

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2023 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: Cllrs. L. Abecasis, L. Firth, M. Williams.

Request for Extended Absence, Cllr. Abecasis: Members considered the request for a six month period of absence from Cllr. Abecasis. The public were excluded briefly for the Clerk to explain the reasons for the request and Members approved this unanimously. The absence would be reviewed shortly before the end of the six month period.

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.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members heard from PC Fraser Scott who updated Members on the problems with anti-social behaviour in and around the town in recent months. A group of those responsible had been identified, three had been dealt with via restorative justice and five were now receiving or having received anti-social behaviour first warning letters. He explained that the town was currently without its own PCSO but that over the recent weekend he had received assistance from two other PCSOs. Extra patrols were being carried out as much as possible and would continue into the Winter months.

In the absence of Cllr. Baynham, Cllr. Edwards thanked PC Fraser Scott for attending the meeting and for all his hard work in the town.

Cllr. Baynham joined the meeting at this point.

MIN 4247 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th September, 2023 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September, 2023 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4248 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Street Cleaning: The Clerk reported that there had been no interest in the contract so far. She had however approached the County Council which would not be able to carry out extra cleaning work but would provide the road sweeper on an occasional basis. Cllr. Baynham confirmed that she had asked for the road sweeper to attend as soon as it was back in the Penybont Depot. The Clerk had also asked the Community Payback team if it would consider any works to remove weeds etc from pavements and this was being considered by their supervisor.

MIN 4249 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donation was confirmed

Norton Community Hub (fireworks)	£200.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£60.00

(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	£16.00
N. Close	£144.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Border Janitorial (toilet rolls-July)	£94.67
Border Janitorial (toilet rolls – Sept)	£94.67
Lyreco (stationery)	£67.01
HSBC (Bank Charges) – Treasurer Acc)	£8.00
HSBC (Bank charges) – Meadow Acc)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Clean My (toilet cleaning items)	£104.78
EDF Energy (Hereford Street)(Direct Debit)	£59.27
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace)(Direct Debit)	£33.03
RB Landscaping (strimming over year)	£270.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
J. Bird (final invoice – street cleaning)	£62.40
Cartridge People (ink toner)	£241.80
Nature Reserve Payments –	
RS Minerals Ltd	£7154.40
Wildflower Grant Payments	
Caerfagu Products	£141.60
Emorsgate Seeds (by debit card)	£586.56

(3) Budget update to end of September 2023: Members noted the budget update. There were no questions.

(4) Review of Internal Audit Arrangements for the 2023/24 year: Members approved the re-appointment of Mr. Stephens as internal auditor and confirmed the audit documents as supplied.

(5) Receipts: The following receipts were noted: -

Chatterbrook WI (donation)	£45.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Heritage Lottery (grant refund	£5962.00

(6) Mayor's Allowance in 2023/24: Cllr. Baynham asked that the Mayor's Allowance be vired into Mayor's expenses for the current year only and this was agreed.

(7) Mid Year Internal Audit: The mid-year audit had been concluded without any issues being raised.

MIN 4250 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 applications were considered –

23/1420/HH Grid Reference: E:331434 N: 264351 Proposal: Installation of gas fired central heating and domestic plumbing. Rewiring of the house, and repair of damaged walls and ceilings. Site Address: Millfields, Hereford Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AT. Resolved no objections be raised.

23/1421/LBC Grid Reference: E:331434 N: 264351 Proposal: Listed building consent for the installation of gas fired central heating and domestic plumbing. Rewiring of the house, and repair of damaged walls and ceilings. Site Address: Millfields, Hereford Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AT.

Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted:-

23/1306/TRE, The Vine, St. David's Street, Presteigne: Approval.

21/2227/FUL, Judge's Lodgings, Presteigne: Approval.

21/2228/LBC, Judge's Lodgings, Presteigne: Approval.

23/1304/TPO, Greenacres, Norton Manor, Norton: Approval.

In relation to the Judge's Lodgings Cllr. Baynham reported that it had recently been awarded a large grant towards the conversion work and it was agreed to write and congratulate the Trust on its success.

(3) Bute Energy/GreenGen Project: Cllr. Edwards stated that there was nothing new to report with the preplanning consultation due to be released around the end of the year.

(4) Tree Preservation Order – John Beddoes High School: Members noted with pleasure that the Order was now confirmed.

MIN 4251 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: Members approved the printing of 100 of the A5 flyers. Costs to be met from the Dark Skies Reserve. Members also noted the requirement to contact sports clubs to advise on dark skies and possible alternative lighting. There was however absolutely no obligation or pressure on the clubs

to do so and Members fully acknowledged that Leagues placed minimum requirements for their member clubs and which had to be adhered to.

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

- Pond update: Cllr. Wilding reported that work had now commenced and was expected to conclude shortly. The bentonite had all been delivered and was ready for use. He anticipated a final bill of £6-8000.
- agreement for mowing of 1 metre strip adjacent to fences by residents: Members agreed that residents adjoining the site should be allowed to do this on request.
- weeding of entrance: agreed the Clerk ask the Community Payback Team if it could clear this area.
- text for information board: Members asked for several changes; the inclusion of the name of the Council at the top of the Board, the Council's email to be used not that of the Tree Group, and a change to the first sentence to show purchase by the Town Council and created with the help of the Tree Group. Members then considered the quotes received and agreed to award the work to Mr. O. Rimington which was competitive on price, in wood which was preferred to aluminium, and could be completed within the time scale needed.

(3) Speed Limit, Coombe Corner: The Clerk had been in touch with the PCC Traffic Engineer in relation to the location of the signage and had the following reply – 'It is not appropriate to extend the speed limit any further, but I am happy to erect a 40mph in xx yds sign in advance. There is no set location for this as yet, but it would need to be before the bend as otherwise it wouldn't be effective as drivers would see that and the speed limit sign.' Members were satisfied with the explanation.

(4) Management of Presteigne Roundabouts 2024: Members considered each roundabout in turn. It was agreed to accept the generous offer from Radnor Hills to continue to plant and maintain the Greenfield Road roundabout. With regard to the Kington/Corton roundabout it was agreed to continue to pay Caring for God's Acre for a further year with the cost for this being unchanged at £275.00

(5) Presteigne Verges: Members noted the comments made with some residents supporting and some opposing the decision. Cllr. Baynham reminded Members of the process for re-visiting decisions. Members considered whether to make any further statement and it was agreed not to do so. All those contacting the Council had received a detailed reply. Members raised concerns over weeds in gutters and pavements and Cllr. Baynham suggested that it might be helpful to create a working party to help deal with the problem.

(6) Future management of grass verges in Norton: Members considered the options suggested by Cllr. Edwards and it was agreed that she be given the choice to select those areas she wished and that if she required further seed or plants she should let the Clerk know so that the Grant Officer could be contacted and asked if the current grant could be adapted so some monies could be used in Norton (given the plans in Presteigne had changed and would not be fully going ahead).

MIN 4252 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust: Cllr. Wilding reported that work continued to progress.

MIN 4253 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The following matters were discussed -

Delay in Internal Painting: The painter hoped to do the ceiling at Hereford Street in the next few weeks and would complete the work as weather permitted.

Wilson Terrace Site: To close on 1st November.

(2) Allotments: Members noted the email from the PNAA and were pleased to note that a new Chairperson and Secretary had been found. Regarding the request to collect the subs from tenants in the Association, Members noted that this request had been made previously and that following the advice the Council had been advised not to collect monies on behalf of third parties. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to all tenants reminding them of the need for insurance to cover their own plots.

(3) Meadows:

- Information on Himalayan Balsam: Members noted the advice received and it was agreed that it would not be possible to eradicate the plant. No further action.
- Request for use of field for car parking: Agreed to the request for March 2024.
- Meeting with Community Payback Supervisor: Members noted the recent meeting and the work of the team over the summer. The Clerk would write a letter of thanks.
- Suggestion for weed killing treatment around MUGA/Car Park: Members considered the suggestion from the contractor carrying out the strimming around the edge of the MUGA. It was agreed by a

majority to book one weed killing treatment to the MUGA, toilet and car park edges. Cllr. Preece confirmed that she would like the paved area behind the scout hut done at the same time.

- Update re. annual play area inspection: This had just taken place without any major issues and the formal report would be issued shortly.
- Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour Update: Discussed with PC Fraser Scott (see above).

(4) Grant Application Update – Table Tennis/Storage: No progress as yet.

MIN 4254 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Update on current situation – Presteigne Memorial Hall: Cllr. Baynham provided a brief update and added that a further meeting was to be held before the end of October.

(2) Annual Report for 2022/23: All Members had received a copy for review and the Report was approved for publication.

(3) Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday: Members noted that the usual arrangements were in place with the service at the Cenotaph starting at 10.15am. Cllr. Preece gave her apologies as she would be unable to attend.

(4) Powys Broadband – Update: Noted as circulated. Cllr. Baynham had received an email from businesses complaining about the varied quality of their broadband provision. It was agreed that the Clerk ask BT Openreach about its work in Presteigne and the sporadic nature of the fibre offering in the town and surrounding areas.

(5) Update on Leisure Services Review: Nothing further to report at this stage.

(6) Future of Welsh Air Ambulance Services: Agreed that the Clerk write to oppose the closure of the Welshpool base, stating that the Town Council could see no possible advantage to its residents from the closure.

(7) Education in Presteigne inc. update on meeting requested with Head/Campus Head at John Beddoes Campus: Members noted that the Clerk had made contact to request a meeting but that the School was currently preparing for and undergoing an Estyn inspection. A meeting would be arranged once this had concluded.

Cllr. Wilding asked whether the plans for a through School for Presteigne had progressed and Cllr. Baynham confirmed that this was still in the County Council plans for the future. It was agreed that this was an option to be pursued in order to secure a long term future for education in the town.

MIN 4255 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Edwards: Appointment of Chief Executive with a stat date very soon.

Cllr. Baynham had nothing to add.

MIN 4256 RESIGNATIONS OF CLLRS BAMFORD AND POSTER

The resignations of Cllr. Bamford and Cllr. Poster were noted and the Clerk explained the process for advertising and filling the casual vacancies.

Members noted that the posts of Chairman for both Sites and Buildings and Climate Crisis Committees were therefore currently vacant and would be filled at the next meeting of those Committees.

MIN 4257 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR REMAINDER OF 2023/24

Members were asked to consider this with nominations to be taken at the November meeting.

MIN 4258 APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENTS TO COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

Replacement on Sites and Buildings Committee: Cllr. Baynham.

Replacements on Climate Crisis Committee: Cllrs. Edwards and Baynham.

The vacancies on the Working Groups would be left and filled later in the year if needed or if not at the Annual Meeting in May.

All Memberships would be reviewed in May when the two vacancies on the Council should have been filled. The Clerk was asked to write to the Warden Guardians Foundation to advise the Cllr. Bamford was no longer on the Council and no replacement had been appointed but that the Group should contact the Clerk if it needed any help etc.

MIN 4259 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Broadband in Presteigne: Cllr. Van Huls advised Members that much of Presteigne could now access fibre to the cabinet broadband but this was not widely publicised.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

Minutes 18.10.23 PNTC

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