

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JANUARY 2025
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. T. Owens (Mayor), A. Van Huls (Deputy Mayor), B. Baynham D. Edwards, C. Ross, A. Ramsay, J. Ramsay, C. Kirkby MBE, L. Harling-Bowen.

Apologies: Cllrs. F. Preece, J. Wilding.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

Absent: Cllrs. M. Price, N. Rogers.

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. Edwards, member of Presteigne and Norton Community Trust re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Presteigne and Norton Community Trust. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Edwards, Trustee East Radnorshire Care re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to East Radnorshire Care. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Edwards, Memorial Hall Committee Member re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Presteigne & District Memorial Hall. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Kirkby, member of Presteigne and Norton Community Trust re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Presteigne and Norton Community Trust. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. A. Ramsay, member of Sheep Music Committee re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Sheep Music. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Ross, member of Sheep Music Committee re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Sheep Music. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Van Huls, member of Presteigne and Norton Community Trust re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Presteigne and Norton Community Trust. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Van Huls, Trustee East Radnorshire Care re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation East Radnorshire Care. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. B. Baynham, employee of East Radnorshire Care, re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to East Radnorshire Care.

MIN 4424 PLANNING

24/1806/FUL Grid Reference: E:330958 N: 264912 Proposal: Erection of community building Site Address: Went's Meadow, Knighton Road, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2BW. Noted as a Town Council application therefore no comment would be made.

MIN 4425 FINANCE

(1) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price (pay)	£1630.80	
HM Revenue & Customs	£627.49	
NEST	£150.64	
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£449.69	MEADOW ACC
T. Lloyd-John	£408.49	
High Street Grant	£3480.64	
High Street Grant (2)	£13,834.80	
T. Owens (refund expenses)	£44.46	
Cartridge People (ink toner)	£152.90	
Cartridge People (ink toner)	£286.70	
Lyreco (office supplies)	£63.72	
Lyreco (toilet rolls)	£19.18	
British Gas Lite (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£10.59	
One Voice Wales (training)	£40.00	
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00	MEADOW ACC
HSBC (bank charges)	£10.00	

(2) Donations: To consider the donation requests from national/larger organisations as follows (balance in miscellaneous donations is £500) –

Cerebral Palsy Cymru: Refused.
Urdd National Eisteddfod: Refused.

The following precepted donation was confirmed –

Presteigne Memorial Hall £1000.00

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted -

Powys County Council Third Precept Payment	£25,250.00
Website Advertising	£169.00
Sheep Music (planning application storage)	£115.00 MEADOW ACC

(4) Review of Allocated and Free Reserves and Budget Monitoring to end December: The Clerk explained the various allocated reserves, the projected spend to the end of the financial year and the estimated free reserves at the year-end which were in excess of three months expenditure and so could be utilised to reduce the actual precepted amount for 2025-26 if needed. Members reviewed the allocated reserve balances. It was agreed to rename the Library reserve as Devolved Services in order to allow flexibility for use on all such services. An additional amount would also be considered under new projects. A further review of allocated reserves would be carried out after the financial year end.

The bank balances at 31st December were noted.

Members also considered the budget update to the end of December and the projected expenditure to the year end from which the projected free reserves had been calculated.

(5) Setting of Budget and Precept for 2025/26:

Cllr. Baynham left the room during the discussion and decision on the donation to East Radnorshire Care.

Members considered each budget line in turn and made adjustments as appropriate. Continued use of Zoom video conferencing software was confirmed when reviewing that budget item.

Organisations allocated grants for 2025-26 were as follows –

Donations and S137s	
Air Ambulance	250
British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths)	75
East Radnorshire Care	2000
Memorial Hall	1500

Mid Border Arts	1500
Presteigne and Norton Community Trust	2000
Norton Community Trust (Fireworks)	400
PACDG	250
Presteigne Festival	1500
Presteigne Fireworks Display (Sheep Music)	500
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	0
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000
Powys CAB	200
The Samaritans	250
Youth Project	1000
Miscellaneous	500
	13,925.00

It was decided not to provide a grant to Presteigne and Norton Community Support due to the level of the current reserves but the Organisation would be welcome to apply again for 2026-27.

The application from PACDG was reduced from the £300 requested to £250. The Clerk was instructed to confirm the Council's support for the community newsletter in particular but to state that the Council did not feel that it should meet the Groups bank charges.

Presteigne Youth Project: There was some concern that the Project was providing very few hours of youth activity and it was agreed that the requested amount be reduced to £1000 from the £1200 requested.

New projects included were –

New Projects 2024-25	
New website	2300
Disabled Access Paths Meadow (Match Funding)	3000
New Storage Building (Match Funding)	3000
Christmas Lighting	3000
Dark Skies Project	1500
Additional for Devolved Services inc car parks/Leisure Centre	5,000
Replacement Folding Tables – tables would be part of meadow storage project	0
Car Parks/Parking - to be covered under Devolved Services	0
	17,800.00

Ongoing projects allocated further monies were –

Ongoing Projects:	
Anchorage Test for Xmas Lights	125
Toilet Blocks (2) (reserves to be used for any excess)	5000
Devolved Services (inc Town Library Service)(reserve held)	0
Presteigne Christmas Lights (installation)	1200
Wildflowers/ Bulbs/Verges/Roundabouts - 2024 via sponsorship	120
Street Lighting/Dark Skies Project	0
Climate Crisis Project Grants	0
Street Cleaning Arrangements	0
Christmas Lights, Norton	0
	6,445.00

Administration costs were agreed as £36,413 and the amount for the maintenance and running of Went's Meadow £14,515.

This produced a budget of £89,098. It was agreed to use £13,000 from free reserves and to set a precept requirement of £76,053.04. This would result in a precept of £56 per Band D property, the same as in 2024-25.

The full budget would be placed in the Council Accounts section of the Presteigne.org.uk website.

Review of Income:

Noted that the review of the allotment rent was next due in late 2025 for implementation in March 2026.

Website Advertising Income: Review deferred for consideration when considering quotes for a new site.

MIN 4426 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Reintroduction of Council Surgeries: Cllr. Kirkby asked that this be included on the February agenda.

(2) Broadband Provision: Cllr. Van Huls reported that matters were progressing well and the intention of BT was for the full fibre network to be built by the end of 2025.

(3) Recycling: Cllr. Ross reported on proposed changes to recycling centres with a booking system being introduced and charges brought in for DIY waste.

MIN 4427 LEISURE CENTRE WORKING GROUP MEETING

Agreed to meet on 7pm 5th February, at the Assembly Rooms if the room was available.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.