

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2023
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards (Mayor), B. Baynham (Deputy Mayor), R. Bamford, T. Owens, M. Williams, J. Poster, F. Preece, M. Price, Gray, J. Wilding.

Apologies: Cllrs. A. Van Huls, L. Abecasis.
Absent: Cllr. L. Firth.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. One member 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. B. Baynham, employee of East Radnorshire Care, re. donation to East Radnorshire Care (previously precepted).

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. T. Owens, owner of adjacent property, re. planning Radnorshire Arms Hotel.

Cllr. Edwards welcomed Guest Speakers, Bethan and Ian from the Welsh Ambulance Service who explained the current cover in the area with regard to First and Co-Responders and on the training provided for potential first responder groups. They also explained that the contract with the Fire Service meant they were only able to respond to certain types of emergency call. Members thanked the Officers for attending.

MIN 4180 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March, 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the Minutes as such.

MIN 4181 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

- (1) Nature Reserve Open Day: Cllr. Williams asked for clarification on the arrangements and Cllr. Bamford stated that these would be available in due course.
- (2) Awards Success for Dark Source: Members noted the recent success for Kerem Asfuroglu and his company Dark Source. (Mr. Asfuroglu is the lighting designer working on the Dark Skies Project).
- (3) East Radnorshire Leisure Centre: The Clerk had chased a response from the Centre but had still had no reply. It was agreed to invite a representative from the Centre to a Council meeting to discuss what was being done to promote the centre and ways the Council could assist to ensure its long-term future.

MIN 4182 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donations were approved as precepted:-

East Radnorshire Care	2000.00
Memorial Hall	1000.00
Mid Border Arts	1250.00
Norton Community Trust	5000.00
PACDG	250.00
Presteigne Festival	1250.00
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250.00

The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000.00
Powys CAB	200.00
The Samaritans	250.00
Youth Project	1000.00

Donation to the Sleeping Dragon Replacement Fund: The Clerk advised Members of the budgets held for miscellaneous donations and it was agreed to donate the £300 remaining in the budget for 2022-23 to the project.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1678.17
HM Revenue & Customs	£709.78
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
One Voice Wales (annual subs)	£546.00
Society of Local Council Clerks (annual sub)	£279.00
Mrs T.A. Price (refund – stamps)	£90.60
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACC
Presteigne Youth Project (hire – tree hub)	£24.00
Microsoft (email storage) (2022/23 Accounts)	£19.99 (Debit Card)
T. Lloyd-John	£414.99
JRB Enterprises Ltd	£734.16 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Barn)	£25.41 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (H'fd Street Toilets)	£166.91
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£33.26
Annual Zoom Subscription (refund T. Price)	£143.88
N. Close	£62.00
N. Close	£167.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£4.72 MEADOW ACCOUNT
HSBC (Bank Charges) – Treasurer Acc)	£11.47
HSBC (Bank charges) – Meadow Acc)	£16.42 MEADOW ACCOUNT
L. Stephens (internal audit fee)	£88.00
Nature Reserve Payments –	
Mid Border Arts (room hire)	£100.00
Bucknell Nurseries	£509.50
Presteigne Gates	£208.80
Artisan Print	£26.44
J. Poster (refund compost)	£32.02
Alan Jones Tree Surgeon	£990.00

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –

Allotment Rent 2023-24 Accounts	£56.00
Allotment Rent 2022-23 Accounts	£140.00
HM Revenue & Customs (VAT refund)	£7945.72

(4) Annual VAT Return and Year End Payroll to HMRC: Noted as submitted.

(5) Review of Project and General Reserve Balances and budget information to 31st March: Members noted the documents supplied and confirmed the following –

- Balances of the following budgets to be retained within allocated reserves –
 - Training Fees for Clerk, Election Expenses, Councillor Training.
- Balance of miscellaneous budget to be used for the donation towards the Sleeping Dragon Fund (as above)
- Unused budget for repainting of town fingerposts: To be returned to free reserves.

(6) Approval of Annual Accounts for 2022/23: Approved as circulated.

(7) Internal Audit 2022/23 Accounts: Members noted the internal audit was now complete and that no issues had been raised.

(8) Bank Transfer: The transfer of £306.44 from the Meadow Account to the Treasurer Account to cover the additional hours paid to the Clerk in April for allotment work was approved.

(9) Bank Transfer: The transfer of the precepted amount (2023/24) of £12,075.00.00 from the Treasurer Account to the Meadow Account was approved.

(10) Bank Transfer: The transfer of the Meadow VAT reclaim for 2022/23 of £1660.49 from the Treasurer account to the Meadow account was noted.

(11) Mayor's expenses 2022/23: Cllr. Edwards had not as yet made a definite decision and would possibly use towards Coronation Events and any remainder for charitable donations. She would confirm when she had made a decision.

(12) Grant application from Warden View Methodist Church (Climate Crisis Fund): Agree to provide the £250 grant applied for.

MIN 4183 PLANNING

(1) Planning Applications: No applications this month.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted: -
22/1323/HH Fairview, Stonewall Hill: Approval 14th March.
23/0236/FUL The Woodyard, Broadaxe: Refusal 5th April.

Cllr. Owens left the room for the duration of the following item.

(3) Planning Enforcement: Cllr. Wilding raised concerns at the lack of planning enforcement and at recent works locally that appeared to be taking place without any planning application applied for and/or granted. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the County Council and separately to CADW to raise concerns about the works and to ask that action be taken.

Cllr. Owens returned to the room.

MIN 4184 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting Update: The Clerk advised that the application was now almost ready for submission to the International Dark Skies Association. Cllr. Baynham was aware of some issues with the new lights being on at the wrong time and asked that Members report any that they noticed using the form on the County Council website.

(2) Climate Crisis/Nature Reserve Update:
Nature Reserve Update: Cllr. Bamford reported the following –
Secondary School to monitor the new site as part of a GCSE project.
Primary School had again been helping on site.
Pond planting delayed due to the weather.

Project Update completed on the Lottery Portal and the Clerk had submitted a claim for repayment of additional monies spent to the end of the financial year.

Purchase of tractor/implements: Discussions took place on the best options for purchase and Cllr. Bamford confirmed that the model suggested had been recommended by three wildlife trusts. Agreed that Cllr. Bamford proceed to purchase and also if possible, to get a three or five year service agreement included. She would also investigate what training would be needed by users of the equipment. Insurance would cost around £75-£100 per year.

Tree Hub: 233 trees given out in March. A number of trees also provided for planting on the new nature reserve.

(3) One Way Hereford Street Update: Members noted the update provided.

(4) Drainage/Flooding Problems, Greenfield Road - Complaint from resident: Clerk to forward to the County Council and to notify the resident.

MIN 4185 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that work was progressing well.

MIN 4186 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Members noted with concern the recent vandalism at the Wilson Terrace site.

(2) Allotments: Members noted the use of a path from the bridge behind the allotments and agreed to monitor the situation. The request from the Allotment Association for £50 to purchase netting and staples to further rabbit proof the site was agreed.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Use Request – Mid Border Arts 19-21st May (event on 20th May): Agreed.
- Vandalism – fires/vaping equipment: Members noted that the police had been informed and were carrying out extra patrols. The Clerk was asked to put a post on the Council's social media to encourage the public to report any incidents seen to 101.

- Next Sites and Buildings Committee – 3rd May.

(4) Community Storage Arrangements: Cllr. Bamford reported that she had been told that the Sixth Firm Block was to be demolished in the coming year and so the need for community storage would at that point become urgent. She suggested a joint venture with the Youth Project to site a container at the Old School initially and with work continuing on a design for storage on the Meadow. Members felt it was better to concentrate on storage on the Meadow and it was agreed to ask Mr. O. Rimington to carry on with his design so a grant application could be put together. Cllr. Baynham would make enquiries to see how soon the demolition was likely to happen although she did not think it would be within twelve months.

MIN 4187 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Community Broadband Scheme Update: Surveying work still planned to start in September. Leaflets had been sent out to local households and the Clerk had a new set of banners which would be put up shortly to promote the project.

(2) Ambulance Service – EMERTS Consultation:

- Consultation Event, Knighton: Cllr Baynham reported on this. Around eighty people had attended. An online consultation was available and Members were encouraged to complete this. The Clerk would complete a response on behalf of the Town Council.
- First/Co Responders: Members considered the information provided by the two Officers at the start of the meeting. The Clerk was asked to ask them for contact details of who to speak to about the use/non use of the co-responders. She was also asked to contact the Fire Service to ask for details of their agreement with the Ambulance Service and a definition of the call they have agreed to attend.

(3) Consultation - Penn Review response (Local Authority Ethical Standards Framework and Code of Conduct): Noted. No comment to be made.

(4) Stakeholder Consultation - Forest Management carried out by Natural Resources Wales: Agreed that the following comment be submitted – ‘more effort to be made to protect native, veteran and ancient trees across its estates’. Cllr. Williams asked that the Clerk ask why areas were not cleared after felling.

(5) Town and Community Council – Environment and Nature event - 14th June 2023: Cllr. Poster to attend if free. He would check and let the Clerk know.

(6) Town Investment Plan: Noted. No further comment.

MIN 4188 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- To attend meeting with Bute Energy in Builth Wells on 20th April.
- Leisure Centre Review underway. To note also that the school’s usage figure used in the previous assessment had been incorrect. Agreed that the Clerk contact the Portfolio Holder to remind them of the offer of a meeting once the review was underway.

Cllr. Edwards reported the following –

- Also attending the meeting with Bute Energy.
- Chief Executive currently on long term sick leave and an interim Chief Executive in post.
- Issues with school transport for a Norton resident being addressed.

MIN 4189 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Community Barn: Cllr. Williams reported a puddle on the floor and was concerned that the roof was possibly leaking. The Clerk would ask Mr. Close to monitor.

(2) Dead Oak Trees, Corton Roundabout: Cllr. Poster had been contacted by a resident concerned that these had been planted by the developer of Maes Corton but had now died. The Clerk would investigate and ask that the trees be replaced and that care was taken to ensure they were watered until established.

(3) Memorial Hall: Cllr. Wilding asked that this be placed on the next agenda for an update.

Cllr. Edwards concluded the meeting by thanking Members for their help during her year as Mayor.

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.