

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2023
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: Cllrs. L. Abecasis, J. Gray. (Six-month absence for Cllr. Abecasis approved October)
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: None.

MIN 4260 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR REMAINDER OF 2023/24

Cllr. Wilding proposed Cllr. Owens. This was seconded by Cllr. Preece. There were no other nominations and Cllr. Owens was elected unanimously.

MIN 4261 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October, 2023 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4262 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Broadband Provision in Presteigne: Cllr. Williams asked for an update on the situation as he as receiving complaints from businesses in the High Street. Cllr. Van Huls informed the meeting that all of High Street should now have access to fibre to the cabinet and that businesses should contact their broadband provider to discuss upgrading their package. Cllr. Van Huls had also received complaints and he would notify the persons concerned.

(2) Secondary School: Cllr. Williams asked if the Estyn inspection had been concluded and Cllr. Baynham confirmed that it had and that a meeting with the school would be arranged in the next few weeks to discuss current and future education provision.

(3) Street Cleaner: There had still been no interest in this work.

(4) Vandalism: The Clerk reported that there had been no further incidents since the last meeting.

(5) Grass Verges: Members had received copies of the emails received since the last meeting. There had been three further emails objecting to the change in management and two supporting it since the last meeting.

(6) Grass Verges, Norton: Cllr. Edwards was looking at possibilities for these verges. She was asked to supply a wish list of seed/plants she would need, Cllr. Edwards thought it was probably too late in the year but would consider it and let the Clerk know so she could request an amendment to use of the grant awarded if needed. Cllr. Wilding asked for funding for additional grass seed and coir matting for the area around the ponds on the new nature reserve at around £350. Clerk to ask if this could be met from the grant. If not then cost would be met from the Climate Crisis Grant Fund. The Clerk was asked to contact Ms. Bamford for the relevant invoices.

MIN 4263 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donation was confirmed:-

Wales Air Ambulance	£300.00
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(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1495.00
HM Revenue & Customs	£586.51
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
T. Lloyd-John	£654.23
N. Close	£56.00

N. Close	£176.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Meadow Barn)	£47.10 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Artisan Print (Dark Skies Flyers)	£30.84
Caring for God's Acre (Corton Roundabout)	£275.00
Play Inspection Co	£221.88 MEADOW ACCOUNT
O. Rimington (scarifier hire)	£65.58
Orphans Press Ltd (website hosting)	£192.00
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
AJ Gallagher (insurance implements)	£35.69
J. Francis (pins for folding tables)	£41.88
SLCC Enterprises Ltd (training)	£204.00
Nature Reserve Payments -	
JJW Ltd	£8160.00
Rawlins Paints	£125.06
AS Handover (paint)(paid debit card)	£21.18
Tradeprint	£60.11
O. Rimington	£400.00
O. Rimington	£1120.00
O. Rimington	£484.00
META (translation)	£10.00
Castle Ring Oak (posts for sign)	£144.00
Presteigne Building Supplies	£13.59

(3) Draft Investment Policy: Approved unchanged. Resolved to invest £31,000 from the capital account monies into HSBC Money Market Account. Clerk to determine term of account but to be either six or twelve months.

(4) Bank Transfers: The transfer of £20,000 from the Treasurer Account to the Money Manager Account (return of cashflow monies used for Nature Reserve Project) was agreed.

(5) Updating of Bank Mandate: Agreed to remove Ms R. Bamford from the bank mandate. Cllr. Abecasis to remain pending his return to the Council after his leave of absence.

(g) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –

Heritage Lottery	£2064.09
Heritage Lottery	£131.32
Heritage Lottery	£6921.87

Agreed the Clerk write a letter of thanks to former Cllr. Bamford and the volunteers for her hard work on the project. A separate letter of thanks to be written to the pond workman for working so hard to complete the work on time in poor weather conditions.

(h) Notification of Pay Award, 2023/24: The Clerk informed Members that the pay award for 2023//24 had now been agreed. Information noted.

MIN 4264 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: No applications this month.

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

23/1277/FUK 11 High Street, Presteigne: Approval 23rd October.

(3) Bute Energy/GreenGen Project: Cllr. Edwards reported that Bute Energy was holding a meeting with local Councils on 22nd November. She agreed to mention the inclusion of the Town Council in future meetings.

MIN 4265 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: Members noted the suggestion from Mr. Harling-Bowen that the High Street businesses be written to, to ask if they could reduce or improve their lighting. It was felt that given the current economic climate and also that in order to allow for progression in the future that no letter be sent at present.

(2) Climate Crisis Update: Members discussed the following -

- Cancellation of Climate Crisis Committee on 1st November: Noted. Meeting not to be rearranged as no urgent business. Next meeting planned for February 2024.

- Replacement Councillor for Climate Crisis Stakeholder Group: No one wished to be put forward at present but the Clerk would circulate details of any meetings to Members in case anyone wished to attend.
- Updating of Climate Crisis Action Report: Members agreed the report as drafted.
- Publicity for Climate Crisis Small Grant Fund: Agreed that the Clerk contact the schools to make them aware of the fund. The Climate Crisis Committee would consider further publicity at the next meeting.

(3) Possible Review of parking/yellow lines in Presteigne/Norton: Members considered adding payment for a traffic regulation order but felt that it would be better to maintain the list of potential changes and to approach the County Council to ask when the next regular review would be due to take place.

(4) Update re. Proposed Speed Limit, Coombe Corner: Members noted the reply from Herefordshire Council and were disappointed to learn that the suggested speed limit did not meet the criteria and so would not be taken forward. Given there would be no limit on the Herefordshire side it was not practical to progress any limit for the short length of road on the Powys side. The Clerk would advise the residents of the decision.

(5) Fold Farm Footpath Update: Members noted the email from the County Council indicating that the intention was to present a report to Committee in March 2024. They were extremely disappointed with the efforts of the County Council, particularly given the direction of the Planning Inspectorate to determine the application by March 2020. It was agreed to await until the new year and if the application was not progressed to Committee in March as stated then the press would be contacted and the delay would be publicised with the local press.

MIN 4266 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust: Cllr. Wilding reported that work continued to progress and that it was possible the facility would be open for Christmas.

(2) 20MPH Limit: Norton Members reported that the new limit did appear to be slowing or even reducing traffic.

(3) Annual Bonfire and Firework Display: Members congratulated the organisers on another successful event.

MIN 4267 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The following matters were discussed –
Wilson Terrace block now closed for Winter.

Internal and External Painting of Wilson Terrace Block: Agreed that the Clerk ask the community payback team if they could carry out the painting.

(2) Allotments: The Clerk advised the following –

Possible County Council grant available for raised beds, water butts etc in 2024/25.

Review of rent to be considered at Sites and Buildings Committee on 23rd November for a recommendation to Council.

(3) Meadows:

Good Earth Community Garden proposal/information: After some discussion it was agreed to refuse the request due to concerns about the included skateboard ramp.

Possible new dog fouling signage: Agreed to purchase six signs, four for Went's Meadow and two to be offered to the schools.

(4) Nature Reserve: Members noted the conclusion of project. The Clerk reported that National Forest for Wales status had been granted. Cllr. Wilding confirmed that the ponds were now slowly filling with water.

(5) Grant Application Update – Table Tennis/storage/games: The Clerk reported that she had started work on this.

MIN 4268 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Update on current situation – Presteigne Memorial Hall: Cllrs. Baynham and Wilding reported on this and Members noted that regular meetings were now being held with the remaining members of the Hall Committee although the committee was at present not in a position to take on the trusteeship. A meeting had been held with Presteigne and Norton Community Trust to discuss possibilities for the future. Cllr Wilding stressed the need for the committee to hold an AGM and adopt a formal constitution. The remedial works were scheduled for completion in December.

(2) Update on Leisure Services Review: Cllr. Baynham reported that she was expecting to see some information in the next few weeks. Members again raised concerns about issues at the Centre and the

Clerk was asked to email the Area Manager to highlight these problems. Members would review the situation at the next meeting.

(3) Education in Presteigne: Dealt with under 4262(2).

(4) Christmas Lights Update: Contractor to turn on lights on 1st December. Cllr. Wilding was arranging lights for Norton.

MIN 4269 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Edwards:

- Consultation on Adult Day Services: Members encouraged to complete this. Public meeting to take place at the Day Centre, Presteigne on 30th November – 1.30pm to 2.30pm and John Beddoes School from 6pm to 7pm.
- Wales Air Ambulance: Second phase of consultation now closed.

Cllr. Baynham had nothing to add.

MIN 4270 CASUAL VACANCIES

The Clerk reported that no formal election had been called and that the Council could now proceed to co-opt. Notices had been put up with a closing date of 31st December and co-options could then take place in January.

MIN 4271 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Ambulance Service and Co-Responders: Cllr. Owens asked if any reply had been received and the Clerk stated that she had not had any response. She would chase.

(2) Welsh Blood Service: Cllr. Baynham reported that due to the Memorial Hall being closed there had been no recent sessions in Presteigne and the Clerk was asked to write and to ask if an interim venue could be found until the Memorial Hall was again open.

MIN 4272 DATES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETINGS

December Meeting: Confirmed as 20th December, 2023.

January Budget Setting Meeting: 17th January 2024.

January Main Meeting: 24th January 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.19 pm.