

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JANUARY 2010 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, H Owens, B. Price, P. Robinson, Ms. J. Simpson, P. Spawton, Ms. A. Wake.

Apologies: Cllr. C. Kirkby.

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. Wilding Finance (grant for 2010/11) Norton Sports Committee and Presteigne YFC.

Cllr. Ms. Wake Finance (grant for 2010/11) Management Committee Member Presteigne Little People's Playgroup. Planning – applications for Harley House.

Personal and Prejudicial -

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles Finance (grant for 2010/11) Chairman of Presteigne Tourism Trust, Director of Music Festival, Treasurer Presteigne Chamber of Trade.

Cllr. Kendall Finance (grant for 2010/11) Chairman of Presteigne Festival.

Cllr. Ms. Baynham Finance (grant for 2010/11) Employee of East Radnorshire Day Care Centre.

Cllr. Ms. Wake Finance (grant for 2010/11) Member of Presteigne Chamber of Trade.

Cllr. Ms. Simpson Finance (grant for 2010/11) Member of Presteigne Chamber of Trade, Trustee for Shirehall Museum Trust Ltd.

Cllr. Owens Finance (grant for 2010/11) Chairman of Trustees, Presteigne and Norton Community Support.

MIN 2162 FINANCE

(1) Donations:

The following donations were approved –

St. Andrews FC Colts	£250.00
The Samaritans	£100.00
Wardens Guardian Foundation	£250.00
Youth Club	£200.00
Presteigne Young Farmers Club	£250.00
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup	£300.00

East Radnor Border Health Focus Group	£50.00
Childline	£75.00

Cllr. Ms. Simpson felt the St. Andrews Colts Under 8's (10's) grant had already been paid and the Clerk agreed to check this.

Members further considered the application from Hope House for a donation. Although this considered a very worthy cause Members felt unable to make any contribution at this time.

A request by BISYOC for inclusion in the 2010/11 precept was considered and it was agreed that the sum of £100 be included in the budget for this purpose.

The letters of thanks from Presteigne and Norton Community Support and Powys Citizens Advice Bureau were noted.

(2) Payments:

Mayor's Allowance (final instalment)	£500.00
Npower (electricity account Wilson Terrace)	£39.63 (£37.75 plus VAT)
Npower (electricity account for Barn)	£24.17 (£23.02 plus VAT)
	MEADOW ACCOUNT
Midland News Association (Allotment Advertisement)	£92.00 (£80 plus VAT)
Mid Wales Tree Services (pollarding at Allotment Site)	£600.00
Alan Jones (hedging at car park field)	£476.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Masco (hire of wood chipper Allotment Site)	£115.00 (£100 plus VAT)
J. Perks – Presteigne Gates (hedging stakes, £62.20 for Meadow/£62.50 for allotment site) (£108 plus VAT)	£124.20
Alan Jones (hedging at allotment site)	£478.60
Mark Price (clearing work, allotment site)	£164.50 (£140 plus VAT)
SLCC (Allotments Book)	£17.20
S. Ruell (Clearing hedge trimmings)(£45 Plus VAT)	£51.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) Receipts:

Precept Payment Final Payment -	£10,526.62
--	-------------------

Presteigne Chamber of Trade £450.00

(Refund due to overpayment in December 2009)

Memorial Hall Committee (towards Clerks Extra Hours) £432.70

(4) New Projects: To be considered in detail under (7 below).

(5) Grant for Memorial Hall: Further details had been received from Powys County Council on the workings of the new grant calculations but it was still very difficult to accurately assess the impact of any change to the Town Council grant to the related payment from Powys. Members agreed that they would hold the grant at its present level and review this again in 2011 when more information should be obtainable.

(6) Review of Clerks Salary: Cllr. Wilding presented a short report to the meeting and the following decisions were made –

To increase the number of hours paid to the Clerk by five per month, to sixty-five hours. This to take effect from 1st April, 2010.

To approve the payment of the annual increment from 1st April 2010.

(7) Precept:

Several Members expressed concern that the precept was not raised any more than absolutely necessary given the general financial situation. Each item on the draft precept sheet was then carefully considered.

Section 1 – Council administration costs: Figures remained as drafted with the exception of an increase to the Clerk's salary costs to allow for the additional hours to be paid in 2010/11.

During the following section those Members declaring prejudicial interests left the meeting room whilst the relevant item was discussed.

Section 2 – Donations and S.137's: Each item was considered carefully and the following changes were made –

Additions – BISOYC £100

Changes – Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, reduced to £100 as the Trust will no longer be managing Lower Went's Meadow.

St. Andrews Colts Football Club, the two separate donations to sections of the club were combined to make one donation to the whole club. The amount to be £350 for 2010/11.

Wardens Guardian Foundation, reduced to £200.

Presteigne Youth Club, reduced to £100.

Presteigne Young Farmers Club, reduced to £200.

Deletions - The donations to Childline and the East Radnor Border Health Focus Group were removed from the precept for the forthcoming year.

Section 3 – Projects:

Allotments - No allowance was made for the running of the allotments. It was considered that the rental income would offset any costs incurred. This to be reviewed when the precept for 2011/12 is set.

Wilson Terrace Toilets – Members were reminded that the final amount of the Powys County Council grant towards running costs had been received and that the full running costs would therefore fall to the Town Council in 2010/11. A prudent reserve for this project had been

established for emergencies and it was agreed that £1000 of this reserve be used towards running costs in 2010/11. This enabled the precepted amount to be reduced to £2000.

Memorial Hall Working Fund – A provisional amount of £6000 had been included to ensure the continuation of work towards providing a new Memorial Hall. It was agreed that £4000 be precepted this time with an additional £2000 being available from general reserves should this be required.

Sheep Music – No details had been received regarding events in 2010 and it was agreed not to include an amount in the precept on this occasion.

Section 4 – Went’s Meadow: Members considered the present arrangement regarding inspections to be working well and excellent value for money. £300 was included for this during 2010/11. The general maintenance cost was increased to £2300 to allow for the additional maintenance that would be required on Lower Went’s Meadow. The additional £300 reflected the saving from the reduced donation to the Wildlife Trust. The miscellaneous costs were left unchanged at £200. A total of £2800 was therefore included in the precept for the Meadow as a whole.

Section 5 - Projects 2009/10: £50 was included in the precept for training/conference costs. None of the other projects listed required further finance in the forthcoming year

Section 6 – Projects 2010/11: The added responsibility for Lower Went’s Meadow had been combined with the maintenance of Upper Went’s Meadow so no additional amount was included under new projects.

Members agreed to budget to provide the new bunting at a cost of £500. Having viewed the samples provided it was agreed that the heavy duty pvc bunting be selected. This material was considered to be more durable and therefore longer lasting.

The total budget for 2010/11 was £33,465.00. This resulted in a precept of £28, an increase of £2 on 2009/10.

Members agreed that the Clerk inform Powys County Council of this figure.

MIN 2163 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of 16th December were approved without any amendment. The Mayor then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 2164 MATTERS ARISING / CLERKS REPORT

- (1) **Clerk’s Report** - The Clerk’s report was noted.
- (2) There were no matters arising this month.

MIN 2165 PLANNING

(1) **P2009 1364** Full, conversion of a garage/workshop into residential letting accommodation at **Faraway, Stonewall Hill, Presteigne.**

P2009 1390 For householder, residential extensions to front and rear of property at **the School House, Scottleton Street, Presteigne.**

P2010 0017 Listed Building Consent, use of natural slate for the roof covering (amendment of condition 3 of approval PR582904) at **Harley House, Broad Street, Presteigne.**

P2010 0014, Full, Variation of condition 3 of approval PR582905 to allow the use of natural slate for the roof covering at **Harley House, Broad Street, Presteigne**.

No objections were raised to the above applications.

(2) Planning Decisions – The decisions were noted.

(3) Unitary Development Plan – The proposed further modifications were noted.

MIN 2166 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Affordable Housing – The recent information from Susie Hobby, the Rural Housing Enabler based at Powys County Council was noted.

Cllr. Kendall had reviewed the online Powys County Council Local Housing Market Assessment Questionnaire. He expressed disappointment at the complexity and length of the document and had written to the County Council to convey his concern. To date no reply had been received.

(2) Site Meeting with PCC Highways Officer – The Clerk informed Members that this had been delayed due to the bad weather but that she would arrange a meeting in the near future.

(3) Rockbridge Footpath – The Clerk confirmed that matters had now been agreed. Powys County Council works to install signs and gates were now awaited.

(4) Cwm Harry Land Trust Zero Waste Project – The project continued to progress and food waste collections were to commence in February.

(5) Policing Matters – Cllr. Wilding informed Members that a date for the informal meeting had not yet been set. Chief Superintendent Steve Hughson had agreed to attend the February meeting to give a formal update.

(6) Transition Presteigne (inc. Low Carbon Communities Challenge) – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles informed Members that the LCCC bid had been unsuccessful. The Household Energy Service had been awarded £300,000 as one of the winners of the Big Green Challenge.

(7) School Modernisation Project – Cllr. Kendall informed Members that the first meeting was due to take place in March. Among the representatives would be the Head teacher of John Beddoes School and himself as Chair of the Board of Governors.

(8) Safe Routes to School – Cllr. Wilding updated Members on the progress of the project. Powys County Council had submitted a bid for funding for the improvements to routes through Presteigne. Further work was needed on the route from Norton to Presteigne, in particular negotiations with landowners needed to take place. The intention was to bid for further funding in the Autumn. He intended to meet with Anthea Jones at Powys County Council to assist with the landowner negotiations.

(9) Road Sign, Hereford Street, Presteigne – Cllr. Wilding had been approached by the local estate agent who felt that the sign for Hereford Street was placed too far along and in fact actually in Greenfield Road. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

(10) Wall at Castle Dyche, Presteigne – Members heard that the developer of the adjacent site had now gone into liquidation. They felt there was little else that the Town Council could do but asked the Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of Powys County Council to ask for a full explanation and expressing concern over safety issues given the proximity of a public footpath.

MIN 2167 NORTON MATTERS

Members asked that several local fundraising events be noted.

The speed signs were still in place and continued to work erratically.

MIN 2168 WENTS MEADOW

(1) Lower Went's Meadow, Possible Designation as a Nature Reserve – Members noted the details supplied by Cllr. Kirkby.

(2) Ongoing Maintenance Costs for Lower Went's Meadow – Members noted the prospective works as suggested by the Wildlife Trust. The general maintenance costs for the whole Meadow area had been increased to allow for some of these works in 2010/11.

(3) Play Inspections – It was agreed that the Clerk arrange for the usual play area inspections.

(4) Community Orchard – Members examined the plans provided and were happy with the arrangements and types of trees proposed.

MIN 2169 MEMORIAL HALL

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles informed Members that work was still progressing. He reminded Members that part of the work needed was the compilation of brief cv's for each Member and asked that anyone who had not submitted details to please do so as soon as possible.

MIN 2170 ALLOTMENTS

Members were informed that 35 applications had been received by the closing date. Cllr. Wilding was working on possible plot layouts with the assistance of David Harvey, a member of the PNAA. One application had been received since the closing date and this would be placed on the formal waiting list.

It was agreed that a formal Allotments Committee was not required and that the Allotment Working Group continue to meet with the PNAA and report back to full Council Meetings. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles agreed to continue as Liaison Officer with the PNAA until May.

Work on the site had come to a halt during the recent bad weather but was hoped to recommence shortly. The PNAA were presently considered methods to be used for the ploughing of the site. A water supply also needed to be arranged.

Cllr. Wilding explained that he intended to get advice from the Highways Department on the possibility of extending the car park.

MIN 2171 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 – Part 1 Guidance to Fire and Rescue Authorities, Consultation. No comments were made.

(2) Code of Conduct Draft Guidance from Public Services Ombudsman – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported on the draft guidance supplied. It was agreed that comments be made as follows –

The Code is not designed primarily with Town and Community Councils in mind and this causes enormous problems in small communities. Because of the relatively small size of their communities many Councillors are involved in a large number of community organisations, and they unavoidably socialise with a large number of the residents in their villages and towns. They often know almost all the residents in their area. As a result they find themselves constantly unrealistically constrained by a Code that is designed to apply to matters of much larger significance than occur in such a local milieu. The frustration this brings is resulting in increasing disillusionment with the office of Councillor. The Standards Officer of our unitary authority has also expressed this view on several occasions. A specific code for

community councillors, produced after further consultation with community councils, would allow for a Code that was 'fit for purpose' and workable at Community Council level.

The Code states that declarations only need be made once in writing and thereafter verbally but the advice of our monitoring authority is to complete the declaration in writing each time. If this is the intention of the Code it should be made clear.

The Town Council of course understands the need for Council affairs to be monitored and for the public to be clear that no Member is able to use his/her position for their personal gain. It does however feel that the present code places too onerous a burden on people who are volunteers and giving up their time to benefit their community.

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles also reminded Members of the possibility of applying for dispensations via the Standards Committee of Powys County Council.

(3) WAG Capital Guidance Framework Consultation – No formal comments were made on this document.

(4) Payphone Consultation – Powys County Council had confirmed that they had objected to the removal of the payphone in Norton. Cllr. Wilding reported that the kiosk had had the payment equipment removed and he agreed to check further and report back to the February Meeting.

(5) Heart of Wales Forum Meeting – No one was available to attend this meeting.

MIN 2172 INFORMATION ITEMS

The items for information were noted.

MIN 2173 URGENT INFORMATION

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reminded Members that help was needed to remove the Christmas lights on 23rd January.

Members were informed of two forthcoming events organised by the Twinning Association.

Cllr. Ms. Baynham reported that there had again been flooding problems in Kings Court and that she had reported this to George Lloyd at Powys County Council. She had also sent photographs.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.