

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5TH JULY 2023 IN THE GREEN ROOM, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

Absent: Ms. J. Mottershead.

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

1/23. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2023/24

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

2/23. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2023/24

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

3/23. NATURE RESERVE PROJECT

Cllr. Bamford provided an update on works at the new nature reserve as follows –

- Open Day: Held at the beginning of June and thought to have been very successful.
- Project Completion: The Heritage Lottery had extended the date for completion to the 31st October.
- Inclusion in National Forest Project: Cllr. Bamford explained that this needed to be looked into in order to apply for inclusion if possible. Ms. Van Den Ende agreed to look into this.
- Ponds: Cllr. Bamford reported that these were not holding water well but that there was some money set aside for remedial work if needed in the Autumn. Possible solutions were discussed with the Committee being against the use of any plastic type liner.
- Watering of Trees: Agreed that a more formal rota needed to be set up. Cllr. Wilding to be asked if he could move the water container to a more accessible spot.
- Mower Training: Carried out by Mr. Hitchcock of the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and recommendations made on the required safety checks etc. Additional safety equipment to be purchased.
- Mower Attachments: One part to be collected from supplier as soon as convenient.
- Evaluation Report: Agreed unchanged. To be sent to Heritage Lottery as soon as agreed by Town Council.
- Walnut Tree: Not thriving and it had been noted on receipt that the roots had been over-trimmed. Agreed to notify supplier of issue and review in due course.
- Trees: Labels being produced and would be put in place once received.
- Site Visit: Secondary School had been on site earlier in the day.
- Project Monitoring: Group to be set up to carry out ongoing monitoring.

Site visit to look at possible meadow areas on Council land to take place on 11th July. Date to be confirmed.

4/23. HEDGE MANAGEMENT

Members had received a copy of the report of Ms Van Den Ende and Ms Mottershead relating to biodiversity and management of hedges on Council land.

The Committee was pleased to recommend the report to the Full Council subject to –
Clarification of the period mid Winter to early Spring – Months to be stated, November to February.

Amendment to wording of the first paragraph of the detailed proposal ‘trimmed on a 2, or ideally 3 year rotation (depending on rate of growth)’.

Cllr. Bamford stated that there would also be a need to inform the public on the reasoning for the proposed new management if agreed. To be done via posters/leaflets and a budget to be applied for from the Climate Crisis Fund in due course.

Ms. Van Den Ende asked about the situation with the new development at Broadaxe and the Clerk agreed to supply a link to the outline planning permission documents.

5/23. CLIMATE CRISIS STAKEHOLDER GROUP:

Cllr. Poster reported on the inaugural meeting and highlighted the following –

- Future meetings to continue to offer an online option.
- Meetings to be held monthly.

Cllr. Poster confirmed he was willing to continue to attend and to report to the Committee or Full Council as appropriate.

He informed the Committee that the Tree Group had written to Julie James MS regarding the need to secure the safety of mature trees as well as planting new ones via the My Tree Our Forest programme.

6/23. CLIMATE CRISIS GRANTS: UPDATE.

One grant of £250 issued since the last committee meeting. Agreed to suggest a further budget of £200 for 2024/25 and to also consider requesting a budget for this Committee in future years. To be further considered at the next meeting if this fitted with the budget time scales.

7/23. URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Weed-Killing along edge of Nature Reserve: Cllr. Poster raised this as a concern and said that it appeared that a householder had used weed killer to clear an area outside his boundary. It was agreed to try to speak to the householder or approach the resident’s representative to ask that weed killer not be used but to state that cutting/trimming of an area up to one metre from the fence would be permitted.

(2) River Lugg Water Quality Monitoring: Cllr. Gray raised this as having been a concern locally recently. Ms. Van Den Ende confirmed that regular phosphate monitoring was carried out but no general analysis of the water under that programme. Cllr. Gray would investigate the source of the recent rumours.

(3) Concerns over Positioning of Trees: The Clerk advised that Cllr. Abecasis had raised this briefly at the end of the last Full Council meeting and had been asked to get more specific details if there was still a concern.

8/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

4th October, 2023

7th February, 2024.

Summary of Full Council Decisions Required –

To note the update on progress of nature reserve project.

To agree the evaluation report for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

To recommend the hedge management plan for adoption by Full Council.

To confirm the attendance of Cllr. Poster at future Climate Crisis Stakeholder Group.

To note the suggested budget for the Climate Crisis Fund in 2024/25 of £200 (subject to committee review in October).

The meeting closed at 7.28 pm.