

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th JULY 2009 AT THE SHIRE HALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

Present: Cllrs. J. Wilding (Mayor), J. Tennant-Eyles (Deputy Mayor), Ms. B. Baynham, N. Green, Ms. N. Humphreys, J. Kendall, C. Kirkby, H Owens, B. Price, P. Robinson, J. Simpson, P. Spawton, Ms. A. Wake.

Apologies: None

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 Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct Order) (Wales) Order 2008.

Personal

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles	Presteigne Festival (Donation)
Cllr. Kirkby	Presteigne Festival (Donation)
Cllr. Kendall	Presteigne Festival (Donation)

Personal and Prejudicial None

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Gareth Jones, School Modernisation Officer at Powys County Council who gave a short and informative presentation on the present situation regarding school roll numbers, the school modernisation process and the progress of the process in the Ystradgynlais area. He expected the process to begin for the John Beddoes catchment towards the end of the year.

After the formal presentation Mr. Jones answered a number of Members questions including providing more detail on the time scale for the modernisation process for the John Beddoes catchment, the possibility of cross border joint working to provide facilities, working with the private sector, the effect of the modernisation process on class sizes and the make up of the Committee to review the John Beddoes area.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Jones for attending.

MIN 2096 FINANCE

At this point Cllr. Spawton raised the issue of receiving audited annual accounts from those organisations receiving donations. It was agreed that this issue be placed on the Agenda for the September Meeting.

(1) Donations:

Presteigne Festival	£1000.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Memorial Hall Management Committee (Contribution towards Hall project)	£1585.00 (precepted)

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved:

Npower (electricity for the Barn)	£25.25 (MEADOW ACCOUNT)
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A.G. Hopkins (Meadow Inspections)	£31.50 (MEADOW ACCOUNT)
Clearview Cleaning Services (HFD) Ltd (cleaning services Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£369.08
McCartneys (valuation land for sale – allotments)	£115.00
Caron Promotions (Distribution of town leaflets)	£687.70
Society of Council Clerks (Local Council Administration Book)	£55.60
OCS Group UK Ltd (Cannon) (Hygiene units Toilets)	£33.49
Petty Cash	£50.00
Second Homes (J. Selley)	£40.00 (MEADOW ACCOUNT)
Npower (electricity account Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£19.12
Welsh Water (water account Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£24.27

(3) Receipts –

Inland Revenue (Online Filing Payment Incentive plus adjustment from 2000/01)	£88.85
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MIN 2097 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of 17th June were approved with no amendments. The Mayor then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 2098 MATTERS ARISING

- (1) **Tidy Towns** – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that he was in the process of obtaining quotes for the proposed new path at Wents Meadow.
- (2) **Affordable Housing** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles informed members that he had met with the Mid Wales Housing Association to show them the sites identified by the Town Council. He had also asked if they wished to view the site they themselves had earlier identified and they had confirmed that this had already been viewed. The Association would be proceeding with further investigations.
- (3) **Highway Matters** – It was confirmed that the potholes and subsidence in Killhorse Lane, Norton had been attended to.
- (4) **Website** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles confirmed that information had been passed to Cllr. Spawton re. the organisation of the town Website.
- (5) **Skateboard Ramp** – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that Richard Rimmington was quite willing to talk to Cllr. Robinson about the Ramp and that he would provide the telephone number.

(6) **Meeting of the East Radnor Leisure Centre Committee** – Cllr. Green had attended this meeting on behalf of the Town Council and reported on matters discussed.

(7) **Mounting of Bugle** – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the bugle had now been mounted, inscribed as agreed and presented to Mr. Evans.

(8) **Flagpole for Primary School** – Cllr. Ms. Simpson and Cllr. Kirby had represented the Council at the School.

(9) **Shoppers Car Park, Presteigne** – Cllr. Kirkby asked that the Clerk follow this up as works had still not been completed.

MIN 2099 PLANNING

(1) The following applications were considered –

None received this month.

(2) **Planning Liaison Meeting** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles and the Clerk had attended the meeting in Welshpool and the notes compiled from this meeting had been circulated.

(3) **Planning Committee Meeting** – The Clerk confirmed that the application for renewal of a planning application at Harford House had been approved.

(4) **Powys County Council Advice on Dealing with Planning Applications** – The advice was noted. It was agreed to hold additional full Council Meetings to deal with any applications which did not fit in with the normal meeting timetable.

MIN 2100 HIGHWAYS HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

(1) **Allotments** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles updated Members on the site meeting with the Allotment Association and Powys County Council held on 18th June. Discussions had included the possibility of Powys contributing 50% of the sale proceeds from the Warden ground towards the purchase of a plot of land more suitable for the siting of allotments. A later meeting had also been held with representatives of the PNAA to look at the options remaining and to get their preferred way forward. A decision had not yet been reached by the Association as a sudden offer had been received of land to let to the Association at a reasonable price. Naturally the Association wished to fully explore this offer before making a final decision. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles stressed that he had pointed out to the Association that delay may mean the opportunity to purchase land may be lost.

Given the tight time scales involved Members were happy to agree that Cllrs. Tennant-Eyles and Wilding proceed with negotiations with Powys County Council over the land purchase option.

(2) **Land for Sale, Adjacent to Warden** – Members were asked to consider their position with regard to the sale of this ground if the proceeds were not required for the purchase of ground for allotments. It was suggested that as the land originally belonged to the town it should be gifted back to the community by Powys County Council. The possibility of purchase by the Town Council was also considered. It was agreed that the matter be discussed at the August Meeting/Town Walk when matters regarding the provision of allotments would be clearer and a final decision be made at that time. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to obtain copies of the deeds for the site.

(3) **Recycling Centre/Project** – Cllr. Kirkby provided Members with an update on the current progress of the Cwm Harry grant application which had now been agreed by the Welsh Assembly Government but needed Powys County Council approval before it could be finally confirmed. It was hoped the project would commence in January 2010.

Cllr. Wilding noted that the Powys County Council waste team had been present in the Hereford Street Car Park promoting their new scheme. He felt that a presentation to the Town Council would have been more useful.

Cllr. Kirkby had received a letter expressing concern that all the waste collected was placed in the same vehicle and the Clerk agreed to write a reply.

(4) Transition Presteigne – There was nothing to report at the present time.

(5) Footpath Matters – The Clerk regretted that she had no progress to report on the permissive path at Rockbridge. Members considered the length of path near to the Withy Beds which was missing from the definitive map. The Clerk was asked to check that ownership did not lie with Powys County Council before matters were taken any further.

(6) Mid and West Wales Fire Rescue Authority Draft Annual Action Plan – Cllr. Ms. Baynham had replied to the Fire Authority.

(7) Local Dentist – Members had received copies of the correspondence received from Kirsty Williams and the Local Health Board. It was with deep disappointment that they learnt that there would be no funding for a dentist in Presteigne at the present time. Cllr. Price informed Members that an online questionnaire on dental services was currently ongoing and agreed to forward details to the Clerk to circulate to all.

(8) Health Services, Hereford Hospital – A reply had been received from the Local (Teaching) Health Board expressing concern at the problems reported and asking for details so that they could be investigated. Cllr. Ms Baynham had experienced the problems herself and agreed to supply these details so they could be investigated.

(9) Wall at Castle Dyche – A site meeting had been held with the developer involved and agreement reached on a number of matters.

(10) General Highway Issues – The reply from Powys County Council was noted. Cllr. Wilding confirmed that he was happy for the footpath sign to remain and Cllr. Kendall had clarified the problem with weeds along Pound Lane.

(11) Other Highway Matters – There were no other matters raised.

MIN 2101 NORTON MATTERS

It was confirmed that the licence hours for Norton Manor had been reduced to 1am.

MIN 2102 WENTS MEADOW

(1) Temporary Closure of Footpath for Sheep Music – These details were noted.

(2) Weedkilling of BMX Track – Powys County Council had replied indicating they would treat the areas missed at the end of June and this should now have been done.

(3) Funding for Young Persons Facilities – Cllr. Ms. Wake had obtained details of several possible grant Schemes. She did not however feel able to take the matter any further without assistance. As no other Member was able to assist it was agreed that no further action be taken for the time being.

(4) Tennis Nets – The Clerk confirmed that Powys County Council had supplied the tennis club with a second hand net.

(5) Litter/Recycling Bins – The Clerk informed Members that Powys County Council had indicated they were likely to include the emptying of the bin(s) on their normal schedule free of

charge. She suggested that an approach be made to the Tidy Towns Officer for two new bins – one to replace the existing oil drum and another to be sited near to the Barn. She agreed to try to arrange a site meeting to look at this.

(6) Fires at Barn – Cllrs. Kirkby, Tennant-Eyles and the Clerk had met the Fire Prevention Officer on site and a letter had been received confirming all the matters discussed. The insurance company had been officially notified although no acknowledgement had yet been received. It was agreed that a further copy of the letter be sent with the renewal cheque later in the Summer.

(7) Filming at the Barn – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the School had had no objection and that the filming had now taken place.

(8) Use of Barn for Drinking etc – The problems associated with the drinking of alcohol in or around the barn were discussed but it was felt that no action should be taken at present.

(9) General Maintenance – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that the leaking tap had been repaired and that the regular inspections had been suspended for two weeks as they were not practical during the period the Meadow was being used by Sheep Music.

MIN 2103 MEMORIAL HALL

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles provided Members with a detailed update on progress since the previous Council Meeting. In particular the results of the consultation had been received indicating the strongest support for the building of a new Hall on the existing site. Members were happy to endorse that option.

Members were informed that the full results and complete feasibility study would be on the town website when finished. The Clerk agreed to forward the sample plans and accompanying text to all Members for information although it was stressed that this was an example only not the final version. The plans would be subject to more consultation before being finalised.

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that all pieces of equipment except were due to be removed from the play area at the Hall, having failed the safety inspection and that no funding was available to replace them. As a result Powys County Council appeared to be in favour of allowing that portion of land to be transferred to the Hall charity. A letter of intent to do this was being sought from Powys County Council to accompany the lottery application. It was felt that the actual transfer of ownership should take place at the same time as the transfer of the trusteeship.

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles then reported on the grant funding available. He explained the reasoning behind limiting the Big Lottery application to £500,000 and gave details of a further possible Fund provided by the Welsh Assembly. This Fund could provide £300,000 over a three year period. He stated that the Clerk did not have the time to complete this application and asked for Members' approval to obtain a price for completion from PHT, the consultants compiling the Feasibility Study. Members were happy for Cllr. Tennant-Eyles to negotiate a price for this and agreed to authorise him to agree to a fee provided he considered the figure to be reasonable. This fee would, as with other costs, be split equally between the Hall Committee and the Town Council.

The future ownership of the Hall was then considered. The following structure was agreed, subject to funding for a new Hall being obtained – The Trustees (transferred from Powys County Council to Presteigne and Norton Town Council), the Hall Management Committee and a part time Manager. Members unanimously agreed to support this. Cllr. Kendall reminded everyone that Powys County Council was losing an obligation if the trusteeship was transferred and that the Town Council should ask for something in exchange. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles confirmed that this would be borne in mind.

Following discussion it was also agreed that all grant applications would be submitted in the name of the Hall Management Committee.

MIN 2104 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

(1) **Cleaning Audit** - A copy of the cleaning audit carried out by Clearview had been received and was completely satisfactory.

(2) **Maintenance** – The automatic flush in the gents had still not been attended to and the Clerk agreed to follow this up. The broken door handle to the Ladies had now been repaired. The account for electricity repairs had not yet been submitted as one small item remained to be finished.

(3) **Mural** – The Youth Service were considering agreeing to re-do the mural.

MIN 2105 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) **One Voice Wales Training Programme** – Noted.

(2) **Local Health Board** – Information on Joint Option Appraisal Project/Health Board Developments – Noted.

(3) **Historic Towns Forum – Letter offering membership at £200 per annum** - Agreed not to become members.

(4) **Letter from Local Shopkeeper** (as circulated previously) – It was agreed that a copy of the letter be passed to the police with the note that the Council also believed under age drinking was taking place and asking for action to be taken.

MIN 2106 INFORMATION ONLY/ON THE TABLE

The items for information were noted.

MIN 2107 OTHER MATTERS

It was reported that the proposed changes to the Feed Mill at Countrywide were still progressing although it could be twelve months before work commenced.

The recent visit of the Twinning Association to Ligne had been a success and Cllr. Ms. Simpson had made a speech on behalf of the Mayor, who had been unable to attend.

A table sale to raise funds for the Twinning Association is to be held on 12th September.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.