

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 AT THE SHIRE HALL,  
BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE**

**Present:** Cllrs. C. Kirkby (Mayor), J. Wilding (Deputy Mayor), Ms. B. Baynham, N. Green, Ms. N. Humphreys, J. Kendall, H Owens, B. Price, P. Robinson, Ms. J. Simpson, P. Spawton, J. Tennant-Eyles, 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. Ms. B. Baynham	Trees, Home Farm Lane, Norton (Under Norton Matters)
Personal and Prejudicial	None	

**MIN 2043 FINANCE**

**(1) Donations:**

No requests for donations had been received.  
The Letter of thanks from Presteigne Youth Club was noted.

**(2) Payments:** The following payments were approved:

<b>phs Group</b> (rental of hand driers, Wilson Terrace Toilets)	<b>£214.76</b>
<b>Artisan Print</b> (photocopying)	<b>£10.19</b>

**(3) Review of Risk Assessment** – Members had received an updated copy of the annual risk assessment and this was approved without amendment and signed by the Mayor.

**(4) Review of Clerks Salary** – The Clerk left the room for the duration of this item. Cllr. Kirkby informed Members of the current scale point and hours per month of the Clerk. It was agreed that the annual increment be approved and that given the increased workload the hours be increased by four per month, making a total of sixty per month. This to be reviewed in twelve months.

**(5) Asset Register** – Members approved the updated Asset register.

**MIN 2044 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> February were approved with one amendment, under Minute 2035 Planning, the street should read Hereford Street not High Street. The Mayor then duly signed the Minutes.

**MIN 2045 MATTERS ARISING**

**(1) Mayor's Lunch** – Cllr. Kirkby thanked all those who had attended the Mayor's lunch which raised £420 for the Charles Renton Unit.

- (2) **Presteigne Bowling Club** – There had still been no response from the Bowling Club following the request for audited accounts.
- (3) **Kissing Gate, Wents Meadow** – Carlton Parry of Powys County Council had been due to visit in early March but the Clerk had not received confirmation that this visit had taken place.
- (4) **Shoppers Car Park** – Cllr. Kirkby had now managed to contact Kevin Lloyd of Powys County Council and was pleased to report that works were due to be carried out before the end of March. A tarmac bund was to be installed to alleviate the flooding problem and the gate on the right hand side was to be moved forward.
- (5) **Funding for East Radnorshire Day Care Centre** – Cllr. Ms. Baynham reported that a further meeting had now taken place and that the matter had now been resolved.
- (6) **Street Lighting** – Cllr. Kirkby reported one further problem with lights near to Castle Road. Otherwise there were no outstanding issues.
- (7) **Local Dentist** – A letter had been sent to the Chief Dental Officer for Wales but as yet no reply had been received. It was suggested that Roger Williams MP and Kirsty Williams AM be involved and asked for support and this was agreed by all.
- (8) **Dog Fouling** – The Dog Warden had responded confirming that the town was regularly patrolled and asking that specific instances, sites etc. be reported via the Clerk.
- (9) **Play Area Inspections, Wents Meadow** – These were due to take place shortly.
- (10) **Safe Routes to School** – Nothing to report at present. The Clerk agreed to monitor progress.
- (11) **Land adj. to Labtech** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles had been able to obtain contact details for an Officer at the Welsh Assembly and the Clerk had written asking for further details.
- (12) **Speeding Vehicles in Presteigne Town Centre** – The Clerk confirmed that she had written requesting a 20 mph zone as discussed at an earlier meeting.

#### **MIN 2046 PLANNING**

(1) **P2009 0242** Full, change of use of existing shop to takeaway/restaurant at the Little Shop (ground floor), **Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne**. A letter, together with a petition of support with three hundred names, had been received from the shop owner giving reasons for the application and this was read to the meeting. Members were reminded of a previous letter of objection that had been received and a further letter was read to the meeting, objecting on the grounds of noise, litter, parking, vermin, smell and property devaluation.

Cllr. Kendall stressed that the Town Council was not able to actually pass the plans – only to make comments to Powys County Council, which may or may not be taken into account. Powys County Council made the decision on whether plans were approved or not.

Members discussed the issues at length, with particular reference to whether the concerns raised were legitimate planning concerns. It was pointed out if granted the type of takeaway could change in the future and there would be no control over this aspect. Members also felt that care should be taken with the density of takeaways in an area. After careful consideration a vote was taken and it was agreed by seven votes to five that no objections be raised to the change of use but that Powys County Council be asked to pay careful regard to the issues of noise, smell, traffic and parking. These matters to be regularly monitored.

(2) The planning decisions listed for information were noted.

**(3) Community Benefits from Wind Energy Developments** – Cllr. Kirkby updated Members on the current situation and also on the possibility of a community fund being set up to administer benefits from local developments in this field generally.

**(4) Proposed Wood Pellet Production Facility, Presteigne Mill** – Cllr. Kirkby summarised the contents of the amended Transport Assessment. He highlighted several point of interest and as a result it was agreed to make the following comments to Powys County Council.

It was noted that the visibility when turning right into the site was considerably less than Powys County Council's specific requirements, being only 97.5 m not 215 m. Members would like to hear the views of Powys County Council on this.

On page 21 of the amended document it appears that the maths is incorrect and it should be six inbound and outbound movements per hour, not three as stated.

Also mentioned on Page 21 is the percentage distribution of traffic flow, with 10% being indicated as travelling along Greenfield Road. The Town Council feels this is completely unacceptable and moreover would not be possible or practical.

Given that the study still does not indicate where the woodchip and biomass deliveries will come from it was difficult to properly assess the effect on the road system. Members were pleased, however, to note that the new study confirmed that vehicular activity will be confined to 8 am to 6.30 pm, Monday to Friday, with only occasional movements on Saturdays and none on Sundays.

Members wished to reiterate their general support for the application and the inward investment into the town it will bring but stressed that this should be properly controlled and monitored.

The Clerk was also instructed to ask when the application was due to come before Committee.

## **MIN 2047 HIGHWAYS HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT**

**(1) School Modernisation Programme** – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the review of the Presteigne/Gwernyfed catchment areas would commence in the Autumn. A very successful meeting had been held with Nick Dearden of Powys County Council to obtain more details on how the project would be organised. Members stressed the need for Town Council representation and the Clerk agreed to write to Powys County Council stressing this point.

**(2) Allotments** – A number of letters had been received on the subject, including two from persons objecting to the use of Went's Meadow (previously circulated) and also letters from Roger Williams MP and Kirsty Williams AM asking for progress reports on the issue. These letters were summarised by Cllr. Kirkby for the benefit of Members.

Cllr. Kirkby stated that he believed the Town Council to be firmly in favour of allotments in the town and that a useful way to assist the PNAA would be for the Council to write to all those who have previously expressed an interest in having an allotment asking them to confirm their interest and indicate the size of plot they would prefer and also to contact local landowners, about the possible sale or rent of areas of land.

Cllr. Price felt very strongly that the suggested use of Went's Meadow should be ruled out and that a vote should be taken on the issue. He was concerned that local people were concerned at the possible use of part of the Meadow and felt the Town Council should make a decision on the matter immediately. Cllr. Wilding seconded this proposal and a vote was taken on whether to remove the Meadow from the list of possible sites. A counter proposal to leave the Meadow sites in was made by Cllr. Ms. Baynham and seconded by Cllr. Tennant-Eyles. The counter proposal received three votes and so was unsuccessful. The initial proposal was then voted upon and received eight votes in support and was so carried.

All agreed that the Town Council assist the PNAA by writing the letters to land owners and those on the allotment list and that Cllr. Tennant-Eyles continue to liaise with the group.

Cllr. Kendall asked that it be noted that the Town Council was assisting because it supported the principle of allotment provision not because it felt it had a legal obligation to do so.

**(3) Affordable Housing** – This matter was deferred to the end of the meeting to be considered after the exclusion of public and press.

**(4) Recycling Centre** – Cllr. Kirkby had replied to Lee Marshall at Powys County Council expressing disappointment that PCC were not willing to allow the Town Council to take over just the cleaning of the site. He had asked for a copy of the Adopt-a-Site Agreement and details of the tonnage collected in order to calculate the cost/profit for the Town Council if it took the site on fully. He had also suggested the Town Council could act as clients for the site and monitor the performance of Powys County Council in the way Powys County Council monitored Knighton Town Council at their site.

**(5) School Funding in Powys and John Beddoes School** – Cllr. Kendall confirmed that nothing further was required from the Town Council at present.

**(6) General Outstanding Highways Matters** – A number of matters had been outstanding for some time. These were now largely resolved or due for action in the near future.

**(7) Presteigne Tourism Project** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that advertising revenue had dropped recently and that a campaign to promote advertising on the site was underway. He advised that the new leaflet was now with the graphic designer and should be available shortly.

**(8) Transition Presteigne** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles passed a leaflet around to all Members for information.

**(9) Rockbridge Footpath** – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that a reply had been received from the Land Agent acting for the landowner involved. This had been forwarded to Powys County Council for comment.

**(10) Waiting Restrictions in High Street, Presteigne** – Cllr. Kirkby informed the meeting that a reply had been received from Powys County Council but that it appeared that the double yellow lines were going ahead. Members were concerned that their views had not been taken into account but it was agreed that there was nothing further to be done.

**(11) Other Highway Matters –**

- a) Cllr. Owens reported a number of bad potholes in Station Road.
- b) Several broken bollards were noted to be in need of repair.
- c) Bike Racks – Cllr. Ms. Simpson reported that the Chamber of Trade were having problems progressing this grant funded project and asked for Town Council assistance. She detailed the issues involved and the Clerk agreed to follow the matter up.
- d) Youth Centre – This was reported as being generally untidy with a large number of weeds.
- e) Exit to Shoppers Car Park – It was heard that a large vehicle was repeatedly parked on the verge near to the exit blocking the view of drivers leaving the car park. Cllr. Kirkby agreed to look at this.
- f) Station Road Sign – Cllr. Ms. Simpson reported that this sign still displayed details of the dolls house business which no longer operated and asked that this could be reported so the sign could be amended.

**MIN 2048 NORTON MATTERS**

**(1) Flooding Work, Mynd Road** – Members were pleased to hear that this had now been completed.

(2) **Traffic Matters** – It was reported that the monitoring strips had been placed although it was felt that these were not necessarily in the best locations. The Clerk agreed to arrange a site meeting between the Powys County Council Officer responsible and the Norton Members.

(3) **Events at Norton Manor** – A number of reports had been received both by the Clerk and Members concerning entertainment at the premises. Cllr. Wilding reported that there had been a number of initial problems but that Powys County Council were continuing to monitor the premises and that matters should now be resolved. The Clerk agreed to write to the person who had submitted a written complaint and advise them of the present situation.

(4) **Other Matters** – Damaged signs in School Lane were reported as were two dangerous trees along Home Farm Lane. The Clerk agreed to notify Powys County Council of these items.

#### **MIN 2049 WENTS MEADOW**

(1) **Sub-Committee Meeting** – Minutes from this meeting had previously been circulated. Cllr. Green asked that his name be included amongst those attending. Members were informed of the date for the tidy up of the Ligne Garden being 28<sup>th</sup> March. The toilet block would also be opened on that day.

Since the committee meeting Cllr Kirkby had consulted the Conservation Officer at Radnorshire Wildlife Trust on the possibility of topping the hedge between Upper and Lower Went's Meadow and been told that this was not necessary, that it should be left and laid every 10-12 years.

(2) **Site Meeting with Powys County Council** – Cllr. Kirkby reported on a very successful site meeting held recently. The meeting had originally been held to discuss the request for an additional dog waste bin. It was explained that these are no longer provided as it is fine to use the general litter bins for bagged dog waste. This needed to be publicised more widely and will be included in the Town Council entry in the next newsletter produced by Community Support. A number of other matters had been raised. These included replacement of the oak bollards around the parking area at the Scout Hut, the repair of the tennis court fencing, the possibility of locking the gates onto the Meadow, a supply of stickers indicating that all litter bins were suitable for dog mess, the replacement of one litter bin and the possibility of creating an additional stone pathway on the Meadow using Tidy Towns funding. It was agreed to obtain quotes and make a grant application for the stone pathway.

(3) **Ligne Garden** – Future arrangements for the maintenance of the Garden and the general area were considered. Cllr. Kirkby agreed to speak to the gentleman presently inspecting the Meadow generally as he understood he would be happy to retire from this task. Members agreed that he should do this and that arrangements should be made for a new person to take on the maintenance and gardening for a trial period of six months. It was felt a check list would be needed of areas to be covered at each visit.

(4) **Tidy Towns Initiative** – See (2) above.

#### **MIN 2050 MEMORIAL HALL**

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles outlined the work which had been completed over the previous month and updated Members on where matters stood at present. He stressed the need for full and detailed consultation with the townspeople to ensure that the project delivered exactly what was wanted by residents.

Two grant applications to part fund the initial stages of the work were due to be finalised shortly and the outcomes were expected in April.

#### **MIN 2051 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reminded Members that the third year of the project was about to commence and that if they wished a years notice could now be given to Powys County Council if they wished to cease operating the toilets. Members confirmed they had no wish to terminate the agreement at present.

## **MIN 2052      CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) Warden Guardian Foundation** – Powys County Council had replied and the paperwork regarding an additional sign had been sent direct to the Foundation. Cllr. Kirkby reported that this could only be a pedestrian sign as no parking was available on the site.
- (2) Retained Fire-fighters** – Letter from Roger Williams requesting support. This was completed by all Members.
- (3) Trees on Clatterbrook** – This matter had been raised by a resident and passed on to the County Council.
- (4) Brecon and Radnor Conservatives** – The prospective parliamentary candidate, Suzy Davies had requested permission to attend a meeting to observe and afterwards chat informally to Members. The Clerk was instructed to write giving details of future meetings and informing Ms. Davies she would be welcome to attend.
- (5) Charity Aquathon by some John Beddoes pupils** – Details of this had been sent to the Clerk as part of a request for licensing information. Cllr Kirkby suggested that the Council might like to contribute something in sponsorship and it was agreed to contribute £25 for the benefit of Hope House. The Clerk would get the necessary details and place the payment on the April Agenda.
- (6) High Sheriff of Powys, Awards for Merit in Public Service** – Cllr. Kirkby had attended this event in his capacity as Mayor.
- (7) Police** – It was agreed to invite the Chief Superintendent of police to the June or July Meeting.
- (8) Castle Dyke Footpath** – Concern had been expressed over the workmanship of a wall recently repaired. Cllr. Kirkby agreed to look into this.

## **MIN 2053      INFORMATION ONLY/ON THE TABLE**

These items were duly noted.

## **MIN 2054      OTHER MATTERS**

There were no other items of business.

*Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press were excluded at this point of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following item.*

## **MIN 2055      AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

A number of possible sites were identified and Cllrs. Tennant-Eyles and Owens agreed to visit the owners to make initial enquiries.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.