



Community News



Special Issue - February 2024

*The Community News is an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group
"Working Together For Our Community"*

PRESTEIGNE & NORTON TOWN COUNCIL NEWS from the meeting held in January 2024

Setting of Budget and Precept for 2024/25:

Administration costs were agreed as £34,330 and the amount for the maintenance and running of Went's Meadow £11,275. Grants to local organisations totalled £13,425, ongoing projects such as the running of the public toilets £13,675 and new projects £2750. This produced a budget of £75,455 and it was agreed to set a precept requirement of £75,752.22. This would result in a precept of £56 per Band D property, a £2 increase on 2023-24. Members noted that the precept had been kept at £54 for three years (23-24, 22-23 and 21-22), with £55 in 20/21 and £54.14 in 19-20.

Query on Car Park Charges and long/short stay car parks:

Members noted that following the query raised by Cllr. Van Huls the Clerk had investigated and both the charged for Presteigne Car Parks were long stay sites hence the minimum charge being for a two-hour period. Only short stay car parks had the lower charge for one hour. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the County Council and ask what the options were for changing the charging regime in one of the car parks. Members also noted the car park usage data received as part of the car parking review which the Clerk had attended.

Dark Skies Project Update:

Members noted that the official announcement had now been made and Presteigne and Norton had been covered in both local and national media. It was agreed that the next steps should be discussed by the Working Group and the Clerk would suggest some possible dates/times.

Climate Crisis:

The following items were discussed.

Committee Meeting: Agreed to postpone and set a new date once new Members were in place.

Ecological Data Report: Members were pleased with report and asked that their thanks be passed on to the Officer at the County Council.

Wildflower Project: Cllr. Baynham updated Members on the project.

Co-options: Members considered the applicants for co-option and it was agreed to co-opt Colin Kirkby and James Ramsay to the Council.

Resignations: Members noted the further resignations of Cllrs. Firth and Gray. The formal notice of the vacancies had been posted and the County Council would advise in due course if a formal election had been called. This was the first stage before proceeding to formal election or co-option.

Powys Community Broadband Stakeholder Group: Agreed to appoint Cllr. Owens as representative to attend these meetings

Allotments:

The following matters were discussed

Rent reminders to be sent shortly.

Siting of polytunnel: Members reviewed the comments of the two adjacent tenants and also considered the need for regular maintenance to ensure the polytunnel did not become unsightly. It was agreed therefore to refuse the request from the PNAA.

Request to add new joint tenant to plot and remove previous joint tenant: given the new joint tenant was at the top of the waiting list it was agreed to allow the change to the tenancy.

Applications to go on the waiting list are encouraged. Contact the Clerk for an application form.

Full Minutes are available on the website - http://www.presteigne.org.uk/Town_Council

Draft Minutes are published as soon as possible after each meeting and can be found on the main Town Council page of the website.

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