

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2010 AT THE SHIRE HALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. Ms. N. Humphreys, H Owens.

**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. B. Price Finance Item - donation kids day out Knighton and District Rotary Club.

Personal and Prejudicial

Cllr. B. Baynham Planning Item - P2010 0365 Erection of cattle shed at Home Farm, Norton.

Prior to the meeting Members welcomed Mr. Glyn Hobby of the Ambulance Service. Mr. Hobby gave an overview of the ambulance service and in particular the situation in the Presteigne and Knighton areas. He answered Members questions on various aspects of the service including the present staffing issues at Knighton Station, the use of the Air Ambulance, the use of four wheel drive vehicles and the future recruitment plans for the service. The Mayor thanked Mr. Hobby for attending.

**MIN 2198 FINANCE**

**(1) Donations:**

The following donations were approved –

<b>Mid Border Arts</b>	<b>£500.00</b> (precepted)
<b>Electric Bike Race (Tour de Presteigne)</b>	<b>£250.00</b> (precepted)
<b>Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup</b>	<b>£300.00</b> (precepted)
<b>BISYOC</b>	<b>£100.00</b> (precepted)
<b>Rotary Kid's Day Out</b> (Knighton and District)	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>Play Radnor</b>	<b>£100</b>
<b>Presteigne Shirehall Museum Trust</b>	<b>£1500.00</b> (precepted)

**(2) Payments:**

<b>Viking Direct</b> (toilet rolls, ink cartridges and stamps)	<b>£176.07</b> (£155.95 plus VAT)
<b>OCS Group UK Ltd. (Cannon Hygiene)</b> (Toilets)	<b>£34.97</b> (£29.76 plus VAT)
<b>SLCC</b> (Annual Membership for Clerk)	<b>£106.00</b>
<b>KFS (Allotments)</b>	<b>£88.09</b> (£74.97 plus VAT)
<b>A.G. Hopkins</b> (Meadow Inspections)	<b>£15.75</b> MEADOW ACCOUNT
<b>Npower</b> (electricity account, Barn)	<b>£24.52</b> (£23.35 plus VAT) MEADOW ACCOUNT
<b>Powys County Council</b> (licence for bunting)	<b>£56.00</b>
<b>J. Burgoyne (catering allotment meeting)</b>	<b>£37.50</b>
<b>Hampshire Flag Company</b>	<b>£505.83</b> (£430.49 plus VAT)
<b>Costcutter</b> (refreshments for Meadow Tidy Up)	<b>£7.84</b> (MEADOW ACCOUNT)
<b>Mark Price</b> (Ploughing allotment site)	<b>£211.50</b> (£180.00 plus VAT)

**(3) Receipts:**

<b>Powys County Council (re. Allotments)</b>	<b>£3292.48</b>
<b>Allotment Rental Payments</b>	<b>£ 50.00</b>
<b>BT Community Connections</b> (contribution towards internet connection)	<b>£170.00</b>

**(4) Annual Accounts:**

Members had all received copies of the annual accounts for 2009/10. Subject to the correction of the amount of £580 to Purrfect Cat Hire being moved from the Public Conveniences column to the Allotments column the accounts were formally approved.

**(5) VAT Return 2009/10:**

Members noted that the annual VAT return had been completed and forwarded to HM Customs and Excise.

## **(6) Financial Regulations:**

Copies of the current regulations and of the Clerk's recommended changes had been circulated. Members approved the revised regulations subject to regulation 1.4 being amended to read 'At least once a year the council shall conduct a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control *via the annual risk assessment*, which shall be in accordance with proper practices'.

### **MIN 2199 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> March were approved without any amendment. The Mayor then duly signed the Minutes.

### **MIN 2200 MATTERS ARISING / CLERKS REPORT**

**(1) Clerk's Report** - The Clerk's report was noted.

**(2) Bridleway NR117, Norton** – The Clerk informed Members that she had spoken to the Footpaths Officer at Powys County Council who had agreed to visit the landowner to discuss possible solutions. He had hoped to attend on site on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**(3) Additional Litter Bin Request** – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that this was not yet in place and the Clerk agreed to chase this with the County Council.

**(4) Litter Bins Generally** – Cllr. Ms Wake reported on a lack of bins elsewhere in the town and Cllr. Wilding also had concerns about the amount of dog fouling in Mill Lane which was not helped by the lack of a bin in the area. Cllr. Kirkby expressed disappointment that the new bins in High Street did not have a facility for recycling and the Clerk agreed to write to the County Council to see if these bins could be changed. She also agreed to look into the possibility of additional bins as mentioned by Cllr. Ms. Wake and Cllr. Wilding.

### **MIN 2201 PLANNING**

#### **(1) Planning Applications**

**P2010 0253** Variation of Conditions 1,3,4,11,14,15 of Planning Approval PR192602 at **Site adj Telephone Exchange, Church View, Presteigne**. No objections raised.

**P2010 0290** Full, COU from class D1 (xv) (beauty salon) to A2 office use at **3 Broad Street, Presteigne**. No objections raised. Members asked that the Clerk obtain more information on the general implications of a change in use class.

**P2010 0306** For Householder, removal of single storey detached outhouse and erection of two storey extension to existing dwelling at **Sunshine Cottage, Slough Lane, Presteigne**. No objections raised.

Cllr. Ms. Baynham left the room prior to the following item having declared an interest.

**P2010 0365** Full, erection of cattle shed at **Home Farm, Norton**. No objections raised.

Cllr. Ms. Baynham returned to the room.

**P2010 0344** Full, extension of existing residential park homes site for 3 residential units at **Rockbridge Park, Discoyd, Presteigne**.

**CL2010 0001** Certificate of Lawfulness, use of site for 2 permanent residential park homes and 1 holiday park home at **Rockbridge Park, Discoyd, Presteigne.**

**P2010 0343** Removal of condition, condition 16 of PR3223/02 which states ‘ the period of each let shall be no longer than 6 weeks with no return occupation by the same holiday maker for a period of 6 weeks’, **Rockbridge Park, Discoed.**

The above three applications for Rockbridge Park were discussed in some detail. It was felt that permanent residential development of any type (park home or standard dwelling) was not suitable for the area and it was agreed that the following responses be made -

Application P2010 0343 – The Town Council wishes to object to this application. The condition referred to was included in the original permission to ensure proper control of use and prevent the establishment of permanent residency. This need still remains.

Application P2010 0344 – The Town Council wishes to object to this application. It feels that any extension of the site should be for holiday homes only, not permanent residential accommodation.

CL2010 0001 – Again the Town Council wishes to object to the granting of permission for permanent residential park homes although it has no objection to the granting of a certificate for holiday park homes.

**(2) Planning Liaison Meeting** – Invitation to next meetings, 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles and the Clerk agreed to attend on 5th May.

**(3) Powys UDP** – Confirmation of adoption of Unitary Development Plan – Noted.

## **MIN 2202      HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

**(1) Affordable Housing** – Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported on the recent conference on housing held at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells which he and the Clerk had attended. He outlined the main topics covered and provided a number of statistics relevant to the situation in Powys. The Clerk had requested copies of the slides from each of the presentations and these would be available to Members shortly. A useful product of the conference was the opportunity to speak with Jude Boutle of the Mid Wales Housing Association and discuss progress on the provision of affordable housing in Presteigne. She had provided a verbal update and agreed that the MWA officer currently responsible for Presteigne would continue to update the Council on a monthly basis.

Discussions were continuing with the owners of two sites in the town and Cllr. Tennant-Eyles provided Members with a summary of the present situation. Members were pleased that progress was being made.

**(2) Safe Routes to School** – Cllr. Wilding had met with Anthea Jones from Powys County Council to discuss the best way forward following the failure of the bid to obtain funding for the Presteigne route and related improvements. He had stressed that the Town Council felt the Norton to Presteigne route to be the priority and had agreed to contact the various landowners along the route for initial discussions. Further funding bids would be prepared and submitted in due course.

**(3) Cwm Harry Land Trust Zero Waste Project** – The next meeting was due later in the week. Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the work was taking longer than initially expected but that it was thought that this would settle as the scheme progressed. Participation rates were reported to be good.

**(4) Policing Matters** – Cllrs. Kirkby and Tennant-Eyles had met with the police again and had been provided with a further update on the present situation in the town. A series of

community meetings (initially to be held monthly) were being organised to allow residents to raise any issues they might have and to keep the community informed.

Cllr. Ms. Wake pointed out that many people would prefer to raise matters in private and that this was not possible as the police station was now officially unmanned. Cllr. Wilding was able to confirm that members of the public could call 101 and ask for the local policeman to call them back when next on duty.

**(5) Transition Presteigne** – Cllr. Kirkby informed Members that due to other commitments he was no longer Chair of the group but that either he or Cllr. Tennant-Eyles would continue to attend meetings on behalf of the Council.

**(6) School Modernisation Project and Zero Carbon School** – Cllr. Kendall reported that the conclusion of a recent meeting at Powys County Council to discuss the review of secondary schools was still awaited.

With regard to the review of the John Beddoes catchment area primary schools a meeting had been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**(7) Rockbridge Footpath** – Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that he had contacted Carlton Parry of Powys County Council to find out what paperwork still remained to be completed. The Clerk had received a call from Mr. Parry on 19<sup>th</sup> April and it seemed that one document remained to be completed and that the issue was the cost of obtaining a formal solicitor's signature on the document. This was estimated at £50-£100. Mr. Parry had contacted the land agent who was going to discuss the matter further with his client.

**(8) Footpath N1095 near Norton** – Cllr. Wilding had investigated the problems reported at the March meeting and the problem did not lie with the landowners. The resident that had submitted the complaint had been advised to contact Powys County Council direct to ask for corrective works to be undertaken.

**(9) Shoppers Car Park** – Cllr. Kirkby reported on the site meeting held to discuss the issues raised by a local resident. Unfortunately Powys County Council had agreed to just one of the requests, the adjustment of street lighting in the area. The Clerk had investigated the possibility of grant funding for a 'welcome' sign but no suitable funding was currently available. She agreed to inform to the resident of the results of the site meeting.

**(10) Dangerous Entrance, Shoppers Car Park** – Cllr. Kirkby reported that the hedge in the area had now been trimmed and the vehicle which had been parking and obstructing the visibility was no longer doing so. Powys County Council had agreed that if the problem reappeared they could place a bollard on site to prevent parking.

**(11) Residents Comments re. former Doctors Surgery** – Members considered the request of a local resident for the Town Council to ask the County Council to take action to tidy up this area. Members asked the Clerk to write to Powys County Council to ask if they had such powers, given that the area was private property. If such power existed they were to be asked to use them to enable the area to be cleared.

**(12) Overgrown Hedge, Slough Road** – Cllr. Ms. Wake reported that this hedge was causing a problem for children walking to school. Cllr. Wilding agreed to check and provide the Clerk with details of ownership so the Clerk could take the matter up with Powys County Council.

## **MIN 2203 NORTON MATTERS**

**(1) Killhorse Lane, Norton** – Cllr. Robinson had met George Lloyd of Powys County Council on site to discuss the problems. A basic tarmac repair was not possible as more extensive works

were needed. Mr. Lloyd had agreed to schedule these corrective works for the 2010/11 financial year.

**(2) Traffic Speed Signs** – These signs had recently been removed without notice. No feedback had been requested from local Members or as far as they were aware from other residents. The Clerk was asked to contact Powys County Council to discuss.

#### **MIN 2204 WENTS MEADOW**

**(1) New Litter Bins** – Two new bins were now in place and the Clerk had contacted Powys County Council to ask when the final bin would be in position. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles believed that a second hand one was in position adjacent to the bottom car park and the Clerk agreed to check with the County Council again.

**(2) Sub Committee Meeting** – The notes from the recent meeting had been circulated.

**(3) Graffiti** – A report had been received from a resident that graffiti was defacing the small hut adjacent to the BMX track. Members had visited to inspect the graffiti and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

**(4) Grass Cutting** – The annual quote from Powys County Council was formally accepted. It was noted that this quote included the additional path areas on Lower Wents Meadow at no extra charge. The Clerk agreed to request a cut prior to the annual Fun Day.

**(5) Tidy up** – Cllr. Kirkby reported that this had been carried out as planned and thanked those that had attended to help. He particularly thanked the members of the Twinning Association for their support and asked that the Clerk write to formally thank them.

#### **MIN 2205 MEMORIAL HALL**

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that the application was now ready for submission and would be going to the printers in the next week. He outlined the future time scales for the project and the Clerk was asked to forward the Project Gantt Chart to everyone for information.

#### **MIN 2206 ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr. Wilding provided Members with an update. He reported that the water still remained to be resolved and that he recommended no further extension of the car park at present.

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles suggested that a formal risk assessment of the area was necessary and after some discussion Members agreed that this should be done by Cllr. Tennant-Eyles and the Clerk jointly.

In response to a question from Cllr. Kendall the Clerk confirmed that the Council's insurers had been informed that the land was now used for allotments.

#### **MIN 2207 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that there had been some vandalism in the toilets in recent weeks. Of particular concern was the ability to access to the disabled toilet despite the approved RADAR lock. He agreed to make adjustments so that the door could only be opened with the official key.

So far one estimate had been obtained for the decorating. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles confirmed he would seek further estimates over the next month.

## **MIN 2208      CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1)      Sale of Warden Ground** – The Clerk informed Members that the sale of the ground was expected to be progressed in the next few weeks. It was agreed that no further action was needed at present.
- (2)      Mid and West Wales Fire Authority Annual Action Plan 2011-12** – Noted.
- (3)      Presteens Soap Box Derby** – A letter requesting information from the Town Council had been received and the Clerk had replied giving the contact details of Powys County Council.

## **MIN 2209      INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items for information were noted.

## **MIN 2210      URGENT INFORMATION**

**Floral Displays** - Cllr. Ms. Wake reported that she had been approached by a number of persons concerned about the flower displays in High Street. Members agreed that they had no problem with the displays.

**Street Trading** – Members discussed in detail the present situation regarding street trading in the town. The Clerk was asked to get further information from Powys County Council on how street trading could be controlled and the associated cost implications.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.