

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2018
AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

Present: Cllrs. J. Wilding (Mayor), C. Kirkby MBE, (Deputy Mayor), Ms B. Baynham, T. Owens, D. Edwards, S. Dixon, P. Linnett, R. Bennett, C. Ruby, F. Preece, L. Veary.

Apologies: R. Bamford, N. Rogers.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk; 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: None.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members heard a presentation from Beverley Baynham and Nikki Ferguson on the new project, East Radnor Home Support Scheme, to be commencing in East Radnor shortly under the responsibility of the East Radnorshire Day Centre.

MIN 3409 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 20th December, 2017 were approved with one amendment – the word ‘former’ to be removed from Minute 3397(3). The Minutes of the meeting on 17th January, 2018 and the Staffing Committee Minutes of 20th December, 2017 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the three sets of Minutes.

MIN 3410 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Wilson Terrace Play Area: Swing still not in place.
- (2) Pavements: The clean of the remaining pavements in Broad Street and the pavement in Station Road and in Norton had still not been completed. Cllr. Baynham to chase.
- (3) Tree Trimmings, Went’s Meadow: Western Power contractors had now returned and completed the chipping of the trimmings.
- (4) Planning Enforcement Issue, Norton: This had not been progressed due to a change in staff. It was hoped that the matter would be passed to another officer very soon.
- (5) Storage, Norton: Cllr. Wilding reported that a site had been confirmed for siting the proposed storage container.
- (6) Blocked Gully, Stocking Lane, Norton: Still not cleared. Clerk to chase.
- (7) Planning Permission, Land opposite King’s Court: Permission had been granted subject to a section 106 agreement.

MIN 3411 FINANCE

- (1) Donations: None.
- (2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

J. Wilding (Mayor’s Allowance)	£525.00
Festive Decorations Ltd	£1344.00
EDF Energy	£21.79
EDF Energy	£180.40
N. Close	£25.00
N. Close	£87.50 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy	£22.66 MEADOW ACCOUNT

MIN 3412 PLANNING

- (1) Planning Applications: No applications this month.

(2) Planning Law in Wales Consultation: Following discussion it was agreed that the following comments be submitted –

- *the combining of the various separate pieces of legislation into one was felt to be very sensible and to be very helpful to the lay person;*
- *the imminent passing of control of infrastructure funding/Community Infrastructure Levy to Welsh Government was felt to be a good thing and the Town Council would like to see this being made more formal so that it could be introduced uniformly throughout Wales. At present our unitary authority does not have any formal policy on CIL although one is under consideration in the LDP currently in production.*

MIN 3413 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) PACDG Update: Matters ongoing included future updating of the community plan and general fundraising together with several project teams working on specific matters. Concern was also expressed at the withdrawal by the Town Council of the expression of interest in the Drill Hall. Cllr. Wilding reminded Members that the Council had been completely unaware of any interest by PACDG at the time of the decision. PACDG was pleased at the £500 allocation to the group to spend on street cleaning work over 2018/19.

(2) Bench at Primary School: Although no monies had been found within the safe route project Cllr. Baynham reported that there should be a new bench on site after the cycle route was completed. Full details would be available soon.

(3) Cycle Route Update: Cllr. Baynham reported that some amendments had been made to the original plans and that she would be meeting with the Project Officer shortly. Work was on target to be completed by the end of March.

(4) Meeting with County Councillor Fitzpatrick: Postponed to 7th February.

(5) Update on Snow Clearing etc by County Council: Cllr. Baynham reported that the concerns of the Town Council had been noted and that efforts were ongoing to improve the network of contractors in the Presteigne and Knighton areas. In particular the concern over the clearing of the route to the Fire Station had been addressed – this would be cleared as priority following the clearance of A class roads/main routes. In the event of an emergency, County Council vehicles would attend to assist access.

(6) Street Lighting Mill Lane: The request for light PR151 to be turned on was agreed and the Clerk would ask that this be done.

(7) Idling Vehicles, John Beddoes Campus: This was reported as an ongoing concern from a local resident with school buses and cars being parked for some minutes whilst waiting to collect students from the school. It was reported that this was also a problem at the recycling centre/by pass car park. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council asking that they remind transport contractors that to leave engines running was in fact against the law and that it request that vehicles be turned off while waiting to collect pupils. A copy of the letter also to be sent to the police.

A further concern was that one classroom light appeared to be on continuously outside school hours. Cllr. Baynham would raise this at the next Governor's meeting.

(8) Reporting of Highway Items for repair –

- Pothole, Harpers Lane: Clerk had reported.
- Presteigne to Titley Road (Herefordshire Council): Clerk to report the very poor road surface and potholes.
- Dog fouling, Bowling Club to Hereford Street: Clerk to ask for pavements to be cleaned up and to also suggest that dna testing be introduced alongside the present microchipping requirements to provide complete traceability. The County Council be asked to put this forward to Welsh Government.
- Obstruction caused by Parked Cars: The police were aware and had again be asked to request that vehicles be moved. No further action.

MIN 3414 NORTON

(1) Church: The future of the Church in Norton was under review.

(2) Street Light: It was reported that one street light was constantly flashing. The Clerk would report once the number was obtained.

MIN 3415 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Two minor repairs need at Hereford Street over the past month.

(2) Allotments: Three tenants had given notice from March and the Clerk was in the process of re-letting the plots.

(3) Meadows:

- Outdoor Gym: Further meeting with the preferred supplier to take place on 1st February.
- Community Building: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the Clerk had found details of the 'Weston Anniversary Fund', which provides grants for capital projects and he was given approval to proceed to submit a planning application for the building as this is required for an application which has to be in by end of June.
- Moles: These were again a problem. Chain harrowing to be arranged prior to the first mowing of the season.

(4) Wilson Terrace Play Area: Vote still ongoing for the additional play equipment grant from Tesco.

MIN 3416 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Review of Town and Community Council Sector in Wales: Noted. Comments would be considered following the forthcoming engagement events.

(2) Public consultation on the proposal for a Major Trauma Network for South and West Wales and South Powys: Cllr. Baynham reported on this and it was agreed that the Clerk respond stressing the need for cross border co-operation into England given the distance to hospitals within Wales for those living in East Radnor.

(3) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted.

(4) Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 Section 8: Local Toilets Strategies Consultation Document on Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (closes April 2018): It was agreed to respond as follows – *The Town Council was disappointed to see that, although unitary authorities are obliged to review toilet provision and to have a strategy in place, there is no obligation to actually provide public toilets. It feels that unitary authorities should have a statutory duty to provide public toilets - an essential and most basic service, particularly for the very many visitors to our beautiful country.*

(5) New Small Business Rates Relief Scheme for Wales: It was noted that Town Councils were still not eligible to apply for relief under the new scheme.

MIN 3417 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

February Surgery: Cllrs. Bennett and Baynham.

March Surgery: Cllrs. Dixon and Baynham.

MIN 3418 DEVOLVEMENT OF SERVICES

(1) Cemetery Land: The purchase had now been agreed at the County Council and a draft contract had been sent to the County legal department.

(2) Update on Judge's Lodgings: Cllr. Kirkby reported that there had been a number of changes to the Board and the structure was being updated. The transfer of the building to the trust from the County Council had not yet been completed.

(3) Old School/Drill Hall Update: The County Council had confirmed that the Drill Hall was to be sold and a new lease was being drawn up for the Old School building between the County Council and the Youth Project.

MIN 3419 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Items of note this month were –

Meeting being arranged to consider possible Council housing sites in Presteigne

Sewage/Smell Issues in High Street: Under investigation.

Doctor's Surgery: Cllr. Baynham reported on concerns that had been raised with her concerning late afternoon appointments and well woman services. She was arranging a meeting with management and Cllr. Veary agreed to accompany her.

MIN 3420 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

None.

The Meeting closed at 8.42 pm.