

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Mrs Tracey Price (Clerk)
Garn Farm
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14th November, 2024

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council on **WEDNESDAY 20th November, 2024 at 7.00 p.m.** at the **Assembly Rooms, Broad Street, Presteigne** and via video conferencing and you are hereby summoned to attend.

The meeting will start early to meet with Mr. T. Mullet re. Becoming a Town Crier.

The public and press are cordially invited to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83376817252?pwd=QFh17OjnexwSebjgymJZ6o3qzMi2L.1>

Meeting ID: 833 7681 7252 Passcode: 927947

Dial by your location - 0330 088 5830 United Kingdom

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbiOnXjv8Y>

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.

DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: CLLRS HARLING-BOWEN AND ROGERS.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October, 2024 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

To approve that the Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on 28th October, 2024 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 16th October. Also to receive the Clerk's Report for November.

5. FINANCE

a) Donations: To approve the following donations:- None this month. To note the letter of thanks from Presteigne and Norton Community Trust for the donation towards the cost of the bonfire/fireworks.

b) Payments: to approve the following payments:-

Highground Maintenance Ltd	£449.69	MEADOW ACC
Mrs T. A. Price	£1926.12	
HM Revenue & Customs	£808.70	
NEST (Direct debit)	£181.02	
T. Lloyd-John	£654.23	
N. Close	£64.00	
N. Close	£220.00	MEADOW ACC
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00	
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00	MEADOW ACC
High Street Grant	£3572.10	
William Protheroe Ltd (war memorial)	£650.00	
Eighteen73 (website hosting)	£252.00	
Mrs T.A. Price (travel expenses)	£38.70	
SLCC Enterprises Ltd (conference fee)	£39.00	
British Gas Lite (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£16.02	
JRB Enterprises Ltd (dog bags)	£1260.60	MEADOW ACC
One Voice Wales (training – new Councillor/chairing)	£40.00	
EDF Energy (Hereford Street)	£59.26	
High Street Grant	£3572.10	
Wallgate Ltd (soap for units in toilets)	£ to be advised	
Border Janitorial (toilet rolls)	£ to be advised.	
J & P Turner (planters – Mayor's Allowance)	£369.96	
HSBC (charges)	£8.00	MEADOW ACC
HSBC (charges)	£8.00	

c) Interim Audit: To note completion of mid year internal audit.

d) Inspection of Invoices (annual by Mayor): Report from Cllr. Owens.

e) Review of Money Market Investments.

f) To note the following receipt:

John Beddoes Trust Fund (twds costs of cleaning war memorial) £250.00

g) Notification of S137 limit for 2025/26 as £11.10 per elector.

h) Update on current level of ring fenced capital receipt (from sale of cemetery land). Clerk's Report 6.

i) Mayor's Allowance/Expenses 2024/25: To review arrangements for the current year and approve virement of the £1000 Mayor's Allowance to Mayor's Expenses.

6. PLANNING

(a) To consider applications received:

24/1455/HH Grid Reference: E:331476 N: 264421 Proposal: Demolition of existing lean-to utility and construction of single storey kitchen/dining room. Site Address: Hafod , Broad Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AD.

24/1504/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331379 N: 264626 Proposal: Removal of a boundary Laurel shrub and Holly tree, and the crown raise of a Yew tree and Dawn Redwood tree Location: The Rectory , St David's Street, Presteigne LD8 2BP.

24/1567/FUL Grid Reference: E:331461 N: 264311 Proposal: Removal of Lloyds TSP fascia signs and ATM Site Address: Lloyds Tsb Bank Plc , High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AU.

24/1568/LBC Grid Reference: E:331461 N: 264311 Proposal: Removal of Lloyds TSP fascia signs and ATM Site Address: Lloyds Tsb Bank Plc, High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AU.

24/1598/HH Grid Reference: E:331825 N: 264037 Proposal: Two storey rear & side extension to existing dwelling Site Address: 4 Greenfield Road, Presteigne, LD8 2AY.

24/1349/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331233 N: 264564 Proposal: Removal of a mixed species hedge Location: 1 Wherby Cottage , Presteigne, LD8 2DD.

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 –

24/1196/TPO Trees at John Beddoes Campus – Approval.

24/0689/HH Garrison Cottage, Church Street, Presteigne – Approval.

24/1106/HH 4 Greenfield Road, Presteigne – Refused.

7. HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

a) Dark Skies Project: To receive the notes from the Working Group Meeting and decide on next steps.

Note – Christmas Lighting does not fall within the remit of the Working Group but a separate Working Group could be formed to look into Christmas lighting if Council wishes. See agenda item 10h below.

b) Climate and Environment Matters: To include –

Reports on any information meetings/conferences attended.

Recommendations of Climate and Environment Committee as follows –

- *Hedge Cutting: to ask that the hedge cutting on the Meadow be reviewed and to recommend that hedges 1 and 4 not be cut this year and hedge 2 be cut on the inside (by the Community Barn).*
- *Hedge Cutting, Eddie's Meadow: to recommend that the inside of the hedges be left uncut. Review of hedge management: **NB July Full Council Meeting - No changes at present but to be further reviewed after the cut in the Autumn/Winter of 2024.** Management Plan information – Clerk's Report 5.*

- *Wildflower Project: To suggest the provision of a budget for a contractor to cut the wildflower areas as part of the nature reserve budget in 2025/26. **NB Sites and Buildings to prepare a draft budget on 27th November.***
- *To ask that the Council consider allowing the use of the tractor equipment at the Norton Churchyard.*
- *To recommend that the Committee be dissolved and replaced by a working group.*
- *To recommend that, if formed, the Working Group suggest updates to the Council's last climate report (made in November 2023).*
- *To ask the Council to consider suggesting plants for the Leominster roundabout in 2025. Note: **NB Sponsorship by Radnor Hills agreed.***
- *To recommend that the Town Council approach Powys County Council to ask that the electric vehicle charging points be upgraded.*
- *To recommend that the Council give permission for the Tree Group to apply for the £1000 grant for pond plants.*

c) High Street Grant: Update.

d) Fold Farm DMMO Application: To receive an update on progress (if any).

e) Reply from Natural Resources Wales re flood defences/Lugg Bridge etc. Clerk's Report 4.

f) Kington Roundabout: To consider arrangements for 2025.

8. **NORTON**

- Update on general works.
- Report on Annual Bonfire/Fireworks.

9. **SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS**

a) Public Conveniences: To note quotes for cleaning sought for 2025/26 and 26/27. NB Cleaning and Painting Quotes to be discussed at Sites & Buildings Committee on 27th November.

b) Allotments:

- Surrender of one tenancy/arrangements for clearance of plot.
- Update re plot markers.

c) Meadows: To include –

Hedge Management 2024 (Cllr. Wilding).

Cutting of one area of Eddie's Meadow (as part of annual hedge trimming).

Blocked drain, scout hut car park : to consider action needed.

Annual Play Inspection Report and to approve ongoing renewal of inspection arrangements.

Bike Track: Update by Cllr. Owens and agreement of proposal.

Review of decision café bar/storage. Cllr. Kirkby.

c) Nature Reserve Matters: To consider the following –

general update from Cllr. Ramsay and any decisions needed.

Dogs on reserve – email from member of the public. Clerk's Report 2.

Access gates onto Nature Reserve. Clerk's Report 3.

- d) Wilson Terrace Play Area: Broken/missing Zip Wire Seat. Update re. new bin, replacement climbing net and new toddler seat.

10. CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- a) Leisure Services Review Update. (If any).
- b) Memorial Hall Update.
- c) Town Crier: To consider any next steps/agreement to support proposal.
- d) Appointment of Replacement Town Council Representatives/Memberships –
 - Primary School Governor (1).
 - PACDG (1)
 - Local Development Plan Working Group (1)
- e) Telephone Kiosk, Station Road: See Clerk's report 1.
- f) Christmas Lights Check: To consider result of check and purchase of any replacement strings.
- g) Sustainable Powys – County Council Meetings: Reminder. Request to be part of joint letter to PCC from Beguildy Community Council.
- h) Christmas Lights: To consider the formation of a Working Group to look into the changes/replacements/renewal.
 - To consider quotes for installation in 2026, 2027 and 2028. See Clerk's Report 7
- i) Letter from Welsh Parliament re. covid enquiry.

11. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

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

Enc. *Clerk's Report Oct. Minutes from September, 2024. Any other background papers.*

PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024

1. Telephone Kiosk, Station Road: As requested last year this has now been re-painted by BT and a new 'telephone' sign has been requested.
2. Dogs in Nature Reserve: A member of the public has commented that one person is regularly walking two black dogs on the reserve (someone with an access gate onto the field apparently). How do Members want to deal with this?
3. Access gates onto Reserve: This was raised some months ago as one neighbour had asked about renewing their gate. At the time the plan was to register with rights of way that there was no formal access however I learnt afterwards that there are a number of properties with access in this way and it was on the August walk agenda but we ran out of time to go to the reserve.
4. NRW and Flood Defences etc, Lugg Bridge: After chasing (twice) I now have the following reply –*'We are currently working with our appointed designers and the owner of the affected property, with a view to submitting a planning application for the replacement river wall and property early in the new year. As you correctly stated in your email, working in the river when the water levels are high not only makes the work more difficult but also more dangerous. In addition to the river levels, we also need to consider wildlife, particularly fish. We have been working with our NRW colleagues in the consenting / licensing team to agree the best time of the year to undertake the in-river work and suitable working methods to ensure the welfare of the fish and water quality. Our current programme shows the river wall being constructed in May 2025, but I would like to highlight that this is subject to obtaining the necessary consents.'*
5. Hedge Cutting, Eddie's Meadow: The new management plan states :-
 - Hedgerow/Tree line, north-east boundary No management required. Annual cutting. To further establish tree size and girth and provide a valuable continuous taller tree line and shelter-belt for the site.
 - Hedgerow- western. Annual cutting. To maintain height and dense hedgerow structure. Annually during autumn/winter.
6. Finance – Capital Monies: I have changed the way I record the amount of the reserves that are restricted for capital spending only and now just keep a running total of the spend under this heading and the balance remaining. Allocated reserves are in place for items such as the MUGA but when spent I can also deduct from the capital spend sheet reducing the amount of ring fenced money. This is just so I can demonstrate to the internal and external auditors that we are aware of the original capital receipt, are monitoring it and only spending it on capital. It currently stands at just over £29k. Note – this is not free money sitting there to be spent. It forms part of your general reserve monies and resulted from a land purchase/sale made using general reserves initially. You need to be aware of the restriction on type of spending when looking at reserve levels but that is all. I will show it as an advisory figure when providing you with your project balances and reserve calculations in January.
7. Christmas Light Installation: The contract is due for renewal after this year. After a number of years using volunteers the Council changed to employing a formal installer three years ago. This has seemed to work well and there have been no problems. I have emailed three companies for quotes for a further three years and will advise at the meeting. Discussion of quotes should be in closed session although the decision will be fully minuted.

This year the scaffolding on two properties has meant the lights are not yet in place. Also two anchorage points have been removed from the Radnor Buildings and will need replacing by an approved installer and tested before lights can go up. After the check recently several strings were found to be beyond repair and our installer should be investigating the cost of replacements.

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PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2024
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. T. Owens, (Mayor), A. Van Huls (Deputy Mayor), B. Baynham, D. Edwards, C. Kirkby MBE, F. Preece, J. Wilding, C. Ross, A. Ramsay, N. Rogers, L. Harling-Bowen and J. Ramsay.

Apologies: Cllr. M. Price.

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.

Personal: None.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. A. Ramsay, re planning application 24/1456/LBC, owner of property.

Cllr. J. Ramsay, re. planning application 24/1456/LBC, related to owner of property.

Cllr. C. Kirkby, re planning applications 24/1456/LBC and 24/1471/FUL, friend of applicants.

Cllr. Owens welcomed Cllrs. Rogers and Harling-Bowen to the Council.

Unfortunately due to technical issues the police were unable to attend.

MIN 4392 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September, 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4393 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Annual Rospa Inspection: Cllr. Kirkby asked if this had been arranged. The Clerk advised that she had been chasing for a date but had not had anything as yet. Cllr. Kirkby asked to be advised of the date when known as he would like to attend if possible.
- (2) Natural Resources Wales and Works at Lugg Bridge: There had been no reply as yet. The Clerk would chase.
- (3) Portrait of King Charles: The Clerk advised that the request for the portrait would to be hung in the Assembly Rooms was to be put to a meeting of the Mid Border Arts Committee. If this was not possible the Clerk would approach the Judge's Lodgings.
- (4) Bike Track: Cllr. Owens had made contact with the parent of one of the young people and was arranging to meet the group on site with the Deputy Mayor. It was noted that some of the digging extended beyond the actual bike track and some of the holes were deep and a possible hazard. These matters would be discussed on site as part of the meeting.
- (5) Old Memorial Bench: The Community Garden felt the bench was beyond repair. Cllr. Wilding had kindly agreed to dispose of the bench so the new bench could be put in position.
- (6) British Cycling: Cllr. Owens had not as yet been able to make contact but would hopefully do so over the coming weeks.
- (7) Clerk's Qualification: Members noted that the Clerk had recently passed her Principles of Internal Auditing Course (Wales).

MIN 4394 FINANCE

- (1) Donations: The following donations were agreed -
- | | |
|---|---------|
| Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal | £75.00 |
| Sheep Music (annual firework event) | £500.00 |
| Presteigne and Norton Community Trust (annual firework event) | |

	£400.00
(2) The following payments were agreed –	
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£449.69 MEADOW ACC
Mrs T. A. Price	£1588.64
HM Revenue & Customs	£601.58
NEST (Direct debit)	£146.30
T. Lloyd-John	£641.23
N. Close	£4.00
N. Close	£120.00 MEADOW ACC
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00 MEADOW ACC
High Street Grant (1)	£2492.00
High Street Grant (2)	£926.80
Post Office (stamps - via debit card)	£117.60
British Gas Lite (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	14.99
Powys County Council (bunting licence)	£125.00
Presteigne Building Supplies	£202.40 MEADOW ACC
EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£44.53

(3) Approval for Training Modules One Voice Wales: It was agreed that Members should book onto any of the One Voice Wales modules of interest via the Clerk. An allocated reserve was held to cover costs and the Clerk was asked to advise the Council if the balance dropped below £100.

(4) Interim Audit: Deferred to November as accounts not yet returned.

(5) Inspection of Invoices (annual by Mayor): Deferred to November.

(6) Draft Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel: Members noted the contents of the draft report and the closing down of the Panel from April 2025 with its remit being transferred to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru. No comments to be made on the draft report.

(7) External Audit 2024-25 Update: The Clerk reported that she had still not received the papers back from Audit Wales.

(8) EDF Energy Direct Debits Corrections: Following a change in their accounting system the invoices and direct debits from EDF did not match for a short period. The correct amounts were agreed and confirmed below –

 July 2024 – Minuted £45.24, Actual (2 invoices) £51.72

 August 2024 – No amount minuted. Actual £33.83

Invoices were now held for these amounts.

(9) Receipts: The following receipt was noted –

 C. Watson – website advertising £6.00

MIN 4395 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 application was discussed –

24/1382/HH Grid Reference: E:331451 N: 267674 Proposal: Erection of a 4 bay garage and store Site Address: Fairview, Stonewall Hill, Presteigne, LD8 2HB. The Town Council was pleased to see that solar panels and bat boxes will be installed as part of the proposal. Members were concerned at the proximity of the holly hedge to the building. Otherwise no objections subject to a clause being included preventing the building being converted into living accommodation in the future.

24/1417/FUL Grid Reference: E:331285 N: 263921 Proposal: Extension to existing office Site Address: Western Way, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne, LD8 2UH. Resolved no objections be raised.

24/1482/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331282 N: 264547 Proposal: Crowning of tree within a conservation area Location: Radnorshire Arms Hotel, High Street, Llanandras, Powys LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections to the application providing care is taken not to over/severely prune and so threaten the ongoing viability of the tree.

Cllr. Kirkby left the meeting for the duration of the next two items.

24/1471/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331426 N: 264435 Proposal: Trimming and shaping tree within a conservation area Location: Craftsman's Mews, Broad Street, Presteigne LD8 2AA. Resolved no

objections to this application providing care is taken not to over/severely prune and so threaten the ongoing viability of the tree.

Cllrs. A. Ramsey and J. Ramsay left the meeting for the duration of the following item.

24/1456/LBC Grid Reference: E:331476 N: 264421 Proposal: Demolition of existing lean-to utility and construction of single storey kitchen/dining room. Site Address: Hafod, Broad Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AD. Resolved no objections to this application providing the Built Heritage Officer gives their approval.

Cllrs. Edwards, Kirkby, A. Ramsay and J. Ramsay returned to the room.

(2) Planning Decisions:

42 Castle Road, Presteigne – Approval.

(3) Local Development Plan Update: Members noted the response from the County Council as follows:- The reply re the settlement hierarchy was *'Within the document you can see that employment opportunities were assessed in Table 23 based on: the presence of employment opportunities within a settlement under the categories outlined in Table 13, And the presence /or distance to - the nearest industrial estate / business park,*

Table 24 includes statistical data from The Annual Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) - Office for National Statistics (2021) and Nomis employee data (2021) on the number of employers in the area. However, this data has not been used in the scoring as the Middle Super Output areas cover geographies much larger than settlement boundaries this is detailed in paragraph 5.11. Therefore the scoring would not have been affected by whether Radnor Hills included employees based/working in Presteigne. With regards to broadband data the analysis was undertaken using data from the Open Market Review data (2021) so the situation may have changed.

(4) Nant Nithil Wind Energy Development: The following reply was noted – *'At the moment, we aren't accepting any new viewpoint requests as we're at the stage of finalising the site boundary. Any viewpoints sent now may not reflect what would be submitted to planning. There are no planned events or additional consultations between now and planning submission, but we appreciate your location suggestions which we will keep in mind for any potential future engagement.'*

(5) Trees/TPOs Presteigne and Norton - Update/review: Cllr. Baynham reported that the new mapping system which had been supposed to show the locations for trees under preservation orders did not appear to be showing them. She had however obtained a list and had been surprised at how few trees were actually protected. She would be willing to put more trees forward if Members provided her with details. Cllr. A. Ramsay had taken photographs of a number of important trees locally and agreed to supply Cllr. Baynham with details.

MIN 4396 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: Issues discussed were -

- Signage: Cllr. Harling-Bowen had made enquiries with the Elan Valley Trust on the signage used there and was awaiting a reply. The Clerk had obtained prices for basic A3 signs. It was agreed that the Clerk put a notice on the Council noticeboard in Norton.
- Grant Funding: Agreed that the Council would not proceed to make a grant application but the film maker could apply for funding direct.
- Secondary School: Very positive feedback received from John Beddoes Campus.
- Working Group Meeting: Agreed that a meeting be arranged as soon as possible.
- Ongoing Work: Cllr. J. Ramsay asked about contact with private businesses etc and changes needed in this area. It was agreed that next steps should be discussed at the Working Group meeting.

(2) Climate and Environment Update: The following matters were discussed –

- Powys Climate Event: Cllr. J. Ramsay had attended and advised that the Public Services Board now had a working group to cover climate matters. The event had been primarily to share ideas and there would be a follow up event in December.
- Climate and Environment Committee: Reminder of meeting on 28th October. Cllr. Baynham stood down from the Committee and Cllr. Harling-Bowen was appointed as her replacement.

(3) High Street Grant – Update: The Clerk reported that several premises had now had the work completed and all others had now been started.

(4) Fold Farm DMMO Application: The Clerk reported that she had been advised that the witness statements were being written up and sent out for checking. There was no date in place for the committee

meeting as yet and the officer was currently busy working on budget matters. Cllr. Kirkby asked that the Clerk check if a sufficient number of witnesses had now been submitted and how many had actually been interviewed. This was agreed.

(5) Future of Presteigne Car Parks - Update on County Council review: Cllr. Kirkby had noted a number of recommendations in the consultant's report and in particular that the reintroduction of a one hour paid parking option for all car parks was one of the options under consideration (currently this was not an option in long stay car parks). Given that car parks were an under-utilised resource he suggested it would be sensible to make the first hour of parking free in order to encourage trade in the High Streets. Cllr. Baynham reported on concerns over the report which had led to it being thrown out of Cabinet and returned to the Working Group. She had asked for revised timescales but had received nothing as yet. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the County Council requesting a free first hour of parking for the town car parks. Concern was noted at the cost of the consultants used.

(6) Plans for Presteigne Roundabouts in 2025: Radnor Hills had confirmed a willingness to continue sponsorship of the Leominster roundabout and it was agreed that the Council accept this offer. The sponsor of the Kington Roundabout was not able to continue and Cllr. Baynham was seeking a possible new sponsor. She would update Members further at the November meeting. Cllr. Wilding added that it was disappointing that a former Councillor had visited the sponsor and told them they should not cut the roundabout despite no longer being a part of the Council and it being the Council's decision to agree the sponsorship allowing it to be cut and planted. Prior to the November meeting the Clerk was asked to get a price from Caring for God's Acre for this roundabout so this could also be considered. Cllr. J. Ramsay reminded Members that roundabouts were also on the Climate and Environment Committee agenda and he would advise the Council of any suggestions at the November meeting.

MIN 4397 NORTON

(1) General Works: The milestone had now been removed by Cllr. Wilding and would be collected by the stone mason at the end of the week. No progress on removing the best kept village sign for renovation.

(2) Update on purchase of Daffodil bulbs: Two bags had been ordered, one each for Cllrs. A. Ramsay and D. Edwards.

(3) Update on Traffic Monitoring/Possible Traffic Calming measures: Cllr. Edwards provided an update on this following the installation of the monitoring strips by the Gables and Wills View. It was agreed that Cllr. Edwards pass on the information to the police and also proceed further with the new community speed watch volunteers. The Traffic Engineer had suggested the flashing speed monitoring signs but these were several thousand pounds and it was felt speed watch was a logical first step.

MIN 4398 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences - Update re painting of Hereford Street Block: The Clerk now had two quotes and was in the process of obtaining a third.

(2) Allotments: The following matters were discussed –

Update on untended plots: Several were still very overgrown despite the Clerk chasing the tenants several times. It was agreed that the matter be discussed at the Sites and Buildings Committee meeting with a view to tenants being given a final warning to tidy the plots.

Purchase of new Plot Markers: Agreed that Cllrs. Preece and Price proceed to purchase markers in liaison with the Clerk.

Cllr. Baynham left the meeting at this point due to a number of urgent issues regarding flooding locally.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Purchase of dog bags – agreed to allow an overspend in order to make a further bulk purchase.
- Brilliant Basics Funding – invitation for expressions of interest: Agreed that the Clerk complete this for the proposed disabled access path.
- Use Request – Sheep Music, 2nd November: Agreed.

(4) Nature Reserve Matters: The following matters were noted -

- Ponds currently full.
- National Forest sign still to be erected.
- Cllr. Ross to look at carbon accounting.
- Tree Group looking into possibility of a Tree Preservation Order for the trees along Warden Road.
- Volunteers looking at budget needs for 25-26. This would initially go before the Sites and Buildings Committee.

MIN 4399 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- (1) Leisure Centre Update: Nothing to report.
- (2) Presteigne Memorial Hall Update: Cllr. Edwards had attended a recent Committee meeting and matters were progressing.
- (3) Prospective Closure of Lloyds Bank: The reply from the bank was noted. LINK had conducted an assessment on the need for access to cash and a banking hub and while the need for a cash machine was agreed it had not been felt that a banking hub was necessary. The Clerk had stressed the need for 24 access to cash in the town.
- (4) Review of Meeting Starting Time: Cllr. Wilding proposed that future meetings start at 7pm rather than 7.30pm with or without a speaker. This was agreed.
- (5) Email from British Cycling: See under Minute 4393(6) above.
- (6) Approval of Annual Report 2023-24: Agreed as drafted.
- (7) Report on Sustainable Powys – Cllrs Baynham, Edwards and Wilding had attended. Cllr. Edwards and Wilding reported that other than the hosts, Builth Wells Town Council, there had been no other Councils represented. Concerns had been raised about the future of services (leisure, schools, libraries) in the smaller towns given the 'Sustainable Powys' plans.
- (8) Reply from Midlands Air Ambulance: The following response was noted – 'Many thanks for your enquiry. I want to reassure you that the principle focus of the entire Air Ambulance community across the UK, including our close colleagues at Wales Air Ambulance, is to deliver outstanding patient care. We work in close collaboration, providing borderless tasking and mutual aid on the rare occasions it is required. There are no barriers in the sky. Whilst we are very grateful to the members of Presteigne and Norton Town Council for considering donating to Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, we would encourage you to continue supporting Wales Air Ambulance because they provide a vital service to your area.
- (9) Town Wifi - Stickers for Distribution: The Clerk would distribute to High Street businesses.
- (10) War Memorial Works – request for contributions update: The Royal British Legion did not have sufficient funds to contribute. The Clerk had yet to hear from the John Beddoes Charity. Work was due to be carried out on 18th October.
- (11) Bus Timetables/Cases - Request from County Council to take over display of timetables: Agreed that until details on where these were it was not possible to make a decision. Deferred until the information could be supplied.
- (12) Senedd Inquiry into the role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector: Cllr. Kirkby stated that the review seemed to be talking about amalgamating small Councils and reducing Town and Community Councillors from 8000 to 3000. It was agreed that the Clerk respond stating that amalgamation of Councils and a subsequent reduction in Councillors would reduce local accountability. The Clerk advised that she had requested access to join the consultation event online but had been refused as the event was full. It was agreed that she also point out that such events needed to be made available to all those interested in attending.

MIN 4400 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Edwards reported on the following –

- Cardboard Recycling Banks: Shortly to be removed from the bypass car park.
- Flooding Issues in Norton Village: Being dealt with.
- Bent Give Way Signs at Home Farm Lane: to be reported.
- Vote on change to single transferrable vote system: Cllr. Edwards was concerned at the changes this would mean with Wards becoming larger but multi Councillors in each new ward.

MIN 4401 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

- (1) One Hundredth Birthday: Congratulations to Mr. Jim Rogers on reaching his 100th birthday. Cllr. Owens had delivered a card on behalf of the Council.
- (2) Setting Up of Meeting Room: Cllr. Owens agreed to help in November as Cllr. Preece would only be able to join online.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 28th OCTOBER 2024
IN THE GREEN ROOM, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present:

Cllrs. J. Ramsay (Chairman), D. Edwards (Vice-Chairman), L. Harling Bowen and C. Kirkby MBE.
Outside Representatives Ms. K. Van Den Ende, H. Rimington.

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

1/24. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2024/25

Due to the resignation of Cllr. Poster it was necessary to elect a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Nominations were invited by Cllr. Ramsay. Cllr. Ramsay was proposed by Cllr. Edwards and seconded by Cllr. Kirkby and elected unanimously.

2/24. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2024/25

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

3/24. UPDATES ON PREVIOUS MATTERS

Hedge Management: Cllr. Ramsay and Ms Van Den Ende had looked at the hedges, specifically hedges 1,2 and 4. The hedges were generally growing well and it was agreed to recommend that of these three hedges just the inside of hedge two by the Community Barn needed cutting this time. The Clerk explained that she and Cllr. Wilding had met the contractor in 2023 and that Cllr. Wilding would be meeting him this time to go over the schedule for this year. Cllr. Ramsay asked that he also attend if this could be arranged. Ms. Van Den Ende advised that the infill planted was growing well. Cllr. Wilding had been in touch with the Clerk to suggest the hedge cutting contractor also cut a section of Eddie's Meadow and the Committee was generally in favour of this. The Sites and Buildings Committee would review the hedge management at the end of November and make a recommendation to the Full Council.

The Committee then considered the hedges in Eddie's Meadow and whether the internal hedges here could also be left. The Clerk would check the current arrangements and agenda an item for Full Council to review.

Wildflower Project: This was now complete and had been very successful considering the poor weather. More locally sourced seeds had been sown and the volunteers were considering a Spring cut. Cllr. Harling-Bowen suggested purchasing equipment to mechanically cut the areas and it was explained that the Council did own equipment. Cllr. Harling Bowen then asked if the equipment could be used at Norton Church. Concerns were raised regarding insurance, training and breakages and the Clerk would investigate further. The possibility of using an outside contractor to cut the wildflower areas on the reserve was put forward for possible consideration when setting a budget for the Nature Reserve at the November Sites and Buildings Committee.

4/24. VALIDITY OF COMMITTEE AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Cllr. Baynham had asked for this item to be on the agenda and her email to Cllr. Ramsay was read to the meeting. It outlined concerns that the Committee was concentrating on smaller matters rather than items such as solar panels for Council or other buildings.

The Committee considered the need for a formal committee and the Clerk explained the difference between a formal committee and an informal working group. After some discussion it was felt that a working group would provide more flexibility for meeting and could still submit written reports to the Council for consideration. The Committee would be dissolved. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this request be put to Full Council for a decision.

Cllr. Kirkby left the meeting during the discussion on this item.

5/24 TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

There was no decision made on this given the recommendation above but it was agreed to recommend that the first task of the Working Group (if formed) would be to review the Climate report of November 2023 and submit updates to that report.

6/24 WEED KILLING TREATMENTS

Ms. Van Den Ende was concerned at the use of weed killer on Council land. The Clerk stated that there had been no weed killing treatments for approximately two years but that any use was approved by the Council with some treatments being necessary in order to protect the tarmac surfaces of the car park/MUGA and comply with RoSPA recommendations. She added that she had discussed the use of flame blowers being used instead of weed killer but the contractor did not use this method and had advised that they felt the use of gas made it a poor choice for the environment.

7/24 MANAGEMENT OF ROUNDABOUTS

Leominster Roundabout: The Clerk advised that sponsorship of this island had been renewed with Radnor Hills for 2025. Ms. Van Den Ende expressed concerns that it was not managed to maximise biodiversity and was unhappy at the type of plants used and at the regular mowing. Any suggestions to put to the sponsor would need to be agreed by Full Council. The Clerk pointed out that the roundabout was County Council property and that ultimately would be a decision for Cllr. Baynham and the County Council. It was agreed to ask that this be an agenda item at the November meeting.

Kington Roundabout: The Clerk explained the previous sponsor was unable to continue and that Cllr. Baynham was looking at options to present to the November Full Council meeting. She added that the Council had asked that she get a price for 2025 from Caring for God's Acre.

8/24 POWYS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Cllr. Ramsay had attended this conference. There would be a further event on 7th December. Cllr. Harling Bowen was running a dark skies workshop at the event.

9/24 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

MS. Van Den Ende was concerned that the charging points in the Hereford Street Car Park were slow and becoming obsolete. She felt they were in need of upgrading. The Clerk would discuss with Cllr. Baynham as these charging points belonged to the County Council.

10/24 COUNTY COUNCIL STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORT

Cllr. Ramsay had attended a meeting on 7th October.

11/24 COMMITTEE BUDGET

Not discussed due to the proposal to dissolve the Committee.

12/24. URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Dark Skies Working Group: A meeting date was to be arranged in the next few weeks.

(2) Grant for Pond Plants: Ms. Van Den Ende reported that an opportunity had arisen for the Tree Group to apply for £1000 of oxygenating plants for the ponds at the reserve and asked for permission to apply. The grant was through the County Council which would purchase the plants and arrange for the delivery. The Tree Group would deal with the planting. She asked for permission for the group to go ahead. Provisional agreement was given but this would need to be confirmed at Full Council in November.

13/24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

No date discussed given the recommendation to dissolve the Committee.

Summary of Full Council Decisions Required –

Hedge Cutting: to ask that the hedge cutting on the Meadow be reviewed and to recommend that hedges 1 and 4 not be cut this year and hedge 2 be cut on the inside (by the Community Barn).

Hedge Cutting, Eddie's Meadow: to recommend that the inside of the hedges be left uncut.

Wildflower Project: To suggest the provision of a budget for a contractor to cut the wildflower areas as part of the nature reserve budget in 2025/26.

To ask that the Council consider allowing the use of the tractor equipment at the Norton Churchyard.

To recommend that the Committee be dissolved and replaced by a working group.

To recommend that, if formed, the Working Group suggest updates to the Council's last climate report (made in November 2023).

To ask the Council to consider suggesting plants for the Leominster roundabout in 2025.

To recommend that the Council approach Powys County Council to ask that the electric vehicle charging points be upgraded.

To recommend that the Council give permission for the Tree Group to apply for the £1000 grant for pond plants.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Agenda Item for P&NTC November 2024 Meeting – Proposal from Cllr Kirkby

Community Storage and Refreshment Service Area. (Snack Shack) Review of April 2024 decision.

Following the decision at the April meeting where the council decided not to proceed with the above project by a vote of 5-4 against, Sheep Music would be pleased if the council could reconsider this decision and I am bringing it to council on their behalf. It considers this unit to be important in facilitating the infrastructure needed for its events in the Community Barn. The unit would provide both convenient storage for the site equipment needed, and a servery for a bar or food as required. In light of the comments at the last meeting and now that the council has storage for its equipment, SM have amended the proposal by shortening the length of the building (see attached plans).

There are three key elements of this project:-

- 1 The storage of equipment, principally for Sheep Music and the Carnival Committee
- 2 The provision of a servery for either a bar or food as required saving the huge effort required to build and dismantle a bar for each event and providing secure overnight security for stock.
- 3 The third key element of the proposal is the opportunity to purchase new equipment within the grant application to help with putting on events on the meadow.

Equipment to include:-

12 of 6ft Wooden folding table sets with 2 benches,
150m of Fairy Lights,
200m of 16Amp cables with various adapters and splitters
36 clear plastic totes to store equipment,
220m of rope with pig tail spikes for a boundary
20 off dustbins with specific recycling tops
3 x Bi-lingual road signs warning of event ahead

COST - £6300

The new equipment will be available for other community organisations putting on events on Went's meadow.

This leaves plenty of space for Sheep Music, MBA and a space allocated for Carnival equipment (that will be specifically for carnival use only.)

The outline budget for the building is:-

Planning Permission - £250,
Groundworks - £5600,
Building Structure - £3800,
Building External - £5300,
Building Internal - £3300,
Services (electrics) - £420,
Outside (decking and ramps) - £650,

TOTAL - £19320

With 15% Contingency - £22218

Funding:-

A target of £30k would be aimed for to ensure the project is fully funded.

The proposal to raise this money is:-

Lottery Grant	£20,000
P&NTC	£3,000
Sheep Music	£1,000
Carnival Committee	£1,000
Crowd Funding	£5,000

Without the lottery funding the project cannot go ahead. The lottery takes 12 weeks to advise on the outcome of an application. If the project is approved by the TC then a grant application would be made by middle of December with a decision expected by mid-March.

The project can only go ahead if the lottery application is successful so there would be no point in precepting for the proposed TC contribution in the 2025/26 precept.

The TC does have a large capital reserve from the sale of the cemetery to PCC as well as in the Meadow Fund which could easily finance the £3k should the Lottery application succeed and the £3k could be precepted to replace the funds in the year 2026-27.

The building will be built by local volunteers, as was the barn, and this means that for an investment of only £3k the TC will have assets worth £40k. A good return on investment by any standards.

Both Sheep Music and Carnival committee have agreed to contribute £1k each and in addition SM are happy to refund the council the cost of the planning application. So should the lottery grant be unsuccessful then there will have been no cost to the TC.

Timescale:-

- Nov TC meeting. Review decision – if successful then
- Dec Submit planning and Lottery applications.
- March Planning and Lottery decisions received. – If successful
- April Start build which is anticipated to take two months.
- July Building ready for 2025 Carnival.

Letters of support

These were received from Sheep Music, MBA, Carnival Committee and Rory Bennett and are copied in below:-

1. MBA.

I am writing on behalf of Mid Border Arts board of trustees to voice our support for the plan to build a combined storage shed and refreshment area adjacent to Went's Meadow Barn. We have studied the plans and are very impressed with the design. We note the trouble taken to produce detailed costings and that the proposed facility fits well between the two, existing barns, so that the proposal does not involve the development of any further open space. The corrugated steel sheeting looks very durable and complements the two, existing buildings on the site.

We are also pleased to support the proposal as it has given consideration to the needs of a number of diverse community groups, enabling them to store their equipment safely on site and therefore operate more efficiently. The latter is imperative as it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract volunteers in the current economic climate. It is vital that the load on each volunteer is reduced as much as possible. I note that disabled access and landscaping are also included in the design. As active volunteers within the community, each board member has personally experienced the problem of helping with events on the Went's meadow site without any storage. The time it takes to set up and take down events is increased dramatically due to this problem and much more physical effort is required by an aging group of volunteers.

We hope the council will take the opportunity to reconsider their decision and will feel able to support Owen in pursuing grant applications in order to progress the plan.

We look forward to your response.

Jennifer Ellison on behalf of the Mid Border Arts Board of Trustees

2. Carnival Committee

I am writing with regard to the proposed shed project on Went's Meadow. The carnival committee is in full support of this project - it's something we've felt strongly about for some time as it makes perfect sense to have storage on site for all organisations who use the Meadow to use, saving both time and work. The proposed shed project would enhance the ambience on the Meadow, bringing another original structure to the site, and continuing the quirky designs, and would also provide an extra food/drink serving area which would be in keeping with the new community barn. We may be able to offer some financial support, but this would have to be reviewed after the carnival. We look forward to hearing the progress of this project.

Debbie Davies, Chair, Presteigne Carnival Committee

11.10.24

The carnival committee had a presentation from Colin Kirkby and Owen Rimington at our meeting on Tuesday regarding their proposed application for a storage unit to be constructed on Went's Meadow. I believe that their proposal will be put before the Town Council at its November Meeting, and I would confirm that the Carnival Committee are willing to pledge £1,000 in support of this application.

We are currently using storage at a committee member's property, but this is a short term arrangement, and we are very keen to have storage actually on Went's Meadow for ease of use for the carnival.

Can you please pass on our letter of support to the Town Council for consideration.

Kind regards, Debbie Davies, Chair, Presteigne Carnival Committee

3. Rory Bennett.

I'm writing to you a letter in support of the plans to erect a storage/refreshments shed next to the new barn on Went's Meadow. I have been involved with Sheep Music, The Carnival & other events for many years and this addition to what is already a fantastic community resource would be invaluable.

I don't need to mention how well used and appreciated the community area is, as we all witness this first hand every summer. What I do think is worth pointing out is the relief and support it would give the small pool of volunteers that work tirelessly year in year out to put on these events. Having grown up, and now settled, in Presteigne, having events like this in town has massively shaped my view on the area and my willingness to stay and contribute myself. We now have a growing group of

friends around similar ages with small children settling in the area which is fantastic for Presteigne. If this community support and involvement can be pushed it can only be good news for the town.

As a past organiser for these events, one of the hardest parts is the collecting and returning kit back to the various, inappropriate storage areas dotted in and around town. Having this shed on site would take away hours and hours of hard work and stressful organising from the small group of volunteers who are so so crucial in keeping the Presteigne community what it is. We should do whatever we can to keep the community spirit alive and the willingness of the community to get involved. It can only make it easier to put on smaller events that would push trade for the town and boost Presteigne's standing within the county and country.

Not only would I like to support this as an individual, but also as a thriving local business person who would be willing to support it in whatever way I can.

4. Sheep Music.

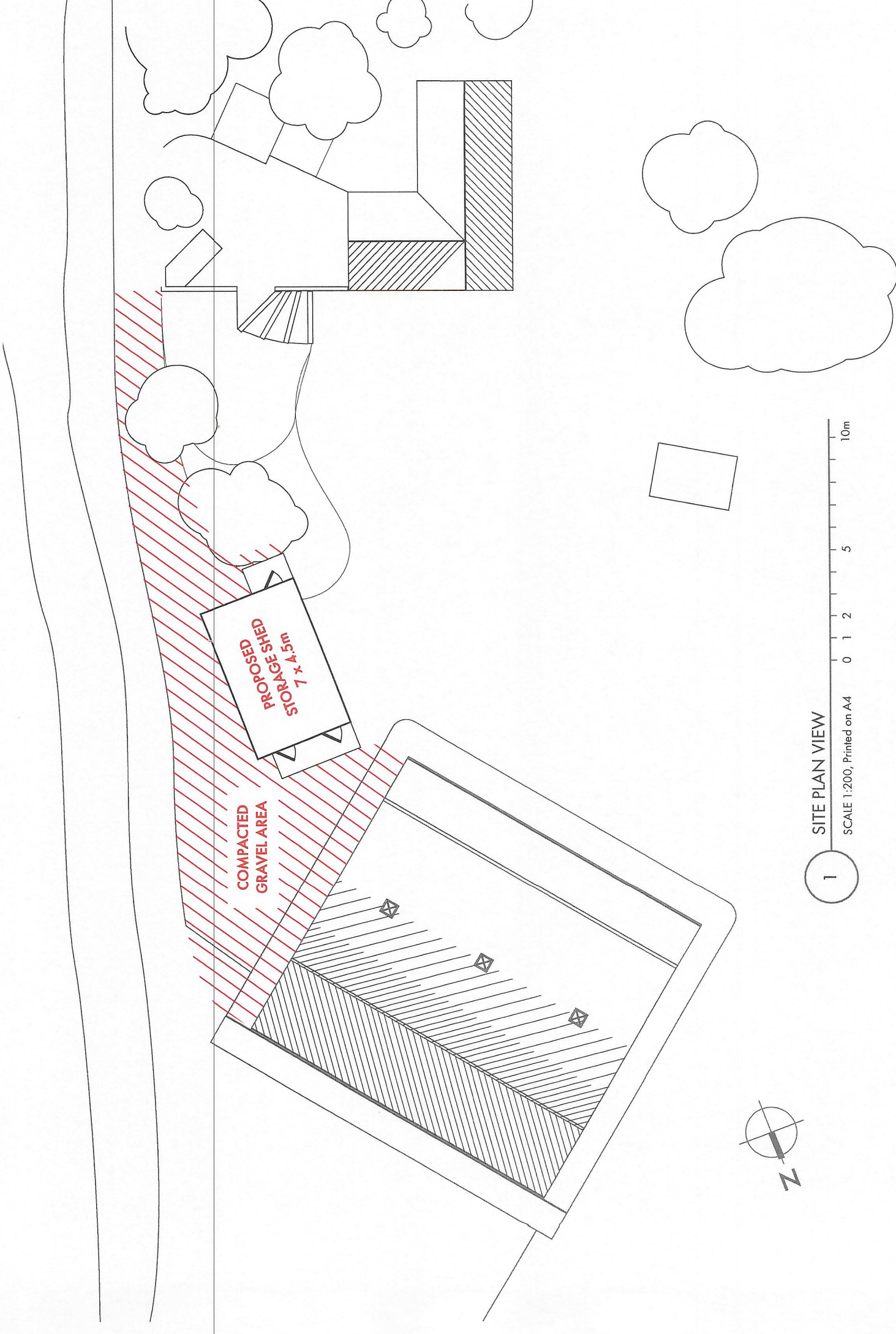
We are writing in support of Owen Rimington's idea and planned design for a storage shed situated as plans indicate on Went's meadow.

The barn itself was built to a very high spec and is a beautiful structure which the town is very proud and fond of. Having a sympathetically designed storage shed and bespoke catering facility will do much to enhance the meadow, the events that take place there and create an aesthetically pleasing area to sit and enjoy the atmosphere.

We, as an organisation have struggled to find volunteers to help with events in recent years and as a result of this the workload has increased for those who are willing to help. Our events, including the town firework display often involve collecting kit and props from various locations around the town and further afield. With a storage facility for all organisations who use the barn and meadow the organisation of such events would be so much easier and therefore raise the possibility of the barn being used more often.

A lot of events rely on the income of a bar to subsidise costs. With Owen's design we would not need to use our large gazebo for this purpose (which will need replacing soon and requires a minimum of 6 people to erect and take down). With a serving hatch at the front facing into the meadow the shed could be used for a bar/tea and cake stall or other purpose. There would also be much less worry concerning leaving stock on site.

We understand that negotiations are taking place regarding the plans to make the shed a realistic proposition which we welcome and also that the shed is dependent on a successful grant application. As an organisation that will benefit from the plans we understand that we would make a contribution to the project. Sincerely, **Board of Trustees of Sheep Music**



PROPOSED STORAGE SHED
7 x 4.5m

COMPACTED GRAVEL AREA

1 SITE PLAN VIEW

SCALE 1:200, Printed on A4

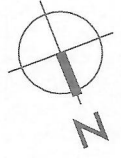
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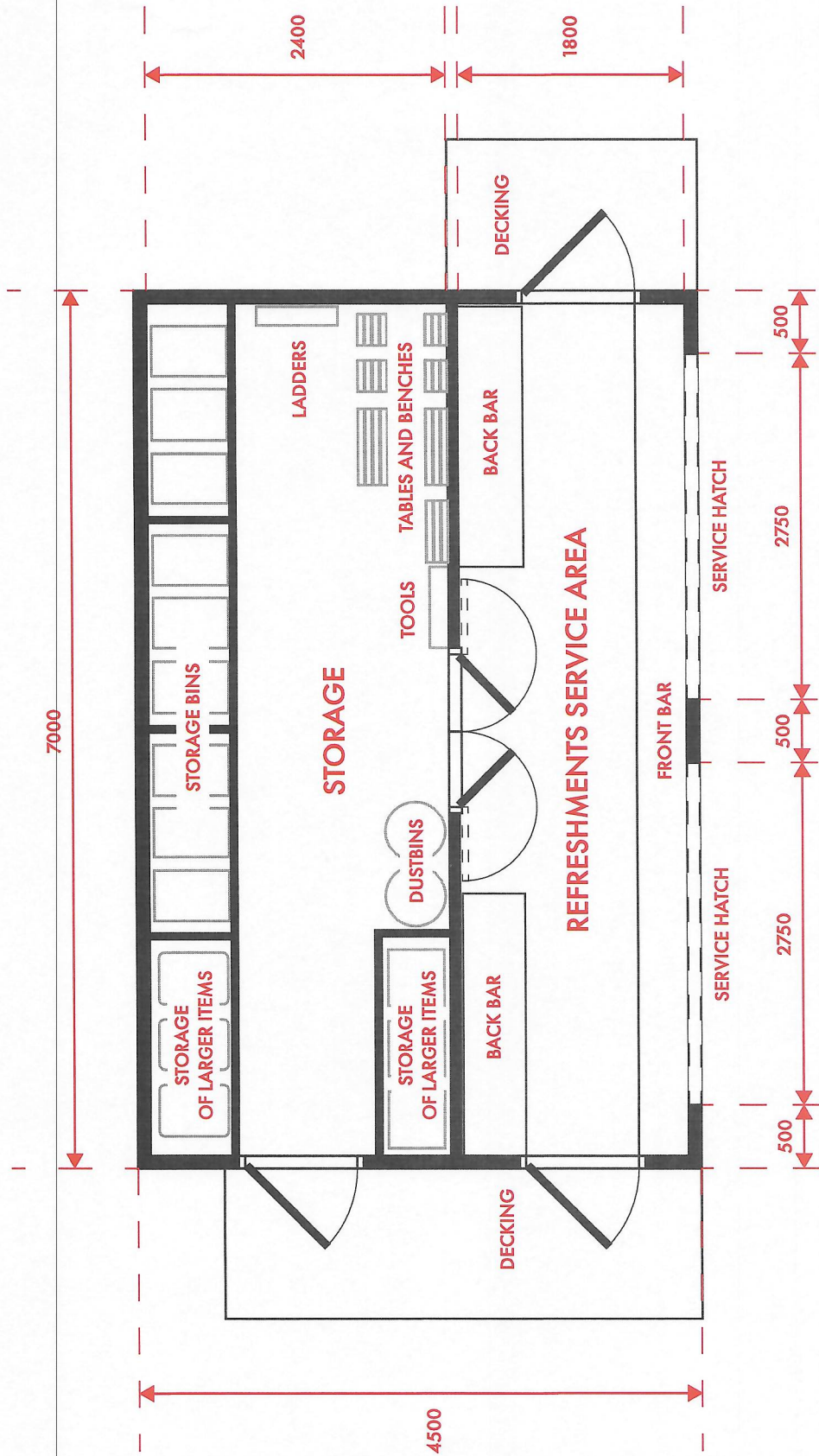
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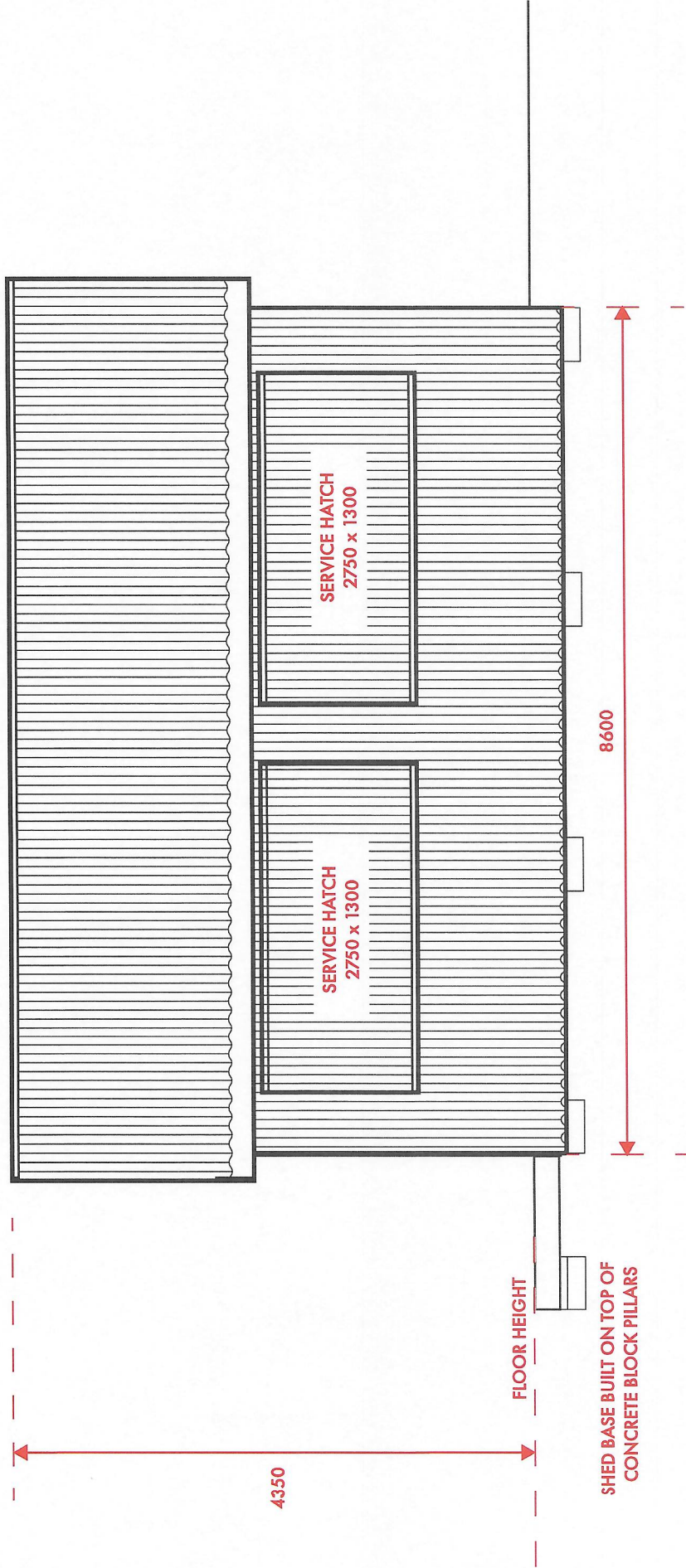


2 PLAN VIEW

SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4



SHED CLAD IN BLACK CORRUGATED STEEL SHEETING



3

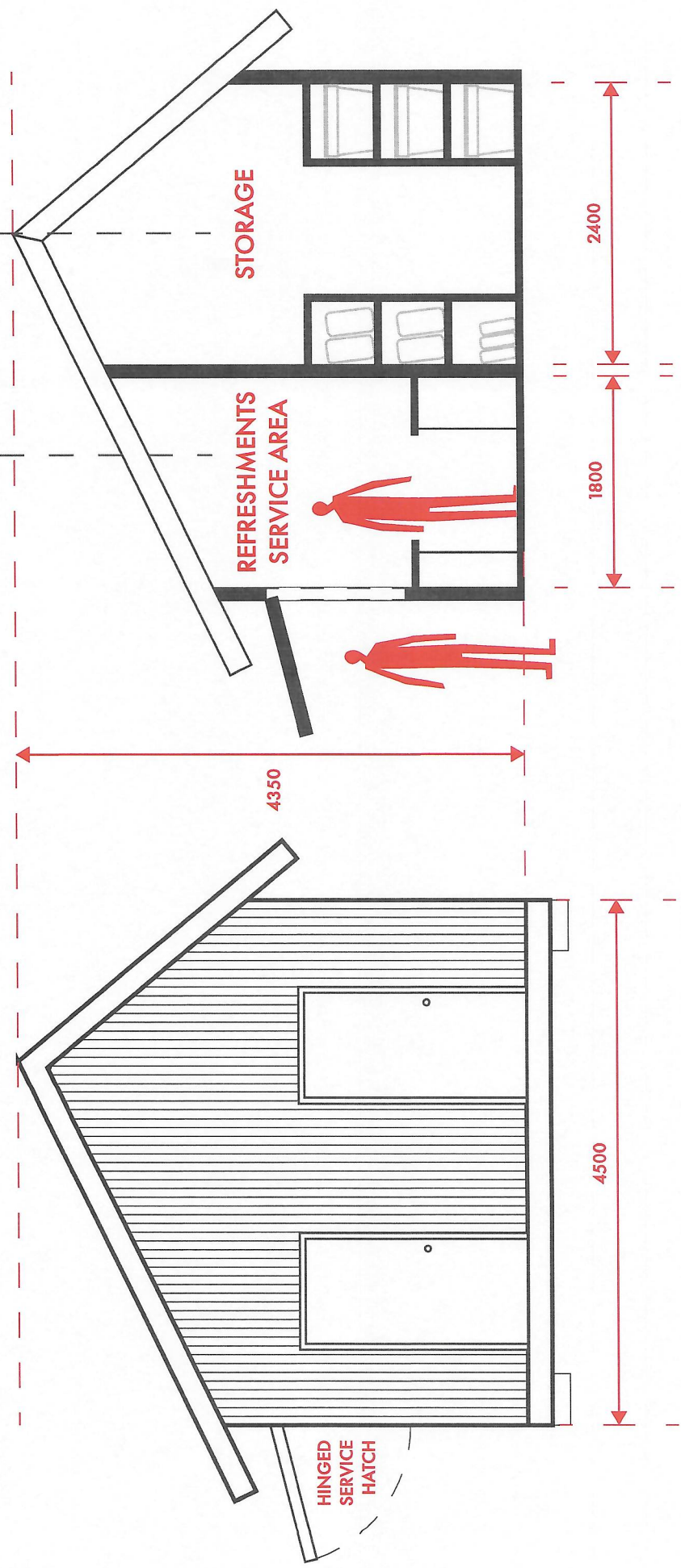
FRONT ELEVATION

SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4



6

7



5

SIDE CROSS-SECTION

SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4

2m

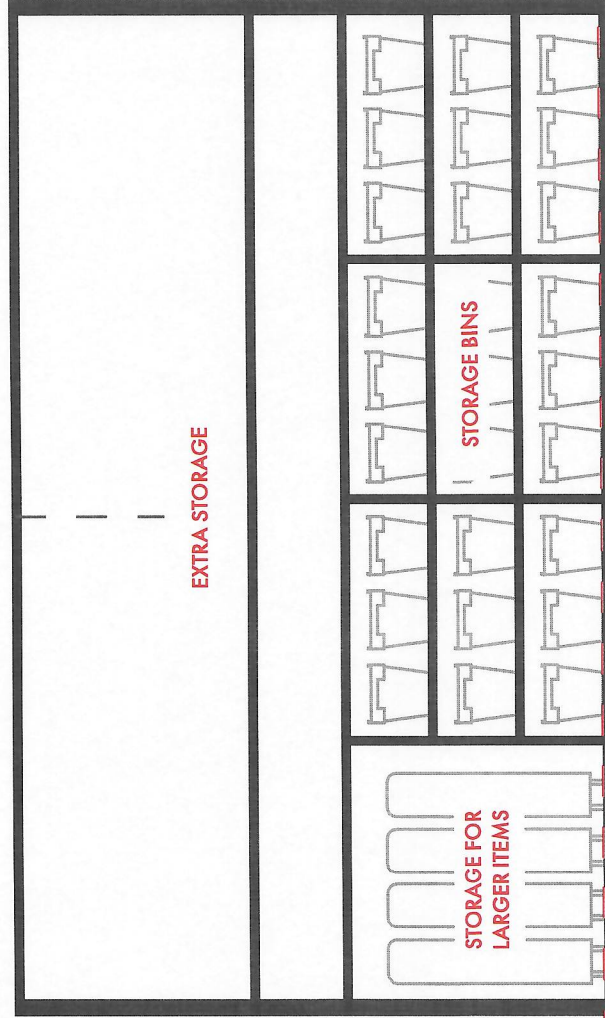
4

SIDE ELEVATION

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2m

5



FLOOR HEIGHT

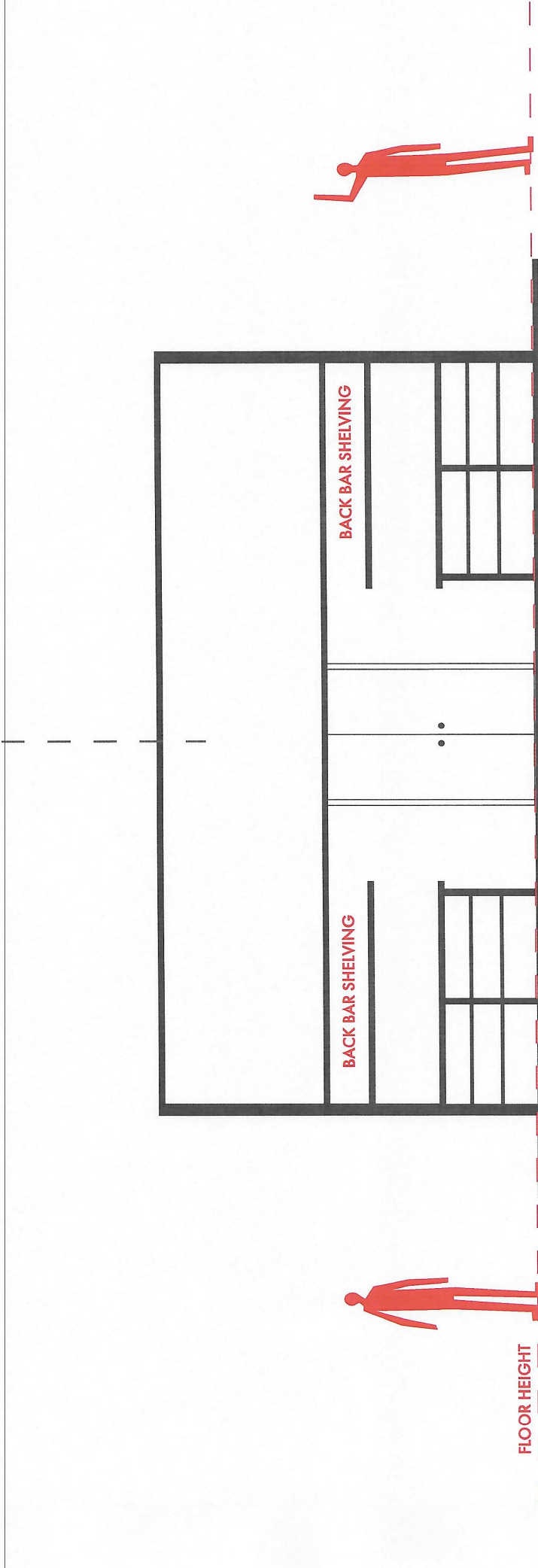
6

STORAGE ROOM CROSS-SECTION

SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4



5



7

BAR/SERVICE AREA CROSS-SECTION

SCALE 1:50, Printed on A4

