

# Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards (Mayor), B. Baynham (Deputy Mayor), F. Preece, T. Owens, R. Bamford, M. Williams (part), L. Abecasis, J. Poster, J. Gray.

Apologies: Cllr. M. Price.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. Members of the public. Ms. J. Mottershead of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

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. L. Firth, firm employed on project, re. planning application 22/1347/FUL.*

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were completed by Cllrs. Firth, Vanhuls and Wilding and witnessed by the Clerk.

*The meeting commenced with a short talk from Ms. J. Mottershead of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust on a current grant project and the suggestion that a hedge be planted along the edge of the Wilson Terrace Play Area and that the Town Council agree to maintain that hedge in the future. Members asked a number of questions and agreed to consider the request in more detail at the November meeting. Cllr. Bamford would obtain a quote for annual maintenance for that meeting.*

### **MIN 4111 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

### **MIN 4112 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

- (1) Street Light at Millbank: Now done.
- (2) Upgrading of Website: Work completed.
- (3) Tree Preservation Order List: Still awaited. The Clerk had chased the Officers for this.
- (4) Operation London Bridge: The Clerk had not yet met with Cllr. Owens to update the policy but would do so as soon as time permitted.

### **MIN 4113 FINANCE**

- (1) Donations: The following donations were approved –

Royal British Legion (Poppy Wreaths)	£60.00
Norton Sports Committee (Firework display)	£200.00
Sheep Music (Firework display)	£500.00
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	£250.00

All as precepted.

- (2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACC
NEST (pension payment)	£132.30
Mrs T.A. Price (salary Sept)	£1423.24

HM Revenue & Customs	£561.53
N. Close	£31.50
N. Close	£ 119.00 MEADOW ACC
T. Lloyd-John (cleaning)	£641.23
D. Edwards (Mayor's Expenses Refund)	£21.00
EDF Energy (H'fd Street Toilets)	£79.05 Direct Debit
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£37.00
EDF Energy (Meadow)	£52.51 MEADOW ACC
Presteigne Building Supplies	£4.97
Presteigne Building Supplies	£18.85 MEADOW ACC
Mrs T.A. Price (various expenses)	£66.59
HSBC (bank charges September)	£8.00
HSBC (bank charges September)	£ 8.00 MEADOW ACC
T. Price (refund padlock – Amazon)	£8.99
Orphan's Press (annual website hosting)	£192.00

(3) Budget Update to end of September: Noted as circulated. The Clerk clarified that the donation to a roundabout related to the new equipment at Wilson Terrace.

(4) Review of Internal Audit Arrangements: Members approved the re-appointment of Mr. Stephens as internal auditor and confirmed the audit documents as supplied.

(5) Mid-Year Interim Audit Arrangements: To take place w/b 24<sup>th</sup> October.

(6) Inspection of Invoices by Chairman: Cllr. Edwards reported that this had taken place with no issues raised.

(7) Community Energy Project: Members noted the further information supplied. It was agreed to support the request and provide £250 towards the project. The Council would be invoiced by PAVO for the amount.

(8) Request for Up to £250 Donation – Presteigne Table Tennis Club: Members noted the request and there was concern that the group had no bank account or constitution. Cllr. Baynham suggested that the group fund raise via a gofundme page and agreed to speak to the group to see if this would be possible. She had looked into possible grants but as yet had not been able to find any suitable. Members agreed to defer the application until November.

#### **MIN 4114 PLANNING**

Cllr. Edwards left the room for the duration of the planning application items due to her position on the County Council Planning Committee. Cllr. Baynham took the Chair for this item.

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –

*Cllr. Firth left the room for the duration of the following item.*

22/1347/FUL Grid Reference: E:331556 N: 264410 Proposal: Change of use of part of ground floor from business to residential use Site Address: 9 Harper's Lane, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2AN. Resolved no objections be raised.

*Cllr. Firth returned to the room.*

22/1526/FUL Grid Reference: E:331215 N: 264770 Proposal: Extension Of Existing Building To Provide Commercial Storage Units & Garaging For Vintage Cars. Site Address: Presteigne Depot, Mill Lane, Presteigne, LD8 2DA. Resolved to defer consideration of this application until the necessary surveys on contamination and Japanese knotweed could be done and reviewed.

Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.

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

22/0943/HH The Oxford, Hereford Street, Presteigne: Approval.

(3) LDP Update: Nothing further to report at present. The invitation to put forward candidate sites for development was expected to go out publicly soon.

#### **MIN 4115 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting Application Update: Work on the Presteigne street lighting continued. Members were generally pleased with the new fittings and had noticed an appreciable difference. Cllr. Owens raised a query on one column that affected the pavement width and so could cause issues for those with access issues. Cllr. Abecasis reported that the light in the underpass was not working. Cllr. Baynham would speak to the Project Manager at the County Council about these two issues. Cllr. Firth reported that the lights were on all night at Broadaxe and the Clerk was asked to write to Welsh Government to ask if they could be changed to part night.

(2) Climate Crisis Update: The following matters were discussed -

- Nature Reserve Grant Update on land purchase etc: Cllr. Bamford reported that there had been some progress on sorting out the concerns of the Council's Solicitors and it was hoped to complete the purchase in the near future.
- Tree Hub Update: Trees to be stored and distributed from the Old School. The Clerk would forward details of the proposed times etc to all Members.

(3) Fold Farm Footpath Update: The Clerk had written as instructed and the Portfolio Holder had agreed to inform her as soon as any progress was made.

(4) Lugg Bridge Update: It was noted that the emergency repairs promised by Natural Resources Wales had still not been done. Cllr. Baynham had had meetings with the Emergency Planning Section at the County Council and agreed to request an update. She also believed that NRW was in regular contact with the resident whose property was affected but she would check this also. She would also ask for advice on the need to remove the white goods at the property urgently before they fell into the river causing additional pollution.

#### **MIN 4116 NORTON**

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding provided a brief update on the project; the font had been moved, emergency repairs carried out to the ceiling, architect's survey done and tenders for works to go out shortly.

(2) Village Bonfire: To take place on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **MIN 4117 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS**

(1) Public Conveniences: Wilson Terrace site to close after the fireworks event.

(2) Allotments: Currently seven people on the waiting list.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Use by Sheep Music for Firework Display – 5<sup>th</sup> November: Noted.
- Request for land for Community Garden: Members considered this request and there were some concerns over any fencing, vulnerability to vandalism and long-term maintenance. The possibility of using an area on the new land being purchased was suggested and Cllr. Bamford would ask the Lottery Fund if this was a possibility. Item deferred to go to the next Sites and Buildings Committee.
- Replacement of Oak Posts, Scout Hut Car Park: Cllr. Williams believed up to three needed replacing. Cllr. Wilding would check and notify the Clerk so that a price for the work could be obtained and work organised.
- Knighton Road/Scottleton Street Entrance: Nettles to be added to the regular strim carried out by a local contractor. Larger gate at this entrance would now be chained shut.

(4) Storage Container Update: No update at this stage. Remove from agenda for the time being.

(5) Withy Beds: The Clerk had not yet been able to arrange a site meeting.

(6) Possible Grant Projects: The Clerk reminded Members that the Council could apply for a small lottery grant every twelve months and that this period was now almost up following the grant for play equipment at Lugg View and a new application could be submitted if there were any projects Members could put forward. Members felt that a small storage building would be of great benefit to the meadow site and allow secure and dry storage of community items such as the gazebos and tables. Cllr. Firth would liaise with Mr. Rimington over possible costs and details for such a project. Any building would also need to accommodate community games for use by organisations, improving community unity etc and in order to compile a successful grant application.

#### **MIN 4118 CORRESPONDENCE AND GENERAL ITEMS**

(1) Town Wifi Update. Inc parking sensor project: The Clerk reported that Cllr. Baynham had made progress regarding the units to be sited on the Assembly Rooms and it was hoped that these would be installed shortly. The project would then be complete.

(2) Community Broadband Scheme Update: The Clerk had nothing new to report.

(3) Powys Investment Plans Initiative: Members had all received a copy of the latest draft plan and several changes were approved for passing on to the consultant. Powys County Council would shortly be meeting with the consultant to discuss the latest draft following which it was expected to come before the Steering Group and Town Council for approval.

(4) Warm Places: Cllr. Baynham reported that she had been successful in obtaining a grant in order to open the Day Centre as a warm place over the Winter months. Days and times were yet to be set but the intention was for the centre sessions to be available to vulnerable people of all ages. Cllr. Abecasis was to

attend the next Knighton & Presteigne Locality Network Meeting and expected to learn more about warm places in the area then.

(5) Annual Report 2021-22: Members approved the annual report without any changes. It was agreed that a copy be placed in the library and on the website.

(6) Email re. removal of Wales Air Ambulance Mid Wales Base: Members considered the email and the concerns surrounding the proposed removal of the Air Ambulance base in Welshpool. They were concerned at the distance to any major hospital for local residents and at the delays often experienced for road ambulances attending incidents. It was pointed out that the new proposed location would be much further from Powys and thus make attending times much longer. The Clerk was asked to confirm the Council's support for the campaign to oppose the closure of the Welshpool base.

(7) County Council Consultation on Public Participation: Cllr. Baynham stated that she felt the public should be able to easily access meetings etc and supported the proposals. Agreed that no comment be made.

(8) Christmas Fair: Cllr. Abecasis reported that arrangements were underway for a Christmas Fair after a two year break due to covid. He asked if it would be possible for the Council's insurance to cover the event and the Clerk explained that this would not be possible unless the Town Council oversaw the event, (perhaps via a Council Working Group), it could not cover an event run under CONNECT. Cllr. Abecasis explained that CONNECT now met very rarely but agreed to consider the possibilities and report back to the November meeting.

(9) Draft Report of Independent Remuneration Panel: Members noted the proposed changes – an increase to the annual allowance to £156 and the introduction of an expenses allowance of £52. Resolved no comment be made.

(10) Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper Consultation: Cllr. Baynham agreed to produce a short report on the changes. The item was therefore deferred until the November meeting.

#### **MIN 4119 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Attendance at Treasury Management Briefing Meeting.
- Concerns over recent instructions issued to schools over heating costs and ways to save.
- 20mph Initiative from Welsh Government, changing 30mph areas to 20mph areas. Note concerns were raised over the bypass becoming a 20mph area.)

Cllr. Edwards reported on the following –

- Attendance at various meetings as above.
- Issue with the current arrangements for the local recycling of blister packs – She had looked into this but the County Council could not process for recycling.

#### **MIN 4120 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIPS – COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

Sites and Buildings Committee:

Cllrs. Bamford, Preece, Firth, Gray and Price.

Outside Representatives: Agreed to increase to three for Meadow. Allotments remaining at one.

Representatives to be –

Mr. R. Rimington, Mr. G. Graham, Mr. C. Kirkby, Chair of PNAA (Ms. K. Lewis).

Staffing Committee: Cllrs Baynham, Edwards, Wilding, Vanhuls and Owens.

Library Services/Assembly Rooms Working Group: Agreed the number of Members to be reduced to four.

Cllrs. Williams, Abecasis, Bamford, Baynham.

LDP Working Group: Cllrs. Baynham, Firth, Edwards, Abecasis.

Climate Crisis Committee: Agreed that the working group now be formed into a formal committee, with four Members plus two outside representatives and meeting approximately twice per year. Terms of reference would now be drafted for agreement.

Cllrs. Poster, Gray, Bamford and Firth.

New Nature Reserve Working Group: To be managed until completion of the project by the Climate Crisis Committee.

Dark Skies/Street Lighting Working Group: Cllrs. Baynham, Williams and Mr. L. Harling-Bowen.

Broadband Working Group: Cllrs. Owens and Edwards.

Grant Awarding Policy Working Group: Cllrs. Baynham, Wilding, Williams, Price.

Town Wifi Liaison Member: No longer required.

Allotment Liaison Member: Cllr. Preece.

Youth Representation Members: Cllrs Bamford and Abecasis.

#### **MIN 4121 REVIEW OF APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members confirmed the following -

Presteigne Primary School Cllr. Preece.

One Voice Wales (2) Cllrs. Edwards and Baynham.

East Radnorshire Care (2) One rep previously decided – Cllr. Edwards.

Appointed at meeting -

East Radnorshire Care: Cllr. Vanhuls.

Presteigne & Norton Community Trust: Cllrs. Bamford, Edwards and Vanhuls. One vacancy remains.

Warden Guardian Foundation: Cllr. Bamford.

PACDG: Cllr. Williams.

#### **MIN 4122 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

(1) Congratulations to be noted to Ben Chilman for being chosen as Agricultural Student of the Year at the Farmers Weekly awards. The Clerk would write a letter of congratulations.

#### **MIN 4123 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Items to be include were –

- Condition of surface at Wilson Terrace Play Area.
- Town Council publicity/updates.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm.