

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JUNE 2023 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. B. Baynham (Mayor), D. Edwards, J. Gray (via video link), L. Firth (via video link), F. Preece, T. Owens, L. Abecasis, M. Price, A. Van Huls, M. Williams, J. Wilding.

Apologies: Cllr. R. Bamford (Deputy Mayor). Absent: Cllr. J. Poster.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. One member of the public.
Mr. R. Gealy and Ms L. Evans representing Freedom Leisure/East Radnor Leisure Centre.

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: None.

Personal and Prejudicial: None.

East Radnor Leisure Centre: Prior to the formal meeting Members heard from Mr. Gealy and Ms Evans on the current plans and usage at the Centre and on the previous and planned capital works which would total approximately £400,000 when complete. They explained that across the Powys centres energy costs had increased by £62,000 a month in the previous year and that this was obviously placing enormous pressure on budgets. Members asked what they could do to help secure the future of the centre and were asked to promote usage and encourage residents to take out memberships at the centre. Mr. Gealy explained there were problems recruiting staff although vacancies were well advertised. He added that media and publicity was dealt with centrally but accepted that this could be improved, particularly with regard to the website and he would look into this. The possibility of solar panels was discussed and Mr. Gealy agreed to ask if Cllr. Firth could access the building with a contractor so an accurate quote could be obtained.

Cllr. Baynham thanked Mr. Gealy and Ms. Evans for attending. She added that the County Council review of Leisure Centres was now underway and a public consultation would commence in the next few weeks. She asked that Members encourage residents to complete this.

MIN 4208 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the annual and ordinary meetings held on 17th May, 2023 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4209 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Sleeping Dragon Fund: The Clerk confirmed that the money had not as yet been drawn down.
- (2) Leominster/Countrywide Roundabout: Cllr. Baynham informed Members that Radnor Hills had now planted the roundabout and Members agreed that this was looking very good.
- (3) Norton Grass Cutting: Cllr. Edwards confirmed that the extra strip had now been done.
- (4) Grass Cutting, Station Road: Cllr. Owens reported that an extra strip also needed cutting here as visibility to the right was poor. Cllr. Baynham would arrange.
- (5) Information - New Defibrillator: Presteigne Youth Project now has a unit on the outside of its building. It will be maintained and checked by PYP.
- (6) Climate Crisis Committee: The Clerk confirmed that Jenny Mottershead had agreed to remain on the Committee as an outside representative.

MIN 4210 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The letter of thanks from East Radnorshire Care was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1495.00
HM Revenue & Customs	£586.51
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
Mrs T.A Price (expenses)	£67.85
T. Lloyd-John	£667.23
N. Close	£96.00
N. Close	£252.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89
HSBC (Bank Charges) – Treasurer Acc)	£8.00
HSBC (Bank charges) – Meadow Acc)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

Nature Reserve Payments –

J. Stephens	£125.00
Ultimate One Ltd	£370.80
O. Rimington	£317.57
O. Rimington	£742.58
O. Rimington (refund Arrow Plant)	£105.60
R. Bamford (refund locks/cakes)	£155.93
Cultivating Learning & Nature CIC	£600.35
Artisan Print	£30.80
Weobley Ash Orchards	£26.40
Double Take	£930.00
Presteigne Building Supplies	£514.10
(inc £5.90 misc spend)	
Meta Translations	£50.32
Purrfect Cat Hire	£300.00
Presteigne Gates Ltd	£84.00
Julian Jones Ecology Services	£1975.00

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted:-

Tree Hub Hosting (2 nd Group of Sessions)	£500.00
Powys County Council (use of electric – Hfd Street)	£170.58
Heritage Lottery Grant Refund	£22,716.39
Heritage Lottery Grant Refund	£5,924.16

(4) External Audit and Notice of Elector's Rights: Members noted that the notice had now been received by Wales Audit Office and had been placed on the various notice boards and on the Council website.

MIN 4211 PLANNING

Cllr. Edwards left the room for the duration of the following item due to her position on the County Council planning committee.

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –

23/0790/FUL Grid Reference: E:331309 N: 264092 Proposal: Erection of 2.4m high perimeter fencing with 2 gates together with installation of roof top anti-climb roller spikes to part of west facing area of building Site Address: Unit 5 & 6, Presteigne Industrial Estate, Presteigne. Resolved to support the application.

23/0789/FUL Grid Reference: E:331524 N: 263988 Proposal: Erection of 2.4m high perimeter fencing with 2 gates and erection of 2.4 m high new compound fencing together with installation of roof top anti-climb roller spikes to part north facing and to part west facing areas of building Site Address: Unit 1, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne. Resolved to support the application.

Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decision was noted:-

20/0116/OUT Land at Broadaxe Farm, Presteigne: Consent with Section 106.

(3) RE: Environment Act 1995: Periodic Review of Mining Sites Application for Postponement of the Periodic Review for Gore Quarry, Walton, Presteigne, LD8 2PL: Resolved to request that the periodic review proceed as planned for 31st March 2024 and not be postponed for a further fifteen years.

(4) Bute Energy/GreenGen Project: Cllr. Edwards gave a brief update including a recent meeting with Bute Energy to discuss community benefits although nothing was agreed at this stage.

MIN 4212 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- (1) Dark Skies Project Update: The Clerk confirmed that the application had now been submitted.
- (2) Climate Crisis Update: The following matters were discussed –
 - Nature Reserve: Cllr. Wilding reported that there were still some issues with a lack of water in the ponds and that possible solutions were being considered. The situation was being monitored. Cllr. Abecasis asked whether tree planting should be a certain minimum distance from boundary fences as he had received an enquiry from a resident. It was believed that there was no minimum but he was asked to speak to the resident and ask them to get in touch with the Clerk if there was any concern.
 - Climate Conference: No report due to the absence of Cllr. Poster. Deferred to July.
 - Items for next Committee Meeting: Members to notify the Clerk of any items within the next seven days.
- (3) 20 MPH Limit: Members noted that the County Council are seeking to exempt the bypass from the new 20mph so it will remain 30mph in September. The changes in legislation will mean that it will have to add repeater signs within lit 30s (at the moment it is not able to install repeaters within 30 lit limits as the current legislation prevents it). It wouldn't be able to install repeaters within the lit 20 limits and will have to manage the complaints about speeding on all the other roads after the change.
- (4) Fold Farm DMMO Application: Members noted the update received by James Evans MS – 'although officers have not yet reached the point of contacting Presteigne Town Council about this case, the team has recently been able to progress other Definitive Map and Commons Register casework that originated at around the same time as this Definitive Map Modification Order application at Fold Farm. A statutory evidential Commons Registration case was determined by Committee earlier this week and officers are also moving forward determination of a Village Green case. Over the last three months, due to a vacancy within the team, the Professional Lead has needed to ensure that end of financial year grant funding requirements are met. However, with the recruitment of a new officer to lead on grant funding for the team from June, this will release time to allow for other statutory work including this case.'
- (5) Stakeholder Consultation - Forest Management carried out by Pryor & Rickett Silviculture Ltd (SA-FM/COC-001446). Cllr. Wilding to review.
- (6) Thank you letter from Welsh Government re. the Presteigne Tree Hub: Noted.
- (7) Consultation on the Local Housing Market Assessment for Powys: It was agreed that the Clerk respond as follows – The Town Council sees a real need in its area for affordable housing for local working people and feels this should be prioritised. Members also felt that shared ownership was an important option to be provided as part of such housing.

MIN 4213 NORTON

- (1) Community Trust Update: All progressing well and it was hoped to be open by the end of 2023.
- (2) Reminder, Norton Show: 30th July.

MIN 4214 SITES AND BUILDINGS

- (1) Public Conveniences: The Clerk had received one quote so far with another expected. She outlined the details of the quote received and it was agreed that if the second quote was not received within a week that the work be awarded to this contractor. Should a further quote come in then she was authorised to proceed to appoint the contractor with the lowest quote.
- (2) Allotments: Members noted the recent break in and stealing of tools and produce. The Clerk explained that the tenant had since found the tools in the river.
- (3) Meadows:
 - Littering and Vandalism – Members were concerned to hear that the vandalism and graffiti had been increasing in recent weeks. The Clerk reported that with the help of the High School four people had been identified and would be interviewed at the police station.
 - Work by Community Payback Team: The Clerk would be meeting the team supervisor on site on 26th June. It was agreed that in addition to the strimming of some untidy areas she also ask if they would look at the Old Barn with a view to removing the graffiti and possibly repainting as needed.
 - Use by Presteigne Pop Choir – 27th July 2023: Noted.
- (4) Boultribrooke Weir: Members noted that the willow was not growing as well as expected and it was agreed to monitor it for the time being.
- (5) Community Storage Update: Agreed that this was now becoming pressing and that the current storage was in poor condition and in any event due for demolition in the fairly near future. Given that Cllr. Bamford

was not present it was agreed that the Clerk ask for fully costed plans to consider at the July meeting, together with details of possible grant funds that could be applied to. A decision on the next steps would then be taken in July.

(6) Disabled Provision and Access, Wilson Terrace Play Area: Cllr. Van Huls explained that he had been approached as the site had relatively little provision for disabled children. It was noted that this is a County Council site although the Town Council had obtained a number of items of equipment for it in recent years. The Clerk explained that this had been explored in the past but that she had been told that, due to the necessary harnesses etc often required, installing such equipment was problematic in a public playground. Cllr. Van Huls agreed to ask for photographs of the equipment in Hereford so the Clerk could look into it and discuss with Cllr. Baynham and the relevant officer at the County Council.

MIN 4215 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Community Broadband Scheme Update: Members noted that Broadway Partners was now in administration and that for the present there was no alternative solution.

(2) Co-Responders Query – Update: Members were disappointed with the response received and it was agreed that Cllr. Owens liaise with the Clerk and draft a letter in response.

(3) Review of Leisure Centres: Members discussed the information provided by the Freedom Leisure staff. It was agreed that the Clerk write as follows:-

- to thank both Officers for attending and for the information provided;
- to say that an internet search for job vacancies had not found any and that this was disappointing given the recruitment issues the Centre said it was having;
- to stress the need for regular usage figures to be provided to the County Council and for the High School to supply accurate pupil figures rather than the number of sessions;
- to encourage input from the public on the types of classes, times and sessions needed;
- to offer to fund two additional promotional banners up to a maximum cost of £200 (as agreed February 2023).

The Clerk was also asked to write to the High School to stress the importance of supplying regular, accurate pupil figures to the Centre so these could be provided to the County Council to assist with the case for retaining the centre.

(4) Revitalising Mid Wales Project: Members noted the information supplied and confirmed support for the project.

(5) Nomination Form, Community Sub Committee of PCC Standards Committee: No one wished to be nominated.

MIN 4216 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Edwards:-

- Current social care recruitment drive.
- Borrow a Balance Bike Scheme in some libraries.
- Congratulations to Cllr. Baynham on being elected Chair of the County Council.
- Changes to road surface in Norton to prepare for the introduction of the change to 20mph in September.

Cllr. Baynham:-

- Balance Bike Scheme: She had been disappointed that Presteigne was not currently one of the receiving libraries and had spoken to Officers. She was now hopeful that a bike would be available in Presteigne.

MIN 4217 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) PACDG Meetings: Cllr. Williams stated that he had been asked to inform Members that the group was low on numbers and in need of more people. He circulated an information leaflet in case any Member wished to join.

(2) Memorial Hall: Cllr. Wilding suggested that appointing a Town Council representative to sit on the Committee might be useful and two Members indicated that they would consider joining the Committee. The Clerk would write to the Hall Committee to see if it would welcome a representative from the Council. If so she would add the appointment to the July agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.