

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Mrs Tracey Price (Clerk)
Garn Farm
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9th February, 2023

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council on **WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY, 2023 at 7.00 p.m.** at the Assembly Rooms, Broad Street, Presteigne and via video conferencing and you are hereby summoned to attend.

The public and press are cordially invited to attend.

**PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME DUE TO GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE WELSH
AMBULANCE SERVICE**

(including Bethan Powell, Paramedic and Operations Assistant, Community Support.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84271895901?pwd=SDFTcnBCSDh1RDBWRTkwT09GRzMvUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 7189 5901 Passcode: 572752
Dial by your location - 0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84271895901?pwd=SDFTcnBCSDh1RDBWRTkwT09GRzMvUT09>

Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda SUBJECT TO PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE CLERK AND THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIRMAN.

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January, 2023 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

4. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

From the Meeting of 25th January. Also to receive the Clerk's Report for February.

5. FINANCE

a) Donations: None this month.

b) Payments: to approve the following payments –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1498.40
HM Revenue & Customs	£583.11
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
T. Lloyd-John	£421.49
N. Close	£28.00
N. Close	£126.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
HSBC (Bank Charges December – Treasurer Acc)	£10.00
HSBC (Bank charges December) – Meadow Acc)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highline Electrical (removal of Christmas Lights)	£540.00
Tree Shop Ltd	£57.60
Powys County Council (green waste bin)	£40.00 (Debit Card)
P. Ward (biodiversity plan)	£400.00
Paramount Plants	£525.00
Paramount Plants	£95.00
Ashridge Nurseries	£109.74
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£4.55
Presteigne Building Supplies	£193.24
T. Price (refund stamps)	£10.88

c) To note the following receipts:

Website Advertising	£19.00
Allotment Rent	£28.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

d) To consider funding promotional banner for East Radnor Leisure Centre (Cllr. Wilding).

6. PLANNING

(a) To consider applications received: None at issue of agenda but see note below.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PLANNING APPLICATIONS MAY BE RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA AND MAY BE ADDED DUE TO THE TIGHT TIMESCALE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS.
SEE THE TOWN COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE OR THE PLANNING PAGE ON THE COUNCIL SECTION OF THE TOWN WEBSITE FOR LATEST APPLICATIONS.

- (b) Planning Decisions: To note the following decisions –
22/190/HH, 9 Harpers Lane, Presteigne: Approval 9th January.
22/1871/HH, Westering, Stonewall Hill: Approval 2nd February.

7. HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- a) Dark Skies/Lighting Update. (Clerk's Report 2a)
- b) Climate Crisis Update: To include suggestions for Committee Agenda items, Tree Hub update.
- c) Nature Reserve Project: Update on progress and to include tree work quotes.
- d) Town Investment Plan Update.
- e) Presteigne Roundabouts Update (Cllr. Baynham)

8. NORTON

- a) Norton Community Trust Update.

9. SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

- a) Public Conveniences: To note new cleaning contract now signed.
- b) Allotments: Update on plot vacancies/waiting list.
- c) Meadows: To include –
 - Use by Norton Show Committee for Craft Fair: 28th August, 2023
 - Update on conifer hedge cuttings.
 - Cutting of Back Field.
- d) Uneven Play Surface, Wilson Terrace Play Area.
- e) Withy Beds: Update re management/lease arrangements and consideration of Community Asset Transfer. (Clerk's Report 3a).

10. CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- a) Town Wifi Update.
- b) Community Broadband Scheme Update.
- c) Wales Air Ambulance and possible closure of Welshpool Base: To consider a response to the consultation process.
- d) Attendance at Remembrance Sunday Services. (Cllr Abecasis)
- e) To consider discussion with Ambulance Service and First/co Responders Service.
- f) Powys Well Being Plan: Consultation.
- g) Knighton Hospital: Report on briefing by Health Board (Cllrs. Baynham and Edwards).
- h) Disabled Access High Street: Update.
- i) Request for Use of Town Council Emblem in Sleeping Dragon Fund Raising Project.
- j) Future of East Radnorshire Leisure Centre: Working Group Update.

11. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

12. ANY URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION (at discretion of Chair)

Enc. Clerk's Report February. Minutes of January 25th Meeting. Various Background papers.

PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2023

1. INFORMATION –

a) County Council Quarterly Briefing: This took place in mid January and covered the following – Ukrainian Arrivals, Cost of Living Hubs (46 in Powys), Test and trace work with Covid, Uk Shared Prosperity Fund and the Mid Wales Regional Investment Plan, Budget update with a projected 5% rise in Council Tax proposed at present. Budget to include 16.446 million saving cost reductions in services and a 4.7 million reduction in school spending. The 5% Council Tax rise is also projected for a further four years.

Also a climate change conference is planned (in conjunction with Llandrindod Wells Town Council) on 14th June. To be held at the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells and will be free of charge. Any suggestions for what could be included within this conference can be emailed to climate@powys.gov.uk.

b) The organisations applying for grants have all been notified of the Council's decision. Thanks have been expressed by East Radnorshire Care, Judge's Lodgings Trust, PACDG, Wales Air Ambulance and Mid Border Arts.

c) Climate Crisis Committee: First meeting to take place on 22nd February.

2. HIGHWAYS ETC –

a) Dark Skies: Working Group Meeting to take place via Zoom on 1st March. Possible future funding needs to be discussed are – professional photographs to submit with the application and signage should the application be successful. The balance in the Dark Skies Reserve is currently £1142.24.

3. SITES AND BUILDINGS –

a) Withy Beds: The County Council Officer confirms he has now heard from the Wildlife Trust and it is willing to renew the lease and is happy for the landowner to be either PCC or the TC. The initial decision is therefore if the TC wishes to apply for an Asset Transfer (or long term lease although I don't see any advantage of that option) with a lease to the RWT being drawn up and signed on the same day. Costs would be legal fees for any land transfer/lease and of course an ongoing commitment to the site although day to day management would be under the Wildlife Trust.

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PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH JANUARY 2023
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards (Mayor), B. Baynham (Deputy Mayor), T. Owens, R. Bamford, M. Williams, J. Poster, J. Gray, J. Wilding, M. Price, L. Firth.

Apologies: Cllrs. F. Preece, A. Van Huls.

Absent: Cllr. L. Abecasis,

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. Members of the public.

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:

Cllr. R. Bamford, partner of potential contractor re. work for nature reserve.

Cllr. J. Gray, lives immediately adjacent to works re. update on High Street, Presteigne.

MIN 4150 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st December, 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the Minutes as such.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January, 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the Minutes as such.

MIN 4151 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

- (1) Telephone Banking: Now set up as discussed.
- (2) Town Wifi: It was possible that an extra unit could be added to the Memorial Hall to extend the range of the service.
- (3) Town Investment Plan: Nothing further had been received.
- (4) Allotments: Letters have gone out to all tenants reminding them that the tenancy year was drawing to a close and to let the Clerk know if they wished to give up their plot.
- (5) Website Advertising: Following an initial letter at the end of November a further reminder was sent out on 4th January. Any non-responders would have their advert removed at the end of the month.
- (6) Monthly Planning Call: The Clerk reported that this had been useful this month. The application for the old Depot site had been withdrawn. The Clerk had asked again for a TPO briefing at a future PCC meeting and had also chased up the current enforcement cases in Presteigne.

MIN 4152 FINANCE

(1) Donations: None this month.

(2) Payments: to approve the following payments –

N. Close	£10.50
N. Close	£105.00 MEADOW ACC
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00 MEADOW ACC
T. Lloyd-John (cleaning)	£408.49
RB Landscaping (works to car park, allotments and skateboard steps, inc materials)	£1749.60 MEADOW ACC

Powys County Council (election costs)	£1046.14 (debit card)
Welsh Water (Barn)	£19.52 MEADOW ACC
Vistaprint (refund R. Bamford - stickers)	£23.75
Bosky Trees (tree survey nature reserve)	£1008.00
Welsh Water (Hereford Street Toilets)	£184.94 (Direct Debit)
Border Janitorial (toilet rolls)	£84.54
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£10.30

Members agreed not to renew the advert for the website in Broad Sheep.

(3) The following receipts were noted:

Allotment Rent	£28.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Website Advertising	£39.00

MIN 4153 PLANNING

(1) Planning Applications: No applications this month.

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

22/2057/TRE Castle Barn, High Street, Presteigne: Consent 3rd January 2023.

(3) Powys Local Development Plan – Update: The Clerk reported that the list of candidate sites was not expected to be available until May/June.

(4) Tree Preservation Orders: Members noted that the Clerk had again spoken to the Planning Department and asked that the interactive map (link previously circulated) and in fact the whole TPO process be included within a future PCC briefing to Community Councils. This may help everyone understand how best to use the map and also it might bring other Community Councils on board with the need for better information to be readily available.

On applying for TPOs she reported there was much information on the gov.uk website –

[Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/tree-preservation-orders)

and also a technical advice note issued by Welsh Government –

<https://www.gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-10-tree-preservation-orders>

MIN 4154 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting Update: Members had no objections to the draft lighting policy. Regarding events for the Dark Skies Festival it was agreed that the Town Council was supportive of anything that could be arranged by the two non-Councillor Members of the Working Group.

(2) Climate Crisis Update: Cllr. Bamford reported the following –

Tree Hub/Giveaway: Four dates had been agreed for the second period in March. Different locations were to be used to maximise take up.

Nature Reserve: Agreed that the Clerk be given delegated authority to commission works/pay invoices etc in consultation with Cllr. Bamford. Latest items were –

- Access gate to school site: Now in place.
- Path works starting soon.
- Pond creation to start in February.
- Trees to be delivered and planted over the next month.
- 4/5th March: Various workshops and events as part of the community consultation.
- Opening Day planned for 3rd June.
- Maintenance Plan: First draft received.
- Training Day for tree pruning arranged for 11th February.
- Tree Survey complete. Very few works identified. Agreed to remove ivy from crown only of tree 31. Deadwood to be removed from tree 51. The Clerk would seek quotes for this work to be done as soon as possible.
- Cllr. Bamford supplied a list of quotes for various design elements of the project, explained the proposed extra cost for the gate and that the intention if agreed was to seek permission from the lottery to use part of the contingency amount to meet the extra cost.

Cllr. Bamford then left the room having declared an interest in this item.

Members agreed to accept the various quotes subject to any excess to the budget being covered by the contingency element of the grant.

Cllr. Bamford returned to the room.

Cllr. Gray left the room having declared an interest in the following item.

(3) Update on High Street, Presteigne: Cllr. Baynham advised that following the changes made during the height of the covid pandemic it was now intended to make the measures permanent and also to improve pavement/kerbing with the temporary bollards replaced with permanent ones.

Cllr. Gray returned to the room.

(4) Update on Welsh Water System Upgrade: Members noted that the necessary works to obtain a phosphate permit were now complete and Welsh Water hoped to receive the necessary permit from Natural Resources Wales in April.

(5) Concerns re Disabled Access on High Street: Cllrs. Baynham and Firth had both received comments on the difficulties experienced in accessing one of the High Street premises. Members appreciated the difficulties for the management but agreed that the Clerk write to the Manager to inform them of the concerns received and to ask if there was any way of improving the current arrangements.

(6) Fold Farm Footpath Update: Members noted the latest information and were encouraged that the County Council was intending to recommence DMMO work in the Spring.

(7) Drainage Concerns, The Slough: Cllr. Baynham informed Members that she had been in touch with the Highways Department and that officers would visit to check and clear drains and to try to find a solution to the problems.

MIN 4155 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that a meeting was taking place with a contractor on 26th January and that work was expected to start soon.

(2) Speed Enforcement: Members noted that there seemed to be regular enforcement in Presteigne Road, Knighton and the Clerk was asked to write to ask if while in the area enforcement could also be carried out in Norton and on the Presteigne bypass.

MIN 4156 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Nothing to report.

(2) Allotments: Two plots currently being re-let ready for 25th March.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed -

- situation re sheds: Members noted the comments of Mr. O. Rimington and agreed that the sheds remain on site for the time being.
- bin emptying: Members noted the Clerk's comments on the arrangements for this.
- removal of dead tree: Members noted that this had been cleared.
- grass cutting of back field: The Clerk reported that Mr. Graham was in the process of looking into this.
- conifer cuttings left on Meadow/Play Area: Clerk to ask the County Council Officer if he could ask that these be cleared.

(4) Uneven Surface Wilson Terrace Play Area: Deferred to February meeting.

(5) Withy Beds: Nothing to report at present.

MIN 4157 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Review of need for Town Council Surgeries: Agreed not to re-start the monthly surgeries.

(2) Attendance at Remembrance Sunday Services: Deferred due to the absence of Cllr. Abecasis.

(3) Presteigne Post Office Arrangements: Cllr. Baynham reported on the comments she had received regarding opening and staffing arrangements. Members were mindful of the need to preserve the service in the town and agreed to monitor and note any concerns.

(4) Town Clock: Cllr. Baynham reported that the clock was currently not being wound and that there was a need to ensure the County Council carried out any necessary maintenance and repairs. Cllr. Bamford suggested that Mr. O. Rimington might be willing to wind the clock and agreed to ask him.

(5) East Radnor Leisure Centre: Cllr. Baynham reported on the first working group meeting with matters discussed including better publicity of classes and events to encourage use and the possibility of installing solar panels. A representative from the Leisure Centre would be invited to join the group.

Members noted the email from Builth Wells Town Council and Cllr. Baynham agreed to attend any public meeting it might organise.

MIN 4158 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham reported the following: -

- Winter Maintenance and Emergency Planning Briefings
- Treasury Management Briefing

- Budget Meetings to be held in the coming weeks.
- Site Visit at Lugg View: Drainage engineer to discuss possible changes to fencing at bottom of site. Existing debris to be cleared from fence.

Cllr. Edwards reported additional items:-

- Motorbike Safety Course
- Older Driver's Course.

MIN 4159 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Knighton Hospital: Cllr. Edwards informed Members of the recent comments and reports on social media and on the statement subsequently issued by Powys Teaching Health Board. A briefing meeting had now been set up by the Board for 31st January. Cllrs. Baynham and Edwards would be attending in their capacity as County Councillors but the Town Council had also been invited to send a representative. Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend.

(2) Winding of Town Clock: Cllr. Bamford reported that Mr. Rimington had agreed to wind the clock.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.

The Sleeping Dragon.

When I was growing up in the early 1950s, the First World War was still very much a living memory to many. Today it is history, with no survivors left to tell the living tale. This transition point in time, from live memory to history, was upon us. This is the point where we must now translate, somehow, what took place, in such a way that it is clear to all that this war must be remembered and learned from. We have chosen a sleeping dragon for the memorial instead of the heraldic Welsh dragon that we all know and love. The reasoning for this is that the traditional Welsh dragon has a very “up front” attitude with an aggressive stance and unflattering sharp lines, most suitable in war.

The Welsh dragon flying on its standard would have raised the morale of any Welshman fighting for what he believed in. Sadly, many a good Welshman died doing just that, sometimes in lands far off, sometimes for reasons too complex to reason with. Where ever and for whatever, Welshman have always been distinguished in battle. However, there is another side to all of this and that is the Welshman who sang with such passion, now forever silent, the Welshman who loved his valleys and hills but will never again walk there, the Welshman who told his children bedtime myths and tales of dragons in Wales. Their legacy being the continuation of the culture of Wales. All so proud to be Welsh and all died so. This is the soft underside of our loss. This is the real loss. It is this loss that the sleeping dragon reflects, the soft inner being of all those sleeping Welshman who rest so far from the country they loved, in the fields of World War One.

Every dragon needs a place to sleep and a sun warmed cromlech is the ideal size and shape for the purpose. Cromlechs link us back many thousands of years in Welsh history and folklore. The Cromlech itself is low enough for an adult and for a child raised up by an adult, to see and touch the dragon, giving the connectivity to reinforce the point of the memorial. A child raised up to touch the dragon thus, may not yet understand, but will remember and perhaps in time, understand.

At the end of the centenary celebrations the sleeping dragon was removed from its place at dusk on 11/11/2018 in an attempt to provoke a little of the sense of loss felt by those who lost loved ones during the war.

The outcry was instant and very vocal, with calls for its immediate return. I held out for four years But eventually I was defeated by one Ed Wilding who simply said “we need it back Pete”. I had no answer. So yet another plan was hatched for the dragons return and this time, as the groundswell of opinion shows and grows, it looks like he will return sometime this summer if the fundraising is successful.

So to all those who have mythered on at me for four years to return the dragon, it's your call, we need £7000. Details of how to contribute to do this project are below.
Pete Smith. Feb 2023.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sleeping-dragon?utm_term=WbMJvvPWb

<https://www.facebook.com/presteignedragon/>