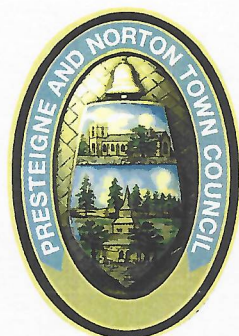


Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Tel: 01547 528575
Email:
presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com



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

19th June, 2024

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council Climate & Environment Committee on **WEDNESDAY 26th June 2024 at 7.00 p.m.** at the Assembly Rooms (Green Room), Broad Street, Presteigne and also via video conferencing and you are hereby summoned to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83480235248?pwd=cN8uKSK1zlda0bvFE5w3YRLSDWGaxf.1>

Meeting ID: 834 8023 5248 Passcode: 750613

Dial by your location - 0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/keAoGb5A9j>

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. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2024/25**

4. **UPDATES ON PREVIOUS MATTERS**

- Hedge Management – to consider any recommendations for the forthcoming Full Council review.

- Wildflower Project: To note conclusion of grant part of project and consider any next steps/plans.

5. **VALIDITY OF COMMITTEE AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.** (Cllr. Baynham)
6. **TERMS OF REFERENCE** To consider first steps in reviewing the current TOR for submission to Council in May 2025.
7. **USE OF WEED KILLING TREATMENTS** (K. Van Den Ende)
8. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF ROUNDABOUTS** (K. Van Den Ende)
9. **FORTHCOMING CLIMATE CONFERENCE** (September 2024)
10. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS:** To consider current arrangements and possibility of rapid charging points. Note: The points are County Council installed and run so any requests (if made) should go through the Local Member, Cllr. Baynham). (K. Van Den Ende)
11. **NANT MITHIL ENERGY PARK:** To consider any questions referred to the Committee by the Full Council on 19th June.
12. **COUNTY COUNCIL STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORT** (Cllr. Ramsay).
13. **COMMITTEE BUDGET** To consider the need for a budget for the committee (spending would be on recommendation of Full Council) and if so to agree a figure to put forward to the Council budget setting process,
14. **URGENT BUSINESS (INFORMATION MATTERS ONLY)** (at discretion of Chair)
15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Enc. Terms of Reference (updated May 2024), Minutes April 2024 (information only), Climate Crisis Report of November 2023.

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COUNCIL CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of the Climate Committee to be at least four Councillors (the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be ex-officio Members) and appointed annually. In addition two outside representatives will be appointed.
2. Quorum for the Climate Crisis Committee to be three and at least three Councillors to agree any decision.
3. The Chair of the Committee will be elected at the first meeting of the Committee held after the full Council Annual Meeting in May.
4. All Councillors may attend a meeting and contribute but only those appointed to the Climate Crisis Committee by the Council may vote on resolutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To review the Climate and Ecological crisis policy annually and make recommendations for amendments.
2. To regularly review the management of Council land and make recommendations in order to support and enhance it as an environment for nature whilst continuing to respecting the other users.
3. To consider and prepare a budget proposal for areas under its remit and to put to full Council for consideration at the budget/precept setting meeting.
4. To prepare an annual report on the Council's actions in tackling the climate and ecological crisis.
5. To consider issues relating to the nature reserve as may be referred to it by full Council.
6. To review the progress of verges and roundabouts and make recommendations for further work or changes to the full Council.
7. To make links with community groups and make them aware of the Council's support for initiatives to combat the climate emergency and aid with nature recovery. Where possible to support groups in other ways e.g. pointing them towards funding opportunities or advice.
8. During the completion of the Nature Reserve Project to assist with day to day matters and oversee contractors and volunteers working on the site. To consider ongoing project matters relating to the nature reserve as may be referred to it by full Council.

9. To review any grants or initiatives that are available to communities to combat the climate emergency and aid with nature recovery and advise full council of opportunities.
10. To facilitate and assist groups to apply for the Council/s Climate Crisis small grants scheme.
11. To consider any other issues relating to the climate crisis as may be referred to it by full Council.
12. In general to consider the following areas and make recommendations to Full Council - Local resilience, Biodiversity, Local Food Consumption and Waste, Personal Initiatives, Transport and EV Charging, Tree Planting, carbon sequestration, energy saving, Wind and Solar Panel Energy and production.

GOVERNANCE

1. The Climate Crisis Committee will act in accordance with its own terms of reference and also with the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Council.
2. The Climate Crisis Committee will meet at least twice annually and may hold additional meetings as required.
3. The Clerk will service the Committee correspondence, Minutes and any other documentation.
4. The agenda for each Committee Meeting will be published at least three working days in advance of the meeting.
5. Minutes will be taken and distributed for agreement at the next Committee Meeting or full Council meeting whichever is soonest.
6. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public (in person and online or online only) except where the Committee resolves to exclude the public and press to deal with confidential items as permitted by legislation.

NOTE: THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT HAVE DELEGATED POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS ONLY TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL.

<p>Terms of Reference agreed at the full Council meeting November 2022. Reviewed May 2024 Next Review: May 2025</p>
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PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL



CLIMATE CRISIS REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Since the Town Council's acknowledgement of the Climate Emergency in May 2019 the Council has continued to work to reduce climate change and improve biodiversity in and around Presteigne and Norton.

The work of the Council is divided into the following areas:-

1. Council Day to Day Working.
2. Council Buildings.
3. Council land and open spaces.
4. Council Climate Crisis Small Grants Scheme.
5. Planning Matters.
6. General

Council Day to Day Working:-

Reduced postages through increased use of email.

Members encouraged to access meeting papers electronically.

Printing only when necessary and when printing do so double sided to reduce paper use.

Printer/toner cartridges recycled.

Printer has economy mode when not in use.

Decreased Brightness on the computer screen.

Computer/printer turned off at night.

Council Buildings:-

Energy usage minimised through use of LED bulbs in lighting.

Motion Sensors in Hereford Street Public Toilets reduce energy use.

Council Land and Open Spaces:-

Recycling bins installed on Went's Meadow to enable users to dispose of their cans, bottles etc responsibly.

Users of Meadow encouraged to reduce their use of single use plastic.

Biodegradable dog bags provided.

Weed killing treatments reduced and only used when essential.

Trials of wild/wildflower areas on Went's Meadow.

Lower Went's Meadow cut just once annually.

Eddie's Meadow managed with minimal intervention.

Hedge Management: Trial ongoing to reduce cutting and allow selected hedges to grow out and upwards. For regular review.

Rejuvenation of small pond on Lower Went's Meadow.

Ongoing provision of organic allotments.

Provision of community orchard.

New management plan commissioned for Eddie's Meadow.

Purchase and creation of new Nature Reserve, planting of trees, open grassland, wildflower areas and ponds. (via Heritage Lottery Grant/Welsh Government)

Council Crisis Local Grants Scheme:-

Introduced in April 2020 this fund provides small grants to local groups and organisations to carry out climate crisis or biodiversity work. To date the scheme has funded –

Tree Weekend

Purchase of yellow rattle plants for verges.

Reuseable Plastic Cups for use at events.

Energy Survey

Creation of Garden – Warden View Methodist Church.

Applications can be made at any time and forms are on the town website or can be obtained from the Clerk to the Council.

Planning Matters:-

Recommended to the LDP that conservation area protections should be balanced with environmental improvements to properties like double glazing, heating systems etc.

Consider commercial planning applications with regard for their potential environmental impact.

Where possible request that new property built or extensive renovations to old property must be to the highest environmental standards.

General:-

Dark Skies Project: Supported and helped fund the dark skies project to reduce light pollution and energy use with support of County Council. Application now submitted.

Bus Issues: Requested action to stop school buses idling engines outside school premises.
Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Pressed for charging points in Presteigne town which are now in place in the Hereford Street Car Park.

Roundabouts and Verges:

Roundabouts: One managed by Caring for God's Acre, one planted and managed by Radnor Hills.

Roadside Verges: A recent change in Town Council policy means that the Town Council now supports the Powys County Council county wide mowing policy with the exception of the grass bank/verge below the Warden which will remain under the management of volunteers.

Member of Renew Wales.

Active Travel: Pressed for initial two phases of the Active Travel Route in Presteigne and continuing to press for the extension of that route to Norton to encourage reduced use of vehicles.

20mph Limit: Pressed repeatedly for a 20mph limit in the town centre – something that is now in place not only in Presteigne and Norton but throughout Wales.

Climate Events: To publicise climate events via the TC facebook page and newsletter.

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 3RD APRIL 2024
IN THE GREEN ROOM, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. Ramsay (Chairman), Edwards (Vice-Chairman), Baynham and Kirkby MBE.
Outside Representatives Ms. K. Van Den Ende, J. Mottershead (via video link)

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

Cllr. Baynham opened the meeting as Chairman of the Council given there was no committee Chair in place.

9/23. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2023/24

Due to the resignation of Cllr. Poster it was necessary to elect a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Nominations were invited by Cllr. Baynham.

Cllr. Ramsay was proposed by Cllr. Kirkby and seconded by K. Van Den Ende and elected unanimously.

10/23. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2023/24

Cllr. Edwards was proposed by Cllr. Baynham, seconded by Cllr. Kirkby and elected unanimously.

11/23. CLIMATE CRISIS STAKEHOLDER GROUP:

Agreed unanimously that Cllr. Ramsay fill the vacancy on the Group.

12/23. CLIMATE CRISIS GRANTS: UPDATE.

The Clerk explained the process for applications and the need for groups to have a bank account and constitution for applications to be considered. She stressed that the Council could not give to individuals or informal groups of individuals and that the Council monies were public money and as such needed to be used carefully. Decisions on grants were made by Full Council but the Committee was asked to promote the scheme.

With regard to small projects/events such as events on the nature reserve or wildflower planting, it was stressed that as this was Council land then volunteers could work under the auspices of the Town Council and the Council, if it agreed to support the proposals would pay any costs direct.

A short discussion followed on the need for two grant schemes (general and climate crisis) and the Committee felt that it would be better to retain the two schemes although it would be for Full Council to consider any changes to the present arrangements.

13/23 COMMITTEE NAME AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Name: Cllr. Baynham had asked for this to be on the agenda so that the Committee could suggest alternatives for consideration by Full Council in May. A number of options were considered involving climate change, climate crisis, sustainability and biodiversity but no consensus was reached. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate the names used by other local Councils and report back to the Full Council meeting in May for a decision. Cllr. Kirkby suggested that the Committee become a sub committee of Sites and Buildings. The Clerk advised that the remit of the Committee was broader than just looking at Council property and did not feel this was appropriate. It was not taken further at this point.

Terms of Reference: Cllr. Ramsay stated that he felt that the terms were too broad and needed to be more specific. The Clerk advised that the terms were deliberately not specific in order to allow the committee more

freedom to discuss relevant matters. It was agreed to put forward some small changes for consideration by Full Council in May and that the Committee would ask to review the full terms before the May 2025 meeting. The changes suggested were –

- Membership – 2: Clerk to amend wording to clarify that ‘Members’ related to Members of the Town Council not Committee Members.
- Responsibilities – 12: Add reference to solar panels and wind turbines.

14/23 UPDATES ON PREVIOUS MATTERS

Hedge Management: Cllr. Ramsay asked for the updated management plan. The Clerk apologised that she did not have an updated version but would consult with Cllr. Wilding and produce one.

Nature Reserve: Ms. Van Den Ende reported that 90% of the new trees had survived and that left over trees were being planted in Dog Kennel Lane and used for infill on Went’s Meadow. There were now four areas of wildflower planting (including one on Went’s Meadow). Some areas on the reserve would benefit from a high cut in due course. She added that the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust had asked that a blog be written on the site. Cllr. Baynham stressed that as a Council site, requests should come through the Council not direct to volunteers. Cllr. Ramsay reported that the inside lip of the ponds needed to be seeded and some grass seed would need to be sown on areas compacted by the pond work. The ponds were currently full but would need review after the Summer months. The ditch created to assist with water flow had been eroding and small dams were being put in place to assist with that. The Clerk asked about the situation with water from the reserve running off from the site onto the School/Slough Road and Cllr. Ramsay had looked at this and there was no more water leaving the site than previously with the ponds actually retaining water for a period of time. He added that it seemed there were highways issues both above with water being diverted from the road above the school via a public pond and causing a large amount of excess water. There was also an issue with drainage on Slough Road in front of the school.

It was agreed that given the site would develop over time it would be useful to put some signage on site to advise of that. Agreed that a request be made to Full Council for funding for such signs.

It was stressed that volunteers need to email the Clerk and confirm when they would be working on site and what they would be doing etc. If this was not done then volunteers would not be covered by Council insurance not would any work they carried out be covered in the event of any accident.

15/23 BIODIVERSITY REPORT

This was confirmed as being next due in December 2025. A copy of the previous reports was on the Council website. The Clerk confirmed that she was not aware of any monitoring for such reports by Welsh Government.

The latest climate crisis report was also online. There was an issue with the links to the report and a climate crisis policy. The Clerk would review this and improve the page so it was clearer.

16/23 DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It was confirmed that the Council had acknowledged the climate emergency and Cllr. Edwards added that the Council had not felt it was qualified to declare an emergency but wished to acknowledge the situation.

17/23 WIND FARM/PYLONS – EMAIL FROM LLANDRINDOD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a short discussion on the position of the Committee on green energy and wind turbine options but no consensus was reached. Cllr. Baynham was able to confirm that the County Council had, in any event already refused the request. It was agreed that that a response to the email be made by Full Council and it would be on the April agenda.

18/23. URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

- Replacement of Oak Trees, Maes Corton Housing Association had confirmed it would replace.
- Tree Group; Ms. Van Den Ende asked if the Council was holding any monies on behalf of the Tree Group. The Clerk was not aware of anything and added that in general the Council did not hold monies for other bodies as this would be an issue during the audit process.
- Item for July Agenda submitted by Cllr. Baynham – Solar Panels, East Radnor Leisure Centre.

19/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3rd July 2024

Summary of Full Council Decisions Required –

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

To recommend that a review of the name of the Committee be considered at the Annual Full Council Meeting in May 2024.

To recommend the following changes to the Terms of Reference be considered at the Annual Full Council Meeting in May, 2024 –

- *Membership – 2: Clerk to amend wording to clarify that ‘Members’ related to Members of the Town Council not Committee Members.*
- *Responsibilities – 12: Add reference to solar panels and wind turbines.*
-

To request permission to review the full terms of reference at a future Committee meeting for consideration by Full Council in May 2025.

To note the update on progress of nature reserve project. NB Now managed under Sites and Buildings Committee.

To note the Committee request for an updated hedge management policy.

The meeting closed at 8.08 pm.