

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER 2020
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.

Members approved the extended absence of Cllr. Veary until the end of July 2021.

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:

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

Cllr. B. Baynham, related to applicant, re. planning application 20/1927/TEL and related to recommended contractor, re toilet cleaning contract.

Cllr. F. Preece, friend of applicant, re. planning application 20/1927/TEL

MIN 3829 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020 and the Sites and Buildings Committee of 16th November 2020 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3830 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND CLERK'S REPORT

- (1) Bin, St. David's Street: Still not replaced.
- (2) Radnorshire Arms Garage: No progress to report.
- (3) Mayor's Chain: Cllr. Owens reported that he hoped to have this looked at over the Christmas period.
- (4) Zip Wire: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this was almost complete and that the length had been extended as far as possible. The work seemed to be of good quality and Cllr. Kirkby was very satisfied with the alteration. The wire itself still needed to be replaced. He asked that thanks be noted to County Council Officer Steve Gealy for all his help with the project.
- (5) Website Advertising: The Clerk had written to all the current advertisers advising them that there would be no charge for 2021. One new advertiser had been added (see receipt below).
- (6) Internet Banking: Cllr. Davies was now set up and able to view the Council accounts online. She would check the account weekly.
- (7) Request for Street Name Signs: The request had been made and would be added to the list.
- (8) Electrical Work, Toilet Buildings: This had not yet been carried out.
- (9) Better Broadband Project: The Clerk had submitted the request to be considered for inclusion in the project but had not as yet heard anything further.
- (10) Repair and Re-use Grant Fund: Cllr. Kirkby reported that unfortunately due to the tight time scales and a problem with confirming premises this project had been unable to go ahead. It might however be possible if further monies became available in the future. He added that Presteigne had been mentioned by One Voice Wales in connection with the zero-waste project with reference to how this had paved the way for Wales' renowned zero waste aims.

MIN 3831 FINANCE

- (1) Donations: None this month.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£130.06
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1383.56
HM Revenue & Customs	£555.51
BOSS Ltd (hand sanitiser)	£91.20 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Roy Price (hedge trimming)	£300.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
PHS Ltd (hygiene services etc toilets)	£56.47
Arrow Plant & Tool Hire (cherry picker)	£246.60
T. Lloyd-John	£378.49
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£27.72 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£28.00
N. Close	£154.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
JRB Enterprises Ltd (refund T. Price)	£119.46 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mrs T. Price (stamps)	£44.58

(3) New projects for 2021-22: The following projects were submitted –

- Accounting Package (approx. £500 plus annual charge)
- Repair and Re-Use Project.
- Contribution towards footpath maintenance.

(4) Circulation of Accounts from Organisations receiving £250 or more annually from the Council and applications for grants in 2021-22: Noted.

(5) Annual Review of Direct Debits: The Clerk advised Members that the current direct debits were for the three electricity accounts, three water accounts, the information commissioner and the NEST pension scheme. Members confirmed agreement with these debits and there were none to be added.

(6) Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4) (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 - Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2021-22 as £8.41: Noted.

(7) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –

H. Roberts (donation re fitness class in barn)	£25.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
H. Lewis (website advertisement)	£26.00

(8) Bank balances at 30th November: The following balances were noted -

Treasurer	£31,804.11	Meadow	£23,015.69
Allotments	£2957.41	Money Manager	£31,231.55
Capital Reserve	£30,648.83	Warden Reserve	£1242.01

MIN 3832 PLANNING

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

20/1867/HH Grid Reference: E:331567 N: 264266. Proposal: Replace 2 no. windows on second floor and 1 no. external door to front elevation of dwelling Site Address: Ivy House, 10 Hereford Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllrs. Baynham and Preece were placed in the waiting room for the duration of the following item.

20/1927/TEL Grid Ref: E: 329882 N: 266231 Proposal: Application for Prior notification for ESN 4G Communications Mast and associated development under part 24 of schedule 2 of the GPO 1995 Location: Land At Home Farm, Presteigne, LD8 2EF Notification by a Telecommunications Code System Operator, details above, as required by the above Order, Received on 24th November 2020: Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllrs. Baynham and Preece returned to the meeting.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decision was noted –

20/1407/TPO Summer Cottage, Hillside Drive, Norton Manor Park: Approval.

MIN 3833 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Active Travel Routes Update: Cllr. Baynham reported that the Officers working on this were currently working on the High Street grant programmes but that she still hoped to arrange a meeting in due course.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: Cllr. Owens confirmed that the lighting test was still due to go ahead in January. The initial survey of Presteigne lighting was now complete and the Officer would be liaising with Cllr. Baynham and then Dark Source in due course. Leigh Williams from the County Council would attend the January meeting to discuss the findings.

(3) Grass Cutting/Wildflower Verges and Roundabouts: No site meeting had yet been held.

(4) Climate Crisis Update: Cllr. Bamford that she had recently spoken to Julian Jones, formerly of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, about possible grants for more woodland and she was looking into identifying further areas. The places for nature garden had been received and Cllr. Bamford was looking after it until it could be put in place.

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

Cllr. Owens had to leave the meeting at this point and Cllr. Preece assumed the Chair.

(5) Covid-19 Measures and the High Street: Cllr. Kirkby reported on the meeting held with several traders who expressed an interest in submitting an application for awnings on their properties. There had been some concerns about the need for planning permission but old photographs had been obtained showing awnings in place and the businesses would be checking the need for permissions direct with the County Council. The Clerk had also obtained quotes for digital display boards but Cllr. Smith felt that touch screens were unwise given the present situation and it was agreed not to proceed with that section of the application but to submit an application for the awnings only.

Cllr. Bennett returned to the meeting.

(6) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Work was ongoing. Cllr. Wilding reported that larger vehicles were mounting the opposite verge to the site entrance in Norton and making a mess. The Clerk was asked to contact Welsh Water to ask that more care be taken.

(7) Fold Farm Footpath Update: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the County Council had not made any progress citing the covid crisis as delaying matters. He added that the understanding Welsh Places website had the path marked on its map – yet more evidence that the right of way existed.

(8) PACDG Update on Street Cleaning Project: Noted.

(9) Road Surface, The Colony, Stocken, Stonewall Hill: The Clerk informed Members that as requested she had reported the road condition after the November meeting and that since then she had received emails from a number of residents expressing deep concern at the condition of the road stating that it was in fact dangerous and next to impassable in a normal car. She had also spoken to County Councillor Carole Gandy on the issue. Emails received earlier in the day had explained that heavy rain had made matters much worse with road edges being eroded. The Clerk was asked to contact Fay Jones MP to see if she could raise the matter with the Herefordshire MP, to chase Herefordshire Council for the inspection promised and to also remind the Herefordshire Portfolio Holder of the need to carry out work urgently. The Clerk would also supply Members with the link to the relevant section of the Herefordshire site and they were encouraged to also report the situation themselves. The Clerk was also asked to report the condition of the road to the cemetery.

MIN 3834 NORTON

(1) Community Speedwatch Update: Cllr. Ruby reported that forms still had to be filled in although two new volunteers had completed the paperwork. She had also approached the PCSO about using a training video in order to progress things without face-to-face training. She would chase this up.

(2) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that the planning application should be re-submitted by the end of February and that the Trust had decided to proceed with the signing of the lease from the Church authorities.

(3) Sewerage Smells, Mynd Lane: Cllr. Edwards reported that this had been an issue recently and that there had been a blockage which had now been cleared although some smell persisted. Welsh Water seemed to have the matter in hand and there was no further action to be taken at present.

MIN 3835 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Nothing to report.

(2) Allotments: Nothing to report.

(3) Meadows: The following items were discussed –

- Risk assessment for the bike track: Noted.
- Possible future projects for grant funding:
- Update re weir: It was agreed that a site meeting be arranged with Natural Resources Wales to try to find a solution. Cllr. Wilding that as any erosion would affect the allotments any remedial work could probably be funded from the allotment account monies.

(4) Withy Beds: Nothing to report. No grant applications currently underway.

(5) Sites & Buildings Committee Recommendations – The following were agreed unchanged -

Allotments:

i) Confirmed that the rent for plot 36 remain unchanged but that the next available plot be offered to the current tenant.

Meadows:

- ii) Confirmed the actions listed under maintenance items as detailed in SB4/20 (2).
- iii) Confirmed that quotes be obtained for a full tree survey in 2021. Cost to be taken from general Meadow reserves.
- iv) Annual ROSPA report noted and confirmed that quotes be sought to replace the skateboard fence. Cost to taken from general maintenance budget/general reserves.
- v) Proposed budget for 2021-22 for submission to the budget setting meeting in January noted.
- vi) Confirmed that the Clerk draft a grant application for a small project at the Withy Beds.
- vii) Confirmed that the Council not place the Meadows into the Fields in Trust Scheme.

Toilets

Cllr. Baynham had declared a prejudicial interest in the following item re the toilet cleaning contract.

- i) Cleaning contract for 2021/22 awarded to T. Lloyd-John.
- ii) Confirmed that no changes be made to the water supply/flush systems of the Wilson Terrace Building.
- iii) Draft budget recommendation of £10,000 for 2021/22 noted.
- iv) Noted that the quote for electrical work to both buildings had been agreed at the November meeting and work would be carried out as soon as possible.

MIN 3836 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Letter from Llandrindod Wells Town Council re NHS Dental Provision Crisis in Powys: Members agreed to write in support of the comments made by Llandrindod Wells Town Council. Cllr. Baynham reported that the Community Health Council was about to carry out a dental survey and she would forward the link to Members in due course.

(2) Update on Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill: The Clerk explained the parts of the Bill that would directly affect the Community Council, these being –

1. The need for an annual report.
2. The need to have a training plan for both the Clerk and Councillors.
3. The introduction of the general power of competence subject to compliance with the following –
 - Qualified clerk
 - Unqualified audit for the previous two years
 - Two thirds of Council must have been formally elected (not co-opted).
4. It appeared that allowing the public to speak about business to be transacted at the meeting would be mandatory – this is something which had previously been optional.
5. Community Council elections to be on a five year cycle.

Formal guidance from One Voice Wales was expected in due course.

(3) Reply from Powys LHB re. physiotherapy etc at Knighton Hospital: Members noted the reply as follows – *'We are delighted to confirm that face-to-face physiotherapy MSK (musculo-skeletal) clinics re-commenced in Knighton Hospital last month. The clinics are being delivered in line with our current county-wide model for physiotherapy services to help keep patients safe and keep staff safe. This involves using a "virtual first" approach to assess patient needs via telephone or video, and offer appropriate advice. Face-to-face appointments are provided based on clinical need, following a careful assessment of risk and through shared decision making with the patient. We currently have two physiotherapists based at Knighton Hospital, which mirrors the arrangements in place prior to the significant public health challenges presented by COVID-19. The team has been working through the waiting list of patients, but understandably and in common with health services across the UK we do continue to face challenges in providing COVID-safe face-to-face services. Stringent social distancing and hygiene measures do mean that each appointment takes longer than would have been the case prior to COVID-19, and this does mean that the waiting list is currently around eight weeks for Physiotherapy MSK appointments in Knighton.*

Community Occupational Therapy (OT) services are also available in the Knighton area, with the same team in place as was available prior to COVID-19. As with physiotherapy, COVID-19 understandably places a number of restrictions on the way services are provided so that we can keep patients safe and keep staff safe. Face-to-face services are being restarted across the county, but stringent social distancing and hygiene measures do mean that the team is able to see fewer patients than previously. OT is provided as a community-based service rather than a clinic-based service at Knighton Hospital.'

- (4) Views sought by Natural England - review of the Countryside Code: Resolved no comments be made.
- (5) 2021 Census: Member Briefing: Agreed that the Clerk arrange an online meeting in early January.
- (6) Police and Crime Commissioner Survey Information: Members were encouraged to complete this.

MIN 3837 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

No surgeries currently held.

MIN 3838 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following matters –

- Recent flooding at Lugg View – County Council workers would be carrying out a full clean up over the next day or so.
- New post on Community Health Council. Members to notify Cllr. Baynham of any issues.
- County Council AGM recently held and a new Chair in post.
- Covid-19 vaccinations currently being rolled out by the Health Board with two clinics, one in the North and one in the South.
- Thanks to all for their support during her time as Chair.

Cllr. Kirkby thanked Cllr. Baynham for all her hard work for Presteigne and Norton during her time as Chair and the excellent job she had done while in the position.

MIN 3839 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Street Cleaning: Cllr. Kirkby asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the street cleaning operatives thanking them for the good work done in clearing the leaves in the Scallions and the high pressure hosing of the York Stone.

MIN 3840 NEXT MEETING DATES

The following dates were agreed –

13th January, 2021 – Budget Setting Meeting.

20th January, 2021 – Full Council Meeting.

Cllr. Preece wished everyone a happy Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.