

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**  
**HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CORONAVIRUS)**  
**(WALES) REGULATIONS 2020**

Present: Cllrs. T. Owens (Mayor), F. Preece (Deputy Mayor), D. Edwards, R. Bennett, D. Davies, J. Wilding, C. Kirkby MBE, P. Smith, C. Ruby, N. Rogers, R. Bamford, B. Baynham.

Apologies: Cllr. L. Veary.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. Leigh Williams, Powys County Council. Kerem Asfuroglu, Dark Source. Members of the Public.

Declarations of Interest: Members were requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the terms of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct Order) (Wales) Order 2008.

*Personal: None.*

*Personal and Prejudicial:*

*Cllr. R. Bennett, related to residents and to a business owner in High Street, re. grants etc High Street due to Covid-19.*

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members heard from Leigh Williams of Powys County Council on the recent full survey of the street lighting in Presteigne and Norton. Lighting was to be upgraded and improved with energy consumption being reduced. Once the changes had been made there would be just two options for light use – part night dim (dimming at midnight) and part night (off at midnight). The survey included some proposals to remove lighting columns that it was felt were no longer needed as these still incurred inspection and testing costs. There would also be the option to add some new lights in areas not adequately covered at present. He was looking to carry out the work in the 2021-22 financial year. In response to Member's questions he confirmed that the Industrial Estate lights were under Welsh Government and one estate was under the housing association. Members agreed with Kerem Asfuroglu that these areas could be tackled once the main work was complete and there was more justification to ask for change. Cllr. Kirkby asked if motion sensor lights were an option and Mr. Williams confirmed that this was possible but that the way the electricity supplies were arranged this was not a saving energy wise.

Kerem Asfuroglu was pleased to announce that he had managed to get one manufacturer interested in sponsoring the fittings for the heritage lighting project and he would have more information in due course. In response to a further query he confirmed that if necessary he could delay the lighting trial until the first week in March in order to accommodate an extension for the Christmas lighting period. Mr. Williams reminded Members that in any event delaying any later would mean the nights had drawn out too much for a realistic trial to take place.

Members also noted that street light PR365 was currently switched off while tests were carried out for the trial.

**MIN 3844 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

**MIN 3845 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND CLERK'S REPORT**

(1) Missing Bin, St. David's Street: Still not replaced. Clerk would chase.

(2) Radnorshire Arms Garage: No further information received. Clerk would chase for an update.

- (3) Mayor's Chain: Cllr. Owens reported he had now obtained quotes for repairing the one link and also to give the chain a deep clean for a total of £30. He had also asked for a quote to add additional links into the Chain as all the discs were now full. Members agreed that he proceed to have the link repaired and the Chain cleaned and that he should report back to Council once the further quote was obtained.
- (4) Zip Wire: The contractors had been due to return on 19/20<sup>th</sup> January to install the new wire but had not done so. The Clerk would chase.
- (5) Better Broadband Project: No decision yet on the areas to be chosen.
- (6) Accounts from Local Organisations: Cllr. Owens reminded Members that these needed to be passed around quickly and not held for long periods. The recent set had not reached many Members before the budget meeting.
- (7) Fold Farm Footpath: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had recently re-read an article on rights of way in Clerks and Councils Magazine and had in consequence asked the Footpath Officer dealing with the DMMO application to re-consider the position. The Clerk was able to read to the meeting a reply that had just been received indicating that the position was unchanged and that the formal process must be followed.
- (8) Weir: Site meeting to be arranged in the Spring once water levels had dropped.
- (9) Street Cleaning: The Clerk confirmed that the letter of thanks had been sent.
- (10) Laptops for Primary School: Cllr. Baynham had chased this up and additional laptops had been delivered that day.
- (11) Defibrillators: The Clerk explained the she had been trying to get new paediatric pads from CARIAD since August but without success. She added that the old pads had to be removed on expiry in case the gel in the pads had deteriorated. To purchase pads would cost around £55 plus VAT per set but she had been advised that adult pads could be used instead. Members agreed to continue with adult pads only and the paediatric pads would be removed as the expiry dates were reached.
- (12) Delays in Casual Elections: These had been due to re-start in February but were now delayed until March at the earliest.

#### **MIN 3846 FINANCE**

(1) Donations: None this month.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£130.06
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1383.76
Mrs F. Preece (Cllr allowance 2020-21)	£120.00
Mr. H.T. Owens (Mayor's Allowance pt)	£160.00
HM Revenue & Customs	£625.31
EDF Energy (Meadow Barn)(Direct Debit)	£18.54 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace)	£33.43
Wales Audit Office (external audit fee)	£350.75
Mr. N. Close	£119.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mr. N. Close	£35.00
T. Lloyd-John (toilet cleaning)	£378.49
Welsh Water (Meadow Barn)	£14.47 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Welsh Water (Hereford Street Toilets)	£205.82

(3) Practitioner's Conference, February 2021: Members agreed the Clerk attend and that a bursary claim form for 50% of the cost be submitted.

#### **MIN 3847 PLANNING**

(1) Planning applications: The following planning applications were considered –

20/2135/FUL Grid Reference: E:331524 N: 263988 Proposal: Erection of 2.4m high palisade fence and gates Site Address: Unit 1, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2UH. Resolved no objections be raised.

20/2134/FUL Grid Reference: E:331491 N: 264052 Proposal: Erection of fence and gates Site Address: Unit 5 Presteigne Industrial Estate, Presteigne, LD8 2UF. Resolved no objections be raised.

20/2052/FUL Grid Reference: E:330547 N: 266049 Proposal: Erection of steel frame/ clad outbuilding for general purpose agricultural building and store, creation of hardstanding area and erection of 3 metre high

boundary fence Site Address: New Barn, Norton, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2EU. Resolved to object to the 3m height of the fence and also to question the designation being given as agricultural as in appearance it seemed industrial.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted –

20/0753/REM Land at Jack's View, Norton: Approval 8<sup>th</sup> December.

20/1861/TRE Land at rear of Greystones, St. David's Street, Presteigne: Approval 8<sup>th</sup> December.

20/1862/TRE Land at rear of Greystones, St. David's Street, Presteigne: Approval 8<sup>th</sup> December.

20/1600/FUL Norton Wastewater Treatment Works: Approval 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

## **MIN 3848 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

(1) Active Travel Routes Update: Nothing to report this month.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: Update: See start of meeting.

(3) Grass Cutting/Wildflower Verges and Roundabouts Update: Cllr. Baynham had not yet managed to arrange a site meeting to discuss the grass verges and future management. The Clerk had obtained a report on the current year's work on the roundabouts and also a quote for the 2021 season of £360.

Members agreed to continue the project and the Clerk would confirm this with Caring for God's Acre and get approval from the County Council.

(3) Climate Crisis: The following matters were discussed -

Emailed Questions: Members noted that the list of questions submitted by a resident of a neighbouring community (previously circulated) and the Clerk informed them that these had now been withdrawn. Cllr. Smith raised concerns at this, given the amount of time spent by individual Members in responding to the person over the Christmas period, and members agreed that the Clerk further respond expressing disappointment at the behaviour and attitude of the person.

Climate Action Report: Cllr. Bamford then presented the climate crisis report for approval. Members were pleased to receive the report which was approved with the following additions –

- Attempts to reduce speed levels in Norton via community Speedwatch.
- Attempts to achieve a 20mph throughout Presteigne Town Centre, something that Welsh Government was now implementing throughout Wales.

Renew Wales: Cllr. Bamford also reported that she had been approached by Renew Wales to provide information for a news item and that it was possible that a case study could be requested for the Renew Wales website. Members agreed that Cllr. Bamford proceed to liaise with the Organisation as necessary.

Update of Climate Change Policy: Working Group to consider this in due course.

*Cllr. Bennett was placed in the waiting room for the duration of the following item.*

(4) Covid-19 Measures and High Street Grant Update: The Clerk reported that she had contacted the three interested parties and advised them of the successful application and the need to urgently apply for planning permission. One had not yet responded but Cllr. Owens was following this up.

*Cllr. Bennett was returned to the meeting.*

(5) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Contractors should be starting the installation of the sewer in the Town Council's land any day. The installation in the play park owned by Powys Council had commenced. Welsh Water has sent letters to local residents and there will be signage erected on site. Part of their playground will be fenced off during the work. A photographic record of the condition of the Town Council's land has been taken by Welsh Water and the Clerk had copies for the Land Agent.

(6) Concerns re. Presteigne Cemetery: Members noted the concerns of a resident regarding a pile of rubble/soil near to new graves and Cllr. Wilding reported that he understood that it had been there for some time and that officers were aware and looking to deal with it. The Clerk would respond to the resident and check with the County Council. Cllr. Kirkby asked that the Clerk request an update on the cemetery development work from the County Council. Cllr Owens had noted that a tree on site still had items on it after being decorated for Christmas and agreed to remove them and tidy up as soon as possible.

(6) Damage to Flower Bed, Shopper's Car Park: The Clerk had spoken to the County Council about possible solutions and the guerrilla gardeners had indicated support for a boulder being placed at the edge but Cllr. Bennett reported that he had been asked to erect a small fence. As a representative of the guerrilla gardeners was present the meeting was adjourned to ask her views. It was agreed to place a boulder and Cllr. Bennett could supply something suitable. Cllr. Baynham asked that the Clerk double check with the County Council before proceeding. In addition the clerk would write to the shop receiving the deliveries asking that they speak to the drivers of the Euronics lorries to ask them to avoid driving over the flower bed.

(7i) Road Condition Stocken/Stonewall Hill: Cllr. Owens reported that Fay Jones MP had written to Balfour Beatty and received a reply saying some work had been done and that the road condition was regularly

monitored. Residents had immediately responded and as a result Ms Jones MP would be pursuing the matter further. The Clerk stated that she had had no reply from the Herefordshire Portfolio Holder but would chase this up. Cllr. Wilding suggested that clearing the ditches would be helpful and the Clerk would suggest this. Cllr. Edwards had taken a video of the road condition and would try to send it to the Clerk. The Clerk was also asked to report the condition of the road from Presteigne as far as Stapleton Castle for a further time.

#### **MIN 3849 NORTON**

- (1) Community Speedwatch Update: Cllr. Ruby reported that training was again on hold due to the current lockdown.
- (2) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that matters were slowly progressing.

#### **MIN 3850 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS**

- (1) Public Conveniences: Members approved the purchase of one further hand gel dispenser from Healthmatic.
- (2) Allotments: The Clerk would shortly send out reminders to give notice if necessary. Members were asked to encourage applications for waiting list as the year end approached.
- (3) Meadows: The Welsh Water work had yet to start.

#### **MIN 3851 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

- (1) Response from Health Board re dental provision in Powys: Members noted the reply and explanation of the issues involved although were disappointed that the possibility of Presteigne having its own dental surgery again was considered very unlikely due to its size.
- (2) Your Town Your Future Audit Wales Survey: Members all to complete as individuals.
- (3) NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day: Noted. No action for present but to be included on the April agenda. Members asked that the Clerk write to Fay Jones MP suggesting that NHS workers should receive full and proper recompense for their work and be paid accordingly.
- (4) Report on Census Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> January: Cllrs. Kirkby, Owens, Edwards, Preece and the Clerk attended the online meeting. At the time of the meeting the census was still expected to go ahead with census day being 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. It was hoped that the majority of forms will be completed online but paper copies will be available if necessary and stressed that the funding for local services was based on census information and so it was important to encourage completion. The last day for the completion of digital forms will be 4<sup>th</sup> May. The 2011 census captured 94% of the population. It is a legal requirement to complete the form.  
It was agreed that the TC would help to publicise the census and promote census jobs. Much of the other help needed involved face to face contact or events and would not presently be possible. There may be some help provided by census staff locally. Volunteering opportunities may also be available. It was suggested at the meeting that it might well be better to delay this for a few months and the Officer agreed to pass this on. A Community Handbook is available and will be sent out shortly. Websites: [www.census2021](http://www.census2021) or [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)
- (5) Reply from Health Board re Roll out of Covid Vaccine: Members noted the reply and the Clerk advised that she had circulated several updates on the situation and would continue to do so.
- (6) Email from resident re tree felling on Warden: Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council was very cross about the felling of the tree and was in negotiations with Welsh Water for recompense. It was also consulting with the Warden Guardian Foundation over the type of replacement tree that would be provided and hoping to get compensation to be spent on site. Cllr. Baynham added that Welsh Water had emailed both herself and the Clerk on the matter and that she believed a number of the claims to be inaccurate. Members expressed deep concern at the actions particularly as examination by of the work by Cllr. Kirkby seemed to indicate that the felling had been unnecessary. Cllr. Smith added that the carbon catchment loss should be replaced by Welsh Water and the Clerk and Cllr. Baynham would respond to Welsh Water to this effect as well as raising the issues of proper compensation and tree replacement.
- (7) Report on Clerk's Briefing Meeting with County Council: Members had all received copies of the presentations provided and there were no questions for the Clerk.

### **MIN 3852 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

No surgeries currently held.

### **MIN 3853 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Baynham reported the following matters –

- Council still operating in Covid critical mode so only urgent matters being dealt with.
- Tree trimming work done at Lugg View.

### **MIN 3854 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

(1) Christmas Lights: Members agreed that the lights could be left up until the end of February subject to the County Council extending the licence and CONNECT extending the insurance cover. This was agreed by a majority of those present.

(2) Weathervane: Clerk to ask where the weather vane was currently being stored.

(3) Pothole near the Rodd: Now filled.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.