

# Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024 IN THE GREEN ROOM, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

**Present:** Cllrs. Ramsay (Chairman), Edwards (Vice-Chairman), Baynham and Kirkby MBE.  
Outside Representatives Ms. K. Van Den Ende, J. Mottershead (via video link)

**Apologies:** None.

**In Attendance:** Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

**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 and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016.

*Personal: None. Personal and Prejudicial: None*

Cllr. Baynham opened the meeting as Chairman of the Council given there was no committee Chair in place.

### **9/23. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2023/24**

Due to the resignation of Cllr. Poster it was necessary to elect a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Nominations were invited by Cllr. Baynham.

Cllr. Ramsay was proposed by Cllr. Kirkby and seconded by K. Van Den Ende and elected unanimously.

### **10/23. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2023/24**

Cllr. Edwards was proposed by Cllr. Baynham, seconded by Cllr. Kirkby and elected unanimously.

### **11/23. CLIMATE CRISIS STAKEHOLDER GROUP:**

Agreed unanimously that Cllr. Ramsay fill the vacancy on the Group.

### **12/23. CLIMATE CRISIS GRANTS: UPDATE.**

The Clerk explained the process for applications and the need for groups to have a bank account and constitution for applications to be considered. She stressed that the Council could not give to individuals or informal groups of individuals and that the Council monies were public money and as such needed to be used carefully. Decisions on grants were made by Full Council but the Committee was asked to promote the scheme.

With regard to small projects/events such as events on the nature reserve or wildflower planting, it was stressed that as this was Council land then volunteers could work under the auspices of the Town Council and the Council, if it agreed to support the proposals would pay any costs direct.

A short discussion followed on the need for two grant schemes (general and climate crisis) and the Committee felt that it would be better to retain the two schemes although it would be for Full Council to consider any changes to the present arrangements.

### **13/23 COMMITTEE NAME AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Name: Cllr. Baynham had asked for this to be on the agenda so that the Committee could suggest alternatives for consideration by Full Council in May. A number of options were considered involving climate change, climate crisis, sustainability and biodiversity but no consensus was reached. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate the names used by other local Councils and report back to the Full Council meeting in May for a decision. Cllr. Kirkby suggested that the Committee become a sub committee of Sites and Buildings. The Clerk advised that the remit of the Committee was broader than just looking at Council property and did not feel this was appropriate. It was not taken further at this point.

Terms of Reference: Cllr. Ramsay stated that he felt that the terms were too broad and needed to be more specific. The Clerk advised that the terms were deliberately not specific in order to allow the committee more

freedom to discuss relevant matters. It was agreed to put forward some small changes for consideration by Full Council in May and that the Committee would ask to review the full terms before the May 2025 meeting. The changes suggested were –

- Membership – 2: Clerk to amend wording to clarify that ‘Members’ related to Members of the Town Council not Committee Members.
- Responsibilities – 12: Add reference to solar panels and wind turbines.

#### **14/23 UPDATES ON PREVIOUS MATTERS**

Hedge Management: Cllr. Ramsay asked for the updated management plan. The Clerk apologised that she did not have an updated version but would consult with Cllr. Wilding and produce one.

Nature Reserve: Ms. Van Den Ende reported that 90% of the new trees had survived and that left over trees were being planted in Dog Kennel Lane and used for infill on Went’s Meadow. There were now four areas of wildflower planting (including one on Went’s Meadow). Some areas on the reserve would benefit from a high cut in due course. She added that the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust had asked that a blog be written on the site. Cllr. Baynham stressed that as a Council site, requests should come through the Council not direct to volunteers. Cllr. Ramsay reported that the inside lip of the ponds needed to be seeded and some grass seed would need to be sown on areas compacted by the pond work. The ponds were currently full but would need review after the Summer months. The ditch created to assist with water flow had been eroding and small dams were being put in place to assist with that. The Clerk asked about the situation with water from the reserve running off from the site onto the School/Slough Road and Cllr. Ramsay had looked at this and there was no more water leaving the site than previously with the ponds actually retaining water for a period of time. He added that it seemed there were highways issues both above with water being diverted from the road above the school via a public pond and causing a large amount of excess water. There was also an issue with drainage on Slough Road in front of the school.

It was agreed that given the site would develop over time it would be useful to put some signage on site to advise of that. Agreed that a request be made to Full Council for funding for such signs.

It was stressed that volunteers need to email the Clerk and confirm when they would be working on site and what they would be doing etc. If this was not done then volunteers would not be covered by Council insurance not would any work they carried out be covered in the event of any accident.

#### **15/23 BIODIVERSITY REPORT**

This was confirmed as being next due in December 2025. A copy of the previous reports was on the Council website. The Clerk confirmed that she was not aware of any monitoring for such reports by Welsh Government.

The latest climate crisis report was also online. There was an issue with the links to the report and a climate crisis policy. The Clerk would review this and improve the page so it was clearer.

#### **16/23 DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

It was confirmed that the Council had acknowledged the climate emergency and Cllr. Edwards added that the Council had not felt it was qualified to declare an emergency but wished to acknowledge the situation.

#### **17/23 WIND FARM/PYLONS – EMAIL FROM LLANDRINDOD TOWN COUNCIL**

There was a short discussion on the position of the Committee on green energy and wind turbine options but no consensus was reached. Cllr. Baynham was able to confirm that the County Council had, in any event already refused the request. It was agreed that that a response to the email be made by Full Council and it would be on the April agenda.

#### **18/23. URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

- Replacement of Oak Trees, Maes Corton Housing Association had confirmed it would replace.
- Tree Group; Ms. Van Den Ende asked if the Council was holding any monies on behalf of the Tree Group. The Clerk was not aware of anything and added that in general the Council did not hold monies for other bodies as this would be an issue during the audit process.
- Item for July Agenda submitted by Cllr. Baynham – Solar Panels, East Radnor Leisure Centre.

#### **19/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

**Summary of Full Council Decisions Required –**

*To confirm the attendance of Cllr. Ramsay at future Climate Crisis Stakeholder Group Meetings.*

*To recommend that a review of the name of the Committee be considered at the Annual Full Council Meeting in May 2024.*

*To recommend the following changes to the Terms of Reference be considered at the Annual Full Council Meeting in May, 2024 –*

- *Membership – 2: Clerk to amend wording to clarify that ‘Members’ related to Members of the Town Council not Committee Members.*
- *Responsibilities – 12: Add reference to solar panels and wind turbines.*
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*To request permission to review the full terms of reference at a future Committee meeting for consideration by Full Council in May 2025.*

*To note the update on progress of nature reserve project. NB Now managed under Sites and Buildings Committee.*

*To note the Committee request for an updated hedge management policy.*

The meeting closed at 8.08 pm.