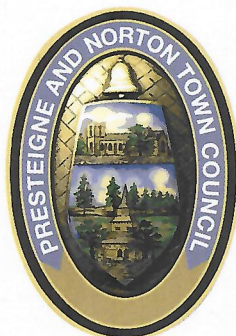


Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Mrs Tracey Price (Clerk)
Garn Farm
Chapel Lawn
Bucknell
Shropshire.
SY7 0BT

15th February, 2023

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council Climate Crisis Committee on **WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2023 at 6.30 p.m.** at the Green Room, Assembly Rooms, Broad Street, Presteigne and also via video conferencing and you are hereby summoned to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting –

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84506968195?pwd=dEV3WTJHOHRVV25BOUVzR0hWY29xUT09>

Meeting ID: 845 0696 8195 Passcode: 170185
Or dial by your location - 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84506968195?pwd=dEV3WTJHOHRVV25BOUVzR0hWY29xUT09>

Yours sincerely

Tracey Price
TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at this 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.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

4. **CLIMATE CRISIS GRANT FUND**

To consider the balance in the fund and possible promotion of opportunity to local groups.

5. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

To consider projects for the Committee in 2023/24 (inc possible use of funds above).

6. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

To consider allocation of specific areas to members of the Committee (e.g. plastics, trees, biodiversity etc) to enable reports/recommendations/decisions to be made to the Committee/Full Council.

7. NATURE RESERVE PROJECT

To receive an update on the project, consider any next steps and recommendations to Council, including whether or not to allow dogs access to the site.
Including – review of draft management plan (as circulated).

8. HEDGE MANAGEMENT

To consider the current arrangements and possible improvements relating to biodiversity for hedge cutting on Council land as reviewed by Council in December 2022 and agreed as follows –

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.

9. GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS COMMUNITY ORCHARD

To consider success in relation to biodiversity following a trial arrangement in 2022 and consider any proposed changes.

10. LETTER FROM RESIDENT RE. MANAGEMENT OF EDDIE'S MEADOW

11. URGENT BUSINESS (INFORMATION MATTERS ONLY) (at discretion of Chair)

Enc. Suggested guidance re. admission of dogs to new nature reserve, Vet Times Article on Fipronil, Draft Biodiversity Plan – Coed Llanandras Nature Reserve.

Suggested guidance for the town council regarding dogs on the new nature reserve from the tree group volunteers.

In order to minimise disturbance, to safeguard wildlife and nurture biodiversity we advise that dogs, except assistance dogs, are not permitted anywhere on the nature reserve. There are many reasons for this.

All dogs scent mark, particularly males. This affects the territorial behaviour of other mammals we hope to have on the reserve such as badgers, foxes, hedgehogs and small rodents.

We hope that the ponds will attract reptiles, amphibians such as lizards, frogs and toads, aquatic insects and other species. Dogs not only damage pond edges and disturb wildlife but flea treatments contain pesticides that can kill freshwater invertebrates. This treatment is very soluble, washing off if the dog enters the water and potentially harming animals such as dragonfly larvae, beetles and mayflies.

Dogs entering ponds also increase the risk of transferring invasive and harmful plants such as New Zealand pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*), or amphibian diseases such as Ranavirus from one area to another.

We hope to attract birds to the reserve including those that nest on or close to the ground. These include willow warblers, meadow pipits, dunnocks and blackbirds.

Mown grasses can be used as animal fodder; it cannot be used in this way if it has been soiled by dogs.

Dog mess is not only an unsightly health hazard for visitors and volunteers, it also promotes the growth of weeds and discourages the growth of wildflowers as well as spreading disease and pathogens.

Although most dog owners are responsible, there are inevitably those who won't keep their dogs on a lead and won't pick up their poo. We hope that families with children, those with disabilities and many others will visit the reserve. Some are frightened of dogs and no one wants to tread on poo.

Please also find a link to an article about pet flea treatments adding the poisoning of rivers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/17/pet-flea-treatments-poisoning-rivers-across-england-scientists-find>

vettimes

Search less, find more – www.vettimes.co.uk

BVA URGES 'SHIFT IN APPROACH' ON PARASITICIDE USE

VETS are being advised to review their use of parasiticides for cats and dogs amid growing environmental concerns.

In a set of recommendations laid out in a new joint position on the use of parasiticides, the BVA, BSAVA and British Veterinary Zoological Society (BVZS) have also called on the VMD to reconsider its classification of over-the-counter parasiticides.

The move comes following the release of new research that shows an overwhelming majority of companion animal vets (98 per cent) are concerned about the impact of some treatments on the environment.

Results highlight growing fears that some small animal parasiticides, which are commonly used to treat and prevent against parasites on millions of dogs and cats across the UK, could contaminate the environment and cause harm to wildlife, ecosystems and in turn to public health.

There are also worries about the risk of resistance to some of these products building up.

In response to these concerns, the joint BVA, BSAVA and BVZS position on the "Responsible use of parasiticides for cats and dogs" recommends vets should always take a proportionate, targeted and responsible approach to the use of small animal parasiticides, and carefully weigh up all risks before prescribing or recommending treatment.

Other recommendations from the position include that vets should avoid blanket treatment and instead ensure they risk assess each case, and that clear, independent guidance should be made available to assist vets in making decisions about treatment.

BVA president Justine Shotton said: "The impact of small animal parasiticides on the environment is an

report by

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issue which is an increasing concern in the veterinary profession. Our new joint position not only highlights areas of concern and recommendations around using these medicines responsibly, but also how veterinary professionals can act now to protect the environment.

"We recognise that some of the recommendations for change will mean a substantial shift in approach for many practices, but we're encouraged by the strength of feeling in the profession that a more risk-based approach is needed."

The figures, taken from the BVA Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey, also showed that 87 per cent of companion animal vets agree that small animal medicines should be environmentally risk assessed.

In light of this, the BVA, BSAVA and BVZS are calling for more research to be undertaken, and evidence gathered in many areas, including the risks of parasites and parasite-borne disease on human and animal health, the risks of commonly used parasiticides and combination products on the environment, and information on how they may be contaminating the environment.

BSAVA president Sheldon Middleton said: "We recognise that parasiticide products are commonly used in small animal practice on a daily basis, not only to maintain the health and welfare of pets by preventing and treating parasites such as fleas and ticks, but also to manage associated risks to human health.

"Recently, growing concerns have been expressed that some of these medicines may have an adverse effect on the environment and may cause resistance in pets. This is a developing field of interest and while further research is needed to plug the existing knowledge gaps, veterinary professionals can have a key role to play in ensuring the responsible use of parasiticides.

"This can be done by adopting a risk-based approach when prescribing parasiticides that uses proportionate and targeted programmes tailored to an individual pet's needs, and by educating pet owners as to the responsible use of parasiticides."

Pesticides

In 2020 researchers at the University of Sussex raised concerns after the pesticide fipronil – used typically in cat and dog flea products – or its metabolites were found in 98 per cent of freshwater samples taken from 20 rivers nationwide.

Responding to the 2020 Report, NOAH accepted that pesticides were present in English rivers between 2016 and 2018, but said neither the source – and whether they were environmentally damaging at the measured levels – was purely conjecture.

The paper, published in *Science of the Total Environment*, also found the average concentration of the chemical was exceeding the chronic safety limits fivefold.

In response to the new joint position, Donal Murphy, NOAH's head of international and regulatory affairs, said the body fully agreed that vets should always take a proportionate, targeted and responsible approach to the use of small animal parasiticides, and carefully weigh up all risks → **page 2**

⇒ continued from page 1

and benefits before prescribing or recommending treatment.

He said: "We would like to reinforce once again that as with all veterinary medicines, prescribers and users of these products should use them responsibly, and advice and warnings on labels and leaflets should be followed.

"All veterinary medicines, including those for companion animals, must undergo a regulatory-specified assessment of their environmental impact to demonstrate their impact, if any, on the environment is acceptable and managed."

However, Mr Murphy went on to warn of the dangers in extending treatment intervals beyond advised limits.

He added: "If the interval between treatments is extended beyond what is required by the regulatory authorities (VMD) on the licence then the efficacy of the product cannot be guaranteed, and lapses in parasite protection could occur with the possibility of poor parasite control as a result.

"We are seriously concerned by the suggestion that treatment intervals be arbitrarily extended, and wish to remind veterinary surgeons of their fundamental responsibility to adhere to legally approved and defined product labels when prescribing."

Read the full joint position at www.bva.co.uk/parasiticides

delivery details, email subscriptions@vbd.co.uk

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] LD8 2DA

Tracey Price, Clerk
Presteigne and Norton Town Council

9th February 2023

Dear Tracey,

Eddie's Meadow and linked Eco items

It is over ten years since Eddie's Meadow was purchased by the Town Council and dedicated to the memory of my dear father Eddie Taylor.

I am writing now to ask the Town Council if there is any particular management plan in place for the meadow? I feel I have a vested interest in the meadow and would like to be more involved with the meadow moving forward. I think everyone is now more aware of how vital our natural spaces are in the great scheme of things. Several things have prompted me to write this letter.

1. Initially the meadow was designated a hibernaculum, a home for invertebrates. Do we know if this has been successful? Have any surveys been done?
2. A lovely hedge was planted along the side of the meadow from the Old Reservoir down to the bypass and I was thinking it was just at the stage to be laid and enable it to thicken up. Much to my surprise a few weeks ago I noticed the hedge had been drastically trimmed back. Not the ideal thing when we are trying to encourage the wildlife.
3. In the Spring and Summer parts of the meadow are very colourful with some wild flowers but I understand, if it is left much longer, the thistles will take over and there will not be much "bio-diversity". There needs to be some management in place to encourage more species.
4. I have been very impressed with the work being done on the towns' verges. Less mowing and the work put in by volunteers, to clear the grass when it is cut, is having a great dividend with the increase in the number of wild flowers. It is lovely to see and something which will benefit not only the insects and creatures which live in the verges but us humans too.
5. It is wonderful that the Town Council has been supporting the work to buy the new Nature Reserve which backs onto the primary school. I was pleased to be one of the people seeing the children coming through the new gate linking the school to the Nature Reserve and also helping the children plant some of the new hedge. It is, after all, their futures we are trying to protect.

There are a lot of willing volunteers in Presteigne who help to look after Town Council land.

The Warden Guardians look after the Old Reservoir.

The Tree Group looks after the Nature Reserve.

The Guerilla Gardeners do good work in different areas around the town, including Ligne Garden.

Verges for Nature are protecting the verges. (Not sure if this is Town Council or PCC)

Is there a management plan in place for Eddie's Meadow and who has responsibility for it?

I have written this letter on a purely personal basis and I am not representing any of the groups I have mentioned above. I would, however, welcome a response to this letter and in particular my queries regarding Eddie's meadow.

Many thanks for reading this.

Yours sincerely,

Teresa [Redacted]