

**Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th MARCH 2008 AT THE SHIRE HALL,
BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE**

Present: Cllrs H Owens (Mayor), J. Kendall (Deputy Mayor), J. Tennant-Eyles, J. Wilding, Mrs E. Davies, C Kirkby, F. Evans, Mrs S. Frazer.

Apologies: Cllrs., Mrs P. Fraser-Scott, G. Graham, Ms. J. Simpson, P Gerrard.

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 this meeting in accordance with the terms of the Model Code of Conduct Order 2001 issues under Section 51 Local Government Act 2002.

Cllr. Wilding	Planning Application – Site adj. to Rose Cottage, Norton
Cllr. Mrs Davies	Donation request Presteigne Colts Under 15's
Cllr. Kendall	Donation request Presteigne Colts Under 15's (link with Twinning Association)

Cllr. Owens welcomed Sergeant Wheatman of Dyfed Powys Police to the meeting. Sgt. Wheatman outlined the current staffing situation in Presteigne and the surrounding areas. He detailed present policing issues in the area, in particular highlighting a relatively new procedure for dealing with anti social behaviour in Presteigne.

In response to an earlier query by Members he was able to confirm that surveillance cameras in Castle Road had been installed by the police to deal with vandalism to parked cars. He explained that no consultation was required for cameras if notices were erected warning of their presence.

Members agreed that the reduced police presence in the town was extremely unsatisfactory and asked the Clerk to write to the police authority to ask for action on this issue.

In conclusion Cllr. Owens thanked Sgt. Wheatman for attending and asked that he continue to attend Council meetings at regular intervals.

MIN 1893 FINANCE

(1) Donations:

Presteigne Colts Under 15s –	£200.00
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Members agreed that the Colts Football Club provided excellent sporting opportunities for young people in the area and were pleased to support this request. It was confirmed that this donation be given as an additional payment to the annually precepted amounts.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved:

Phs Group plc - annual account driers at Wilson Terrace Toilets	£207.98
DMC Swann – work at Barn, Wents Meadow (labour)	£64.00
	MEADOW A/C
DMC Swann – work at Barn, Wents Meadow (materials)	£52.41

MEADOW A/C

Npower – electricity account, Wents Meadow

£20.99
MEADOW A/C

Welsh Water – Members were informed that Welsh Water would not accept the claim for exemption from sewerage charges until they had carried out their own survey and in the interim had asked that the account be paid. It was agreed to pay the sum of £350 to cover the charges for water only until the matter had been settled.

Welsh Water

£350.00

(3) Asset Register:

The updated Asset Register had been circulated to all Members. It was agreed that as the Meadow had been purchased for community use and as such was not intended for sale re-valuation of the area was unnecessary. The Register was then confirmed as correct.

(4) Risk Assessment:

This had had also been circulated to Members and was approved subject to the amendment of the line referring to playground equipment inspections to BMX/Skateboard/Barn inspections. The Assessment was then duly signed by the Mayor.

(5) Review of Clerks' Salary:

The Clerk left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

It was agreed that an additional fifty hours payment be made to the Clerk to cover the additional hours worked in connection with the retail development application.

In addition it was agreed that the Clerks' annual salary be increased by one increment from 1st April. It was also felt that due to an ever increasing workload the Clerks' monthly hours should be increased to fifty-six.

(6) Training/Seminars:

Members considered this request by the Clerk for an additional allowance to be set aside to allow for training events. It was agreed that they were supportive of the principle and it was decided that events be submitted to the Council for prior approval. No minimum or maximum limit was set and each application will be considered on merit.

MIN 1894 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of 20th February were approved with no amendments and were duly signed by the Mayor.

MIN 1895 MATTERS ARISING

(1) Mid Wales Housing Association – An email from the Association had recently been received. It was heard that the application for funding for housing in Norton had been turned down by the Welsh Assembly. In view of this Members asked that the Clerk write to the Association asking if the Council could assist in identifying possible sites in the area. It was felt that this letter should be copied to the Planning Department of PCC to ascertain the situation with regard to sites on the edge of the development plan.

(2) **Presteigne United Charities** – Members were informed that although the rent was referred to in the deeds of Wents Meadow the field enclosure number was not shown on the plan or the definitive map. A general discussion followed on the possibility of obtaining free legal advice for the Trust and Cllr. Mrs Davies stated she would put this to the Charity Committee. Cllr. Mrs Davies read from guidance issued by the Charity Commission on the buying out of rental agreements. As a result of this it was agreed that the Clerk write to the secretary of the Trust asking to buy the Council out of the rental condition by making a payment of ten times the annual rent, this being £40.

MIN 1896 PLANNING

1) The following planning applications were considered and discussed:-

P2008 0195 45 Townend, Presteigne – Erection of two storey domestic extension.

P2008 0193 Health Centre, Harpers Lane, Presteigne – Change of use from Health Centre to 6 residential units.

P2008 0194 Rear of the Vine, St. Davids Street, Presteigne – construction of three storey detached dwelling with associated access drive, parking, paths and boundary walls and addition of lean to greenhouse. Amendments to previous proposals PR4826/03 and PR4826/05.

P2008 0196 Rear of The Vine, St. Davids Street, Presteigne – Various general works.

P2008 0204 The Workhouse, Presteigne Industrial Estate, Presteigne – Erection of two small storage sheds.

P2008 0320 Townsend, Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne – Erection of dwelling and car port.

P2008 0333 Site adj. to Rose Cottage, Norton – Erection of dormer bungalow. Cllr. Wilding left the meeting for the duration of this item.

No objections were raised to the above applications.

2) There were no items of information.

3) Planning Application Progressive Products – Planning Gain :- Members discussed the possibilities at length. The Clerk confirmed that submitting requests for planning gain did not mean that the Council was committed to supporting any future application that was submitted but was intended to give the Planning Officer at PCC items for suggesting to any applicant prior to the formal submission of an application.

After further consideration Members asked that the following requests be submitted:-

the Town Council would like to see the by pass road re-aligned, with the present parking being re-located to the opposite side of the road (adjacent to the Memorial Hall);

considerable improvements to the footpath network serving the immediate vicinity to enable pedestrians to access the new development;

a pedestrian crossing over the by-pass road, together with traffic calming measures to cope with the increased pedestrian traffic;

a review of local signage into the town centre and the general area to ensure that visitors to the area are made aware of the High Street and promote its attractions;

the provision of a rear entrance to the site for use by delivery vehicles and reduce heavy traffic to the front of the site;

as a gesture of support to the town and surrounding area, a donation towards a new Hall and play equipment would be appreciated.

The Clerk agreed to submit these requests to Powys County Council.

MIN 1897 HIGHWAYS HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

(1) Presteigne Cemetery –

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported to Members. He confirmed that the legal beneficiary of the trust was the Presteigne Burial Board or its successor (this being PCC). No capital from the Trust could be used only the income from it. He had also spoken to PCC about the rabbit proof fencing. PCC had commented that rabbit proof fencing would not work as the gates are not always closed and Cllr. Tennant-Eyles felt this was a valid point. PCC were however making every effort to use general pest control measures to control the rabbits.

Cllr, Kirkby confirmed that the trees had now been cut back.

There was, therefore, only one issue remaining unresolved, this being the headstones that had been laid flat. It was agreed that the Clerk write again to PCC asking that in view of the income received from the Trust, money be put aside to re-position the better stones against the chapel wall.

(2) State of Streets in Presteigne –

The reply from PCC was read to the meeting and Members were impressed with the prompt and effective action that was proposed. The complainant had been informed of the action to be taken and had made the further comment that a particular problem was the path alongside Kayes. The Clerk was asked to write to PCC asking that this path be noted as a particular problem and that action be taken. PCC to be reminded that they had last cleared the path around six years ago.

(3) Street Light – Cllr. Mrs Davies reported that street light number 104 in Slough Road was not working.

MIN 1898 NORTON MATTERS

No matters were raised.

MIN 1899 WENTS MEADOW

Cllr. Owens confirmed that the Meadow had now been rolled. Cllr. Kirkby stated that the metal had now been removed from the hedge and that it was now ready to trim. He reminded Members that the intention was to properly lay the hedge in around two years.

MIN 1900 MEMORIAL HALL

Two Members, Cllrs. Owen and Kirkby were to attend the Steps to Success course later in the month. This course is designed to help Committees with information on all aspects of feasibility studies.

MIN 1901 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

These were due to re-open on 31st March and Cllr. Tennant-Eyles asked for help to re-open the toilets on the Saturday prior to this. Cllrs. Wilding and Evans agreed to assist.

Clearview had confirmed their insurance cover and the new weekly cost for the cleaner during 2008.

MIN 1902 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Local Health Board Offer to attend future meeting to discuss recent review of minor injury services in Powys** – It was suggested that a joint meeting would be a more beneficial use of Health Board time and the Clerk was asked to contact Knighton Town Council to see if they had also received the same letter and if so to propose a joint meeting, with the League of Friends of Knighton Hospital and the East Radnor Border Health Focus Group also being invited.
- (b) Reply from Miss J. Davies re. Naming of development.** – The letter was noted.
- (c) Election Packs for each Member** – These were handed out to each Member present.
- (d) Planning Liaison Meeting** – Cllr Wilding agreed to try to attend this meeting.
- (e) Footpath, Scottleton Street to Kissing Gate, Warden** – The letter from the Wardens Guardian Foundation concerning the dangerous state of a portion of the path was discussed. The definitive maps of the area were examined and it was seen that original path, prior to the creation of the detour, was still shown. It was therefore agreed to write asking PCC to make the current path safe or if this was not agreed then to request the original path be made walkable.

MIN 1903 INFORMATION ONLY/ON THE TABLE

These items were noted.

MIN 1904 OTHER MATTERS

It was agreed to defer the appointment of Members to outside bodies until after the election of the new Council in May.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.