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. The application had been submitted in the name of the Trust as Councils were not eligible to apply. A further much larger application to try to incorporate a new boardwalk would be considered in due course, possibly jointly with the Wildlife Trust.
- Use by Sheep Music 2/3 November (firework display): Noted.
- Use by Scouts for Camping 11-13th October: Noted. Members asked that the Group be reminded of the need to apply well in advance so clashes (such as with the Vintage Cars this year) could be avoided.
- Use by Vintage Cars 11-13th October: Noted.

- Completion of Grant Evaluation Form Community Regeneration and Development Fund and report to Welsh Government on grant completion: Members noted that Cllr. Kirkby had now completed this.
- Further vandalism: Members noted that there had been further general vandalism on the site and that this had been reported to the police. Cllr. Veary reported that recently she had found all the dog bags from the dispenser at Scottleton Street had been pulled out and left on the ground
- Delivery of Dog Fouling/Litter Signs: The Clerk confirmed that these had been received and would be in place shortly.
- Grass cutting, Lower Went's Meadow: Members noted that the grass cutting and hedge trimming had been completed. Cllr. Kirkby asked that in future signs be put out to warn the public that cutting was in progress.

(4) Silia Wood: Cllrs. Wilding and Kirkby reported on the site meeting with the Woodland Trust Officer. Matters discussed included –

- Focus on Forestry First priority areas little or no money for smaller sites such as Silia.
- New management plan for site being drafted. Town Council will be notified of draft. Expected soon after the end of 2019. Need to get more light into site if possible.
- Seats on the site at end of useful life and on schedule to renew but Woodland Trust would welcome donated benches. Town Council agreed to publicise in next newsletter/press release. (NB Woodland Trust 'dedications office' is in Grantham).
- Agreed in principle to improve signage - one on by pass and one near site entrance. Trust Officer to get costs etc and provide these so the Town Council could consider a possible donation towards costs.
- Agreed to remind school that the wood was available for forest schools but should obtain Trust permission.
- Access track hedges - believed not to belong to Trust but to adjacent landowners.
- Volunteer Group would be welcomed by the Trust and in some cases Community Woodland Groups have been set up to remove dead/fallen trees for firewood. At present the Trust is looking to remove conifers over time but would merely fell these not cut up and remove from site due to poor access.

(5) Community Storage: Both the Clerk and Cllr. Preece had been in touch with the School several times to try to confirm access and to find out about moving the temporary fencing. As yet they had not been able to get any reply.

MIN 3680 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Liaison with Schools: Cllr. Veary reported that she had now managed to contact the Secondary School and she was hoping to go into the School, together with Cllr. Bennett in the near future. She asked that Members let her know of any issues/matters they felt should be raised.

(2) Christmas Lights 2019: Cllr. Bennett reported that he would work with CONNECT to arrange the erection of the lights this year. Insurance cover for the installation would be provided by Elan Events. There would be a need to renew the cherry picker licence for one person and this would cost £150 approximately but would last for five years. Members agreed that the volunteer attend the course unless Cllr. Wilding could arrange a group training session more cost effectively. The Clerk would arrange insurance for the lights during the time they were in place and also apply for the annual bunting licence for the period 1st November to 31st January.

(3) Future of Education in Presteigne: Nothing had yet been heard from the Primary School. The Clerk would remind the Chair of Governors again.

(4) Tri Towns Initiative: The third meeting had been held in Kington. Matters discussed were –

- Nick Johns (Mayor, Knighton) to meet National Development Framework team to discuss Traws Cymru bus service for East Radnor and Jane Dodds MP to write letter of support to Welsh Government.
- Joint Facebook Events Page to be set up.
- Next meeting to include invite to local walker groups and attendance by Mark Stafford Tolley (PROW) from County Council.
- Next meeting date 22nd October.
- Town Council representatives needed to save Cllr. Preece and the Clerk attending all of the meetings and to get fresh views on the matters discussed. Cllrs. Edwards and Bennett to attend the October meeting.

(5) Motion to One Voice Wales AGM: Cllr. Wilding had attended to propose the motion asking for the removal of business rates on library premises. The motion had been seconded by Llanbister Community Council and carried. One Voice Wales would now write to Welsh Government to commence discussions. The Clerk would monitor progress with One Voice Wales.

(6) Mid and West Wales Fire Authority Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2025: Agreed no comment to be made.

(7) Transfer of Presteigne and Norton Website from Presteigne and Norton Community Trust: Members confirmed their agreement for the transfer of the town website to the Town Council. The Clerk was investigating the implications of charging accommodation providers for adverts on the site and also confirming with the Council's insurer on the need for any additional cover. The Chairman duly signed the agreement for the transfer. Cllr. Owens agreed to be a moderator for the site, together with the Clerk and Members agreed that a training session should be arranged with Orphans as soon as possible. Cllr. Owens and the Clerk would also meet the Judges' Lodgings to discuss future maintenance of the what's on pages.

(8) Closure of Orchard Corner Dental Practice: Noted.

MIN 3681 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

October Surgery: A number of issues had been raised in August and these included –

- Issues with Hereford Street and the Active Travel Route
- A potential cross border noise nuisance

All residents had been contacted by the Clerk and first steps taken where necessary. Cllr. Bamford added that a resident had asked on the progress of her request to improve the paths on Lower Went's Meadow and was very pleased to hear that this was taking place.

Arrangements for November Surgery: Cllrs. Edwards and Rogers to attend. The Clerk would contact Cllr. Rogers to confirm.

MIN 3682 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported on a number of items including the following –

- Two new Cabinet Members appointed.
- Full Council meeting held.
- Attendance at a number of events including a 60th wedding anniversary presentation and the awarding of four silver kite awards.
- Release of Powys War Memorial Project videos.
- Powys Business Awards
- Applications open for Powys Sport Grants
- Sponsored Walk to the summit of Pen Y fan completed.
- Members urged to complete the 'Big Squeeze' Budget Simulator.

Cllr. Kirkby thanked Cllr. Baynham for circulating the Rural Analysis Report which had contained some very useful facts and figures on the issues facing Powys as a very rural County.

MIN 3683 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Resignation of Cllr. Pam Linnett: Members noted with regret the resignation of Cllr. Linnett. The Clerk would write to thank her for her service on the Council. A notice of the casual vacancy would be posted online/ on noticeboards as soon as possible.

(2) CONNECT and VE Celebrations: CONNECT had asked if the Town Council was planning any event for May 2020. The Clerk had received an email from One Voice Wales on this subject and would circulate it to all before the November meeting when it could be fully discussed. It was noted that there would be no Food & Flower Festival in 2020 but that it was planned for 2021.

(3) New Disabled Access to Lloyds Bank: The Clerk was asked to write to the Bank Management to thank them for the investment in the town branch.

(4) Vintage Car Rally: Members asked that thanks to Cllr. Preece for organising event, in particular the Friday evening reception be formally noted.

MIN 3684 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 3685 FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICE/ASSEMBLY ROOMS BUILDING IN PRESTEIGNE

Cllr. Wilding reported on the recent meeting with Kay Thomas, the Principal Librarian. She now expected to be able to continue for another year with things as at present in Presteigne although this could not be guaranteed until the budget was set in February. Self-checkout scanners were to be introduced and Social Services were in talks over covering the mobile service. However, this was not a long term solution and more budget cuts were expected for 2021-22.

Presteigne Trust was continuing for the time being although the existing directors wished to retire very soon. The Trust was set up to incorporate six Members of the Town Council and it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Trust putting forward the names of six Members for membership. The Members agreeing to be put forward were Cllrs. Wilding, Bamford, Veary, Owens, Kirkby and Smith. The Clerk would circulate the Trust information to everyone.

It was agreed to further consider the future of the Assembly Rooms building at the November meeting in open session. The Clerk would arrange a meeting with Mid Border Arts to get their views before that date.

The Clerk would also arrange a meeting with the Friends of the Library and Library volunteers to discuss fund raising/promotional banners.

The meeting closed at 10.03 pm