

**Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton**  
**PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE**

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

Apologies: Cllrs. R. Bennett, C. Ruby.

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, fellow committee Member, Presteigne Carnival re. co-option of candidate for Norton Ward.*

*Cllr. L. Veary, fellow committee Member, Presteigne Carnival re. co-option of candidate for Norton Ward.*

*Personal and Prejudicial:*

*Cllr. T. Owens, Member of Football Club Committee and in receipt of honorarium re. planning application 19/0963/FUL.*

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members heard from Mr. Rees-Roberts on the issues of speeding at Broadheath, recent accidents and the concerns of residents. Mr. Rees-Roberts then answered questions from Members. Members agreed to move the item to first on the Agenda.

**MIN 3658 REQUEST FOR SPEED LIMIT**

Members considered the request, from a large number of residents, for a speed limit at Broadheath and noted the support of Stapleton Group Parish Council. The difficulties of co-ordinating a cross border solution were also noted but Members agreed to support a speed limit from the corner of Broadheath (near Broadheath farm drive) and the Clerk was asked to write to Powys County Council to request that this be considered. It was noted that Herefordshire Council hoped to introduce a speed limit on its side of the border in 2020.

**MIN 3659 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

**MIN 3660 CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE**

(1) Third Party Planning Correspondence: Members noted that the report to the WLGA had been completed and sent off. The meeting would take place on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

(2) Lights on Pedestrian Crossing, John Beddoes Campus: Members noted that these had now been repaired. The Active Travel Officers had also explained that the lights could not be turned off at any time due to the need to ensure pedestrian safety. This had been raised following a concern raised by a nearby resident.

(3) Environment (Wales) Act 2019: Members noted the need to produce a report/plan by the end of 2019.

**MIN 3661 FINANCE**

(1) Donations: The following donations were approved –  
Samaritans (Brecon & Radnor)

£100.00 (precepted)

Presteigne Guides	£100.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Brownies	£100.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Rainbows	£100.00 (precepted)
Powys Citizens Advice Bureau	£100.00 (precepted)
Norton Sports Committee (annual fireworks)	£200.00 (precepted)
Sheep Music (annual fireworks)	£500.00 (precepted)
(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –	
Mrs T A Price (Sept pay)	£1312.76
HM Revenue & Customs	£517.20
NEST (direct debit)	£122.99
T. Lloyd-John	£660.70
N. Close	£97.84
N. Close	£114.74 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£297.07 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Knillco Hardware (TC labels)	£18.00
Amazon (ink cartridge)	£9.89
JRB Enterprise Ltd	£119.46 MEADOW ACCOUNT
G.R. Morris Ltd (groundworks reservoir)	£1380.00
Seward Precision Engineering	£332.75 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£99.46
Presteigne Building Supplies	£186.90 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Owens (Mayor's Expenses)	£132.30
Presteigne Gates	£264.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Purrfect Cat Hire	£2840.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
(3) Receipts: The following receipt was noted –	
Powys County Council (2 <sup>nd</sup> precept payment)	£23,211.44

(4) Replacement etc of Town Information Boards: Members noted the request for a donation towards the cost of replacing the Boards/adding a new board. The total cost to be £1200 with £600 pledged by Presteigne Trust. Members felt this could not be agreed from the current budget but asked that it be included for consideration when setting the 2020-21 precept.

(5) Insurance: Members considered further the need for damage insurance for MUGA and Outdoor Gym and also for cyber insurance cover. It was resolved not to take out either cover at present.

(6) Bank Transfers: The following transfers were agreed -

Transfer of £1150 from the Warden Reserve Account to the Treasurer account to cover the net costs of the invoice from GR Morris Ltd.

Transfer of £53.90 from the Warden Reserve Account to the Treasurer account to cover the net costs of the invoice from Presteigne Building Supplies.

Transfer of £220.00 from the Warden Reserve Account to the Meadow account to cover the net costs of the invoice from Presteigne Gates.

(All transfers relating to the work on the former reservoir site).

(6) Completion of External Audit 2018-19: Members noted that the external audit was now complete and no issues had been raised.

(7) Replacement of Council Printer: Members authorised the Clerk to purchase a replacement printer at an approximate cost of £330 plus VAT. Clerk to select model depending on best offer available at the time of purchase.

(8) Reissue of cheque 100581 (£158.72) to R. Rimington: Members approved the reissue of cheque 100581 and noted that a stop had been placed on the original cheque.

## **MIN 3662 PLANNING**

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

19/1056/LBC Grid Reference: E:331650 N: 264586 Proposal: Removal of existing porch and erection of a canopy Site Address: Tan House, Broad Street, Presteigne: Resolved to support the application.

(2) Planning Decisions: To note the following decisions – None this month.

*Cllr. Owens left the room for the duration of the following item and Cllr. Preece assumed the Chair.*

(3) Planning Application Land North of Clatterbrune (19/0963/FUL): Members considered the updated information on the above application. They felt that none of the issues raised in July had been addressed and in particular felt that rotating the angle of the property (so becoming closer to the fence line) had not changed the fundamental concerns with the proposal. It also noted that the plans still show

footway/pavement along the sides of the access road and these do not exist. Pedestrians therefore have to walk in the road. Members also asked for a reply on the question of criminal damage raised in July and again raised concerns about the removal of trees - feeling this could not be justified. The Clerk was also instructed to ask why the Town Council was not formally consulted on the amended information as had this not been raised by a resident Members would not have been aware of any changes.

*Cllr. Owens returned to the room.*

(4) National Development Framework Consultation: Cllr. Wilding reported on the meeting of the LDP Working Group and it was agreed that the following comments be made -

- An expression of disappointment that rural Mid Wales is included in a region with Swansea and Llanelli as this will make it difficult to properly target help for the rural and sparsely populated area of Powys. To ask that Mid Wales be its own region so that its rurality can be properly addressed.
- P32 – There is mention of the need to encourage Ultra Low Emission vehicles and provide the necessary infrastructure. This is very much supported but needs urgent action - the Town Council has been asking for charging points locally for at least two years but action/progress is incredibly slow.
- P37 – wind and solar designations. Why are national parks excluded and Radnor Forest included? Generally there would be fewer people affected in national parks and it does not seem equitable that the landscape of Radnor Forest will be affected and its beauty not protected when the beauty of other areas is seen as worth preserving.
- P20 Support of job opportunities and community services for rural areas – how will this be achieved, particularly with growth aimed at the larger towns and cities? This seems to contradict the aim to support the rural areas.
- Transport Links to be improved. Traws Cymru bus service and general improvement in public transport links would be an important boost for the East Radnor area. The Town Council would like to see this fully considered and is willing to work with the necessary organisations and officers to achieve this.

(5) LDP Supplementary Planning Guidance – Residential Design and Conservation Areas: Cllr. Wilding reported on the discussions of the LDP Working Group and the questions raised with the County Council since the Working Group meeting. It was agreed that the following comments be made –

#### **LDP SPG Residential Design**

- Area Centre Appraisal for Presteigne - this was felt to be excessive and too restrictive for properties outside the conservation area
- P52 refers to sewage requirements and the feasibility of connecting to the mains sewer. No definition of 'feasible' in this context and in the event of there being no capacity in the short term for connection to the mains no guidance on whether a package sewage treatment plant could be considered as a temporary solution with connection to the mains to follow. In general it was felt that this needed to be clearer and have more detail.
- Provision of electric vehicle charging points - this is very much supported but needs action now!

Concern was also expressed at –

- Compulsory requirement for chimney stacks – unnecessary, wasting land space and materials.
- Two/three storey buildings to be main types: Bungalows needed, particularly for older people.
- Dwellings generally no more than 3m from highway – does this not conflict with parking requirements for new build properties.
- Appraisal precludes eco homes.
- Generally –
- Sustainable transport hierarchy but bus routes continue to be cut
- Charge points to be included in the design of a development but none yet in PCCs own car parks.

#### **LDP SPG Conservation Areas**

More detail needed on when an historical impact assessment would be required

A need to balance conservation area restrictions with the need to allow changes for disability access.

A need to balance conservation area restrictions with the need to make both new and existing properties more energy efficient (e.g. replacement windows).

Understanding the need to preserve appearance and features but feeling the policy needs to be more forward looking in order to considerably incorporate new technology. Could be some allowance built into the guidance for such matters?

(6) Sewage Capacity for Presteigne Area: Cllr Kirkby noted that Welsh Water had confirmed in June that they had started on the feasibility study and asked that the Clerk contact Welsh Water for an update.

### **MIN 3663 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

(1) Highway Items for repair: The following items were noted –

- Repair to Lugg Bridge: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he still had not been contacted by the Highways Officer to discuss this matter and the Clerk was asked to remind the Officer.
- Appletree Meadow: Cllr. Baynham reported that there had been issues with conservatories on the Estate but that these were being addressed alongside works to roofs and would hopefully take place in the next financial year.
- Graffiti in Underpass: Members considered options for removing the graffiti following concerns raised by a resident. It was felt that removal of the graffiti would necessarily remove the underlying painting and so it was agreed to seek quotes to re-do the graffitied sections. Members would suggest possible contacts to the Clerk.
- Overgrown Footpath, Norton: Cllr. Owens reported that he had received a complaint about an overgrown stretch of footpath (near the sewage works). Members felt that this was not an official footpath and Cllr. Owens would inform the resident.
- Norton Potholes etc: The Clerk reported that the various potholes reported had now been completed as had the repair to the pavement in front of Corte Cottage.
- Road Sweeping, Presteigne: Cllr. Baynham reported that the sweeper was scheduled to visit during the first week in November. She suggested that residents of Hereford Street be notified of the exact date when known and that a joint leaflet be sent from herself and the Town Council politely asking residents if they could park elsewhere that day. Members agreed that this be done but asked that if possible free parking be provided in the Hereford Street Car Park for residents that day.

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

Autumn planting of bulbs, primroses and cowslips and request for bulbs from Town Council: Agreed to purchase a similar number of bulbs as the previous year.

Offer of Table at Community Group Fair: Agreed Town Council would take a table at the fair with the theme of Climate Change. Members to man the table as follows –

- 10am to 11am Cllr. Owens
- 11am to 12pm Cllr. Linnett
- 12pm to 2pm Cllr. Kirkby
- 2pm to 4pm Cllr Wilding.

(3) Active Travel Route: Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council would now be completing the yellow lines and the road painting for the Welsh translation of 'No entry' in Broadaxe Lane. The cost of this would be deducted from the amount due to the contractor. The pedestrian crossing lighting had now been repaired. She added that the one way trial was still to go ahead and Members discussed alternatives to this – including parking on the opposite side of the road, reduced on-street parking and free resident parking in the Hereford Street Car Park. The Clerk would request a meeting with the County Officers.

(4) Grass Verge Cutting/Wildflower Planting: Cllr. Baynham reported that she had not yet managed to meet the Officers and the matter was deferred to the October meeting.

(5) Dark Skies/Lighting Update: Cllr. Baynham reported on the meeting with the County Council which had been received positively and 'in principle' support had been agreed. Various Members had taken part in filming for the promotional video and this was now being edited by Dark Source. Fund raising for the project would take place over the coming months and the Clerk advised that a Group would need to partner with the Project to receive donations. She also reminded Members that should the project not go ahead then all monies would need to be returned. Dark Source had confirmed that it was now working on a design fee proposal and a copy would be available in due course.

(6) Letter from Broadheath residents re. speed limit request: See Minute 3658

## **MIN 3664      NORTON**

(1) St. Andrews Church, Norton: Members reported that the community survey was now complete and just under ninety household responses had been received. Of these sixty-nine households had elected to become members of the Community Trust and of the households not choosing to become members the majority supported the proposed changes to the Church.

(2) Annual Bonfire and Fireworks: To be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

## **MIN 3665      SITES AND BUILDINGS**

(1) Public Conveniences: The Clerk reported that one of the doors at Wilson Terrace had been deliberately damaged. This had been reported to the police. The Clerk also advised that the Bill to remove Business Rates from toilets in England had been delayed and so had not yet become law.

(2) Allotments: Cllr. Ruby had not yet reported back on possible solutions to the vole problem. The Clerk advised of problems with the bins in the allotment car park being filled with compost bags etc and it was agreed that she write to the allotment tenants asking that they try, if possible, to take their rubbish home particularly if the bin was full.

(3) Meadows:

- Community Building: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the opening night had been very successful and that the building regulation completion certificate had now been received.
- Pathway Improvements: Cllr. Bennett had submitted a revised quote for the work on the paths at Lower Went's Meadow. The Clerk advised that Cllr. Bennett was intending to do this work during the first week in October. Cllr. Kirkby suggested that the work be incorporated with the work to the upper path alongside the skateboard park and that Purrfect Cat Hire be asked to assist with the lower paths. A budget of £2000 was agreed for both areas - £1000 from the general meadow maintenance budget and £1000 from the new barn budget. Cllr. Kirkby would discuss this with Cllr. Bennett.
- Grant Application for Aerial Runway (zip wire): Cllr. Kirkby reported that the grant application to the National Lottery Awards for All fund had been successful. The order would now be placed with the County Council preferred supplier, Playdale. Members also noted that the two play panels were now in place.
- Grant Applications Withy Beds/Lower Went's Meadow: The Clerk reported that she had met with a number of suppliers over the summer and would be discussing options with the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust the next day (19<sup>th</sup>) to discuss options for a small initial grant application.
- Annual Play Area Inspection Report: The Clerk reported that the works noted were all minor in nature and that Mr. Close had been instructed to carry out the necessary works. Members confirmed that the same company should be booked for the 2020 inspection.
- Cutting of Lower Went's Meadow: Members agreed that Cllr. Wilding arrange the cutting of the grass as soon as possible.
- Meadow Use Form: It was agreed that the following conditions be added to the Meadow Use Request form –
  - All Commercial Organisations to take away their rubbish after their event or make arrangements for a paid for collection.
  - All Organisations to make every effort to separate rubbish and recycle as much as possible.
  - All Organisations to try to avoid the single use plastic and use recyclable or re-useable items.
  - Parking on the upper (football pitch) field to be only permitted during very dry weather.
- Silia Wood: A site meeting had been arranged for 1<sup>st</sup> October. Cllrs. Kirkby and Wilding would attend.
- Community Storage: The Clerk reported that she had been emailing the Head Teacher but had not yet received a reply on the temporary fencing. Cllr. Preece was asked to call into the School to speak to the Head to discuss.
- Locations for School Poster Signs/purchase of two galvanised posts: Members confirmed the locations as suggested but felt that the two posts were not needed. The Clerk would proceed to order the signs.

## **MIN 3666 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

- (1) Liaison with Schools: Cllr. Veary reported that she continued to liaise with the Primary School and that she had now had several positive conversations with the Secondary School. She hoped to go into the Secondary School very soon, in particular to discuss climate change.
- (2) Christmas Lights 2019: Members noted that the Clerk would need to apply for the bunting licence very soon and that insurance cover would need to be arranged for the period that the lights were in place. A full quote was expected from Cllr. Bennett shortly and the Clerk was asked to contact CONNECT to clarify its earlier email on erecting the lights.
- (3) Education in Presteigne: There had still been no contact from the Primary School regarding a meeting to discuss the future of education provision in Presteigne. The Clerk was asked to follow this up so a meeting could be arranged in the near future.
- (4) Report on Second Tri Towns Meeting: Cllr. Preece reported on the meeting. Matters discussed had included a joint facebook events page for the three towns, improving transport links. Walking routes/leaflet, grass cutting and the National Development Framework. Members gave agreement for joint representation to be made to Welsh Government for a Traws Cymru Bus Service to be provided in East Radnor and for representatives to meet WG National Development Framework team on the issue. Cllr. Preece requested additional representative(s) be appointed. No one could attend the next meeting and additional Members would attend as and when possible.
- (5) Walkers Crisp Recycling Information from Walkers Website: Members noted the information provided both from the website and from PACDG. No further action.
- (6) Message from Resident re. inadequate broadband provision: The Clerk reported the concern raised by a resident in Presteigne. Members asked that she contact BT for an update on the current position.
- (7) Letter from Herefordshire Council re review of major infrastructure projects: Noted.
- (8) Eluned Morgan Newsletter: Noted.
- (9) Sale of Castle Inn, Wigmore: Members noted that the Castle Inn had been sold.
- (10) Powys County Council Request for Feedback on Budget Position: Members considered the various budget pressures and following a suggestion from Cllr. Baynham agreed to respond asking that the budget for highways be protected and that no further cuts were made in this area.
- (11) Future of Presteigne Trust and the Tourism Project: Members felt that the Trust should continue and not be wound up and that it could be useful for future projects. Cllr. Wilding agreed to speak to the Trust Chairman as soon as possible. Future management of the website would also need to be considered should the Trust be closed down.
- (12) Reply from PCC Portfolio Holder on electric vehicle charging points: Members noted the letter explaining the situation with regard to charging points.
- (13) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted.

## **MIN 3667 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

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

- Issues with Hereford Street and the Active Travel Route
- Speeding at Broadheath.
- Problems with obtaining bags for litter picking.

All residents had received a response from the Clerk or Cllr. Baynham.

No September Surgery. Arrangements for October Surgery: Cllrs. Bamford and Veary to attend.

## **MIN 3668 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

- Green Flag Award Presentation for the Warden.
- Silver Kite Awards for Heather Lewis and Nicky Wozencraft.
- Attendance at Care & Repair AGM.
- Attendance at MWAH AGM and confirmation that the Association still has further properties on Walkers Meadow in its future programme.
- Attendance at the screening of the Powys War Memorial Project Video.
- Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway Queen's Award for Volunteering.

## **MIN 3669 CO-OPTION**

Five candidates had put their names forward for co-option and Cllr. Owens reminded Members of the process to be followed. It was unanimously agreed that the vote should be by secret ballot and the Clerk

distributed voting papers. Peter Smith was the successful candidate and the Clerk would notify all candidates of the decision.

**MIN 3670 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

(1) Vintage Car Reception: Cllr. Preece reported that the invitations had now been sent out and all was in place for the reception.

**MIN 3671 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 3672 FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICE/ASSEMBLY ROOMS BUILDING IN PRESTEIGNE**

A press release was shortly expected from the County Council and it was therefore agreed to take no further action until the contents were known. Cllrs. Wilding and Baynham had met with Jane Dodds MP and she had pledged support for the retention of the branch libraries. Members also heard that the capital works to the Assembly Rooms were underway. Notes from the Working Group Meeting had been circulated.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm