

# Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE GREEN ROOM, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

**Present:** Cllrs. Poster (Chairman), Firth (Vice-Chairman), Bamford and Gray (via video link)  
Outside Representatives: Ms. K. Van Den Ende, Ms. J. Mottershead.

**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*

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2022/23

Cllr. Poster was proposed by Cllr. Bamford, seconded by Cllr. Firth and elected unanimously.

### 2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2022/23

Cllr. Firth was proposed by Cllr. Bamford, seconded by Cllr. Gray and elected unanimously.

### 3. CLIMATE CRISIS GRANT FUND

Cllr. Bamford explained the history of the fund and the reduced annual budget due to previous years not being fully utilised and the Clerk reminded the Committee that the Council asked for groups to be formally constituted and to have their own bank accounts. It was possible to ask Council permission for occasional exceptions but this may or may not be granted depending on the circumstances.

The Council had a formal application form specifically for grants from this fund but there had only been a few applications (tree weekend/energy survey). In order to promote the Fund Cllr. Poster agreed to draft a short piece for the next Community News. The allocated reserve presently stood at approximately £1450 with a further £250 to be added in the new financial year.

Ms. Mottershead suggested possibly funding for the new community garden as despite it being over the border it would be serving residents of Presteigne and Norton. She would pass on an application form in case the group wished to apply.

### 4. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

It was agreed that for the present the Committee would concentrate on completing the Nature Reserve Project and would consider any further projects in due course.

### 5. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Agreed not to allocate specific areas of responsibility and matters of interest and relevance would be forwarded to all Committee Members for comment.

### 6. NATURE RESERVE PROJECT

**Update:** Cllr. Bamford provided an update on works at the new nature reserve –

- Path almost complete
- Ponds dug and slowly filling.
- Tree Survey completed and contractor appointed for works.
- Tree planting day very successful.
- Pond planting and further tree planting sessions planned.
- Formal opening planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Cllr. Poster suggested signage to discourage parking by the access gate and it was agreed that this would be considered.

**Access for Dogs:** The Committee then considered the issue of dogs accessing the new reserve. The Tree Group had provided a short report on the reasons why it believed access should not be given for dogs and Ms. Mottershead added that despite some existing reserves allowing dogs many new reserves no longer did so and she agreed to provide some examples for adding to the report. Some adjustments were then made to the final document for providing to full Council for a decision. It was agreed that the Committee strongly recommend that no access be provided for dogs.

**Biodiversity Enhancement Plan:** The draft report was considered. Cllr. Poster pointed out that there were actually twenty arboretum trees if those on the roadside edge were included. It was also noted that the map needed updating. There were no further comments.

## **7. HEDGE MANAGEMENT**

Committee Members considered the current arrangements for hedge cutting on Council land. They noted the brief review by Council in December 2022 when the following was agreed -

*Hedge Management: Members discussed the current arrangements and options for the future. It was agreed that for the time being the hedge in Eddie's Meadow would be left grow out to the side and just the top would be cut. This could be reviewed as necessary. The remaining hedges on Town Council land would be cut as at present but this would be monitored periodically.*

Ms Van Den Ende and Ms. Mottershead agreed to review the hedges within Council ownership and produce recommendations for Council to consider in due course. The draft report would initially be presented to the next Committee Meeting for comment.

## **8. GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS COMMUNITY ORCHARD, WENT'S MEADOW**

Cllr. Bamford reported that the trial arrangement had not worked that well and suggested that maybe the probation community service could consider clearing around the tree bases by hand and also to rake up the grass. It was agreed to abandon the circles left for the trial and to suggest leaving the area below the bike track unmown. The Council's grass cutters to be asked to mow a clear border to that area.

## **9. LETTER FROM RESIDENT RE. MANAGEMENT OF EDDIE'S MEADOW**

A copy of the letter had been circulated with the meeting papers. The Clerk believed that a management plan had been originally produced but there had been no further surveys or assessments. She was asked to see if the Warden Guardians had any capacity to do any works on the site and Ms. Mottershead agreed to investigate possible survey costs. The Clerk would draft an initial reply for consideration by full Council in due course.

## **10. URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

(1) Climate Conference for Town and Community Councils: 14<sup>th</sup> June. Possible topics for submission included alternative energy sources for Council buildings and protection for existing trees. The Clerk would pass these suggestions on.

(2) Pruning of Orchard: Cllr. Bamford reported that some of the trees were plum and damson and so could not be pruned until the Spring. Agreed that she ask the contractor to return to complete these in due course.

(3) Verges: Cllr. Bamford gave a short update on the arrangements for verge cutting in 2023

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed as 5<sup>th</sup> July subject to Cllr. Poster being available.

### **Summary of Full Council Decisions Required –**

*To note the proposed promotion of the Council Climate Crisis Grant Fund.*

*To consider the Committee recommendation that dogs not be allowed on the new Nature Reserve.*

*To note the Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for the new Nature Reserve.*

*To note the review of the management of Council owned hedges with a report to be presented to Council at the July meeting.*

*To agree the changes to the trial mowing arrangements at the Community Orchard/Below the bike track.*

*To agree a response to the resident's letter re Eddie's Meadow.*

*To review the management plan for Eddie's Meadow and consider any actions needed.*

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm.