

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY 2021 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

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

Apologies: Cllrs. N. Rogers, D. Davies, R. Bennett.

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 start of the meeting Members listened to a presentation from Martin Kemp, Powys County Council Climate Change Officer. Mr. Kemp spoke on the aim of the County Council to achieve net zero by 2030 and the current initiatives of the Council including the Mid Wales Energy Strategy, installation of solar panels on some Council buildings (including schools) and a new webpage. He mentioned the possibility of heat mapping towns and that he was hoping to obtain grant funding to carry this out. He then answered Member's questions. Cllr. Preece thanked Mr. Kemp for attending.

MIN 3921 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2021 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3922 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Fold Farm Footpath: Cllr. Kirkby reported that there had been no progress and asked that Cllr. Baynham press for action to be taken. He pointed out that the matter had been ongoing now since 2012, almost ten years. Cllr. Baynham replied that both she and the Clerk chased the matter up periodically but that she would do so again and forward any reply.

(2) Location for Cycle Rack: Cllr. Kirkby asked if there had been any reply on this and Cllr. Baynham believed there had been a response and would forward it.

(3) Bank Cashpoint: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had visited the bank with the resident concerned and that, as reported last month, he felt the bank had taken steps to make the cashpoint as fraud proof as was possible. The matter was now closed.

(4) Accessible Presteigne: The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Bennett would be progressing this in due course.

(5) Gazebos: Members noted that the school had apologised for removing the gazebos without permission and that the Clerk had stressed that they were available for use but did need to be booked out.

(6) Nicole and Martin: Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that as requested a letter had been sent to Nicole and Martin inviting them to use Went's Meadow in 2022 if they wished.

MIN 3923 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donation was approved -
Norton Community Trust

£2000.00 (precepted)

The emails of thanks from Presteigne Festival and Presteigne Memorial Hall were noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Artisan Print (posters – pruning)

£14.70 MEADOW ACCOUNT

Morti Sport & Play (part – dispenser)

£48.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

Mrs T.A. Price

£1383.56

HM Revenue & Customs

£554.82

NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£130.06
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace)	£26.31
JRB Enterprises Ltd (dog bags)	£261.60 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Chem Assist (for toilets)	£166.80
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace)(Direct Debit)	£33.88
EDF Energy (Hereford Street)(Direct Debit)	£89.65
EDF Energy (Barn)(Direct Debit)	£21.59 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Broxap (new bench)	£837.60
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Lloyd-John	£594.23
Welsh Water (Meadow)(Direct Debit)	£13.49 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£56.00
N. Close	£234.50 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace Toilets) (Direct Debit)	£38.29
Welsh Water ((Hereford Street Toilets) (Direct Debit)	£174.25
Highline Electrical (anchorage testing – Christmas lights)	£680.40

(3) Budget Update to end of June, 2021: Members noted the update provided.

(4) Budget to improve audibility at Council meetings: Cllr. Owens reported on the possibilities and that with the Clerk he would carry out further trials once the broadband was installed and working at the Assembly Rooms. The Clerk asked that a sum be allocated so that professional advice/expertise could be sought if necessary and Members agreed a total budget of £250.

(5) Purchase of sandwich boards for general community use: Cllr. Kirkby explained that CONNECT were willing to provide £248 towards the costs leaving £150. It was agreed that the Council fund the £150 shortfall and the Clerk would arrange the payment.

A. Parry (sandwich boards)	£150.00
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(6) The following receipts were noted –

Mid Wales Opera (donation)	£50.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Bandamania (donation)	£40.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
H. Roberts Fitness (donation)	£45.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
E. George (dance)(donation)	£100.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Powys County Council (electric for ticket machine)	£170.58
J. Kendall (donation twds bench works)	£698.00

MIN 3924 PLANNING

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

21/1044/HH Grid Reference: E:330454 N: 268126 Proposal: Demolition of storage container and erection of a garage with storage over Site Address: Thistle Brook, Meeting House Lane, Norton, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/1167/HH Grid Reference: E:331205 N: 264501 Proposal: Erection of an extension, to include some demolition Site Address: 33 Castle Road, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/0987/FUL Grid Reference: E:331637 N: 264197 Proposal: Change of use of on existing shop to residential, partial removal of single storey extension and improvements to parking Site Address: Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/0741/HH Grid Reference: E:330764 N: 264777 Proposal: Erection of an extension Site Address: 30 Warden Close, Presteigne. Resolved no objections to the application providing there was no impact on the neighbouring properties (due to being overlooked) and the neighbours had been consulted and had no objections.

21/1217/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331380 N: 264626 Proposal: Proposed works to tree in a conservation area (removal of sycamore tree) Location: The Rectory, St David's Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/1095/HH Grid Reference: E:331152 N: 264466 Proposal: Creation of a dropped kerb Site Address: 52 Castle Road, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

- (2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted –
- 21/0389/HH Old Vicarage, Norton: Consent 29th June.
 - 21/0390/LBC Old Vicarage, Norton: Consent 29th June.
 - 21/0521/HH Appletree Lodge, Hereford Street, Presteigne: Refused 5th July.
 - 21/0522/LBC Appletree Lodge, Hereford Street, Presteigne: Refused 5th July.
 - 21/0852/HH 34 Kings Court, Presteigne: Consent 14th July.

MIN 3925 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Active Travel Route: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the additional sign was now in place in Hereford Street. He also mentioned the recent consultation by the County Council and that a number of routes had been suggested by the public. A full report would be out over the Summer. Cllr. Baynham stressed that the routes were only requests at present and that there was currently no funding for any new routes in the Presteigne area. The Clerk reported that the one-way trial in Hereford Street was still to take place and that a site meeting had recently taken place to arrange the installation of the necessary signs.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: Members discussed the PIR sensor trial at some length, particularly given the County Council view that the trial was unsuccessful and the sensors were not suitable for highway use. Also the need to respond on the type of light fitting preferred. Cllr. Kirkby felt that a further trial should take place and Cllr. Wilding suggested the use of the lighting columns on the new Estate in Norton and Cllr. Smith suggested Broad Street. It was agreed that the Clerk confirm the following to the County Council –

- Agreement to proceed with the installation of the 2200k lights generally and 2700k in Broad Street (due to problems obtaining light fittings). The 2200k lights to the model as used near Bennett's and as previously selected by Cllr. Baynham in her capacity as County Councillor.
- Request for the PIR sensors to be installed for a further trial at Broad Street and at Jack's View, Norton.
- Request for PIR sensors to be installed permanently in the town car parks and footpaths.

(3) Climate Crisis: Update. Members considered the following as reported by Cllr. Bamford –

- Tree Issue at School Field, John Beddoes Campus: Cllr. Bamford had spoken to the Deputy Head on this issue.
- Places for Nature Garden: Again this had been mentioned to the Secondary School and noted.
- Further School Sessions: Agreed got tree ID session to take place with Year 7s in the Autumn term. The repair workshop had been reported as interesting and inspiring by students.
- Secondary School willing to consider a wildlife garden on a section of the school field.
- Creation of Woodland: Still hopeful that land could be obtained and ownership if successful options such as Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust etc to be considered.
- Tree Week: To take place in October half term.
- Grass Cutting Pattern, Went's Meadow: Cllr. Bamford and the Clerk had met one of the volunteers on site to discuss the various areas left uncut and made some minor changes which had been reported back to the contractor. A further review would take place before the cutting season in 2022.
- Possible Cut and Collect Grass Cutting Machine: Cllr. Baynham confirmed that no machine had yet been purchased.

(4) High Street Grant Update: The Clerk reported that the granting of the necessary planning permission was expected very soon. She would then double check the grant was still available and proceed to order the awning.

Cllr. Smith asked if the grant was still available and if it could be used for people counters/monitoring for shops. Cllr. Baynham stated that the particular grant fund was closed but that she was aware of further grants available, some directly to businesses and that this was something the shops themselves could deal with. As the matter was not on the agenda there was no further discussion.

(5) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade Update: Members noted the following -

- More stone to be put along two sides to level out cover in far corner of allotment car park.
- More grass seed to be put below the bike track in bare patches.
- More grass seed needed below main inspection cover site by the centre meadow track.
- Gate from allotment car park was not agreed.
- Welsh Water had reviewed the drop from the site into culvert under bridge as now quite big and not fenced off. Temporary barriers had been put in place while the vegetation re-grew.

- Welsh Water to confirm actual pipe lengths as laid to McCartneys and supply plan to Town Council.
- Inconvenience element to be included when calculating compensation.
- McCartneys drafting compensation claim and will forward for review before submitting to Welsh Water.
- Reserved matters to be included on claim were levelling of ruts below bike track to be looked at once grass cut and main inspection chamber cover to be reviewed next Spring to check for soil settlement and to make sure still ok.

Work on Went's Meadow was now complete.

(6) Presteigne Cemetery Opening Ceremony: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this had been postponed as only a few people could make it. Members agreed it be re-arranged for 18th August at 5.30pm (before the Town Walk) and that providing covid rules allowed it members of the public could be invited to attend.

(7) Refurbishment of Town Benches: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this continued to progress well and that the new bench for Station Road had arrived and would be installed once the base was ready. A new bench was being ordered for the school (funded by an additional donor) and the previous bench there would be sited on the Warden once refurbished as it matched the style of benches there and it was not possible to buy a new one that matched. Cllr. Kirkby stressed again the thanks due to Mr. Kendall for funding the refurbishments.

(8) Grass Cutting Schedule Verges etc: Members noted the Powys County Council Schedule for Urban verges being mid May, mid July and mid September. The visibility splays had been checked and cut where necessary soon after the June Council meeting.

Cllr. Baynham asked if a full report could be obtained from Caring for God's Acre as progress seemed to be slow and she would like to know if this was as expected and if all was going to plan. The Clerk would request this.

(9) Access for Fire Engine/Parking by Cashpoint: Cllr. Preece reported that this had again been an issue recently with three cars having been parked by the cashpoint obstructing the exit of the fire engine. Members noted that there was a dropped kerb present and asked that the Clerk contact the traffic warden and ask if particular attention could be given the area. Members noted that the police were speaking to drivers when they saw them there. The Town Council sign was in place but drivers continued to park there. The Clerk and Cllr. Baynham had previously met the Traffic Officer and she had stated that it was not possible to put the hatched yellow lines on that area of road but Cllr. Baynham agreed to ask her again for her thoughts in case there was anything else that could be done.

MIN 3926 NORTON

(1) Community Speedwatch Update: Cllr. Ruby reported that some training had been offered but that it had been at extremely short notice and so no-one had been able to attend. Further training would be notified as available but there was a backlog to complete due to the delays caused by the covid-19 pandemic.

(2) Community Hub/Church Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that progress was being made on the planning application and it was hoped that it would be determined reasonably soon. The group had met with a potential grant funder on 19th July and met with a positive response and a willingness to look at providing starter money for the project to be developed. He asked that the Council write a letter indicating its full support for the project and this was agreed.

MIN 3927 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The following items were discussed –

- Electrical work now complete.
- Re-painting of Toilet Doors, Ladies, Hereford Street: Agreed the Clerk arrange at an approximate cost of £150-£200.

(2) Allotments: Cllr. Wilding would chase up the work and also check the posts and rails along the riverbank. Members noted that the plot that had been causing concern had been cut back and temporarily covered until the tenant could recommence cultivation.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Western Power Tree Works: Completed
- Update re. recent vandalism: With no evidence to follow the police had closed the investigation.
- Report on Orchard Pruning: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this had been well attended with 15-20 volunteers present. He asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Andy Dodgson for leading the training

on the day and Emma Lilley for arranging the event and organising posters. Thanks were also noted to Cllr. Wilding for removing the trimmings.

- Scouts Activity Day – 27th August: Agreed.
- Guerrilla Gardener's/Ligne Garden: Members noted with thanks the work of the Guerrilla Gardeners on the Ligne Garden.
- Report on condition of Boultibrooke Weir and meeting with Natural Resources Wales (NRW):

Members considered the report on the latest site meeting which was as follows –

NRW advise that the first step is to contact CPAT to let them know that the weir is beginning to fail and that the Town Council would like to better understand the significance of the historic value of the weir and CPAT view on the options that might be considered.

NRW advised that an engineer's assessment would be wise if options for significant physical works on the structure are considered to confirm or otherwise the wisdom of any financial investment and will help inform the selection of options.

Suggested the Town Council formally ask NRW to advise about the implications on the river and channel of complete weir removal/weir failure i.e. likely expected changes to the river bed and banks, sediment mobilisation and consequences for flood risk. The response while useful would be likely to conclude that only hydrological modelling will provide a more reliable site specific predictions.

NRW are planning to look at all the weirs on the Lugg around Presteigne this Summer to assess their impact on the ecology and river processes and will make some recommendations for future action on the weirs and whether or not work on them will be programmed and funded and if so, which ones.

The options NRW have put forward for The Town Council's consideration are as follows:

OP 1: Do nothing

Op 2: Complete soft engineering work to protect the riverbank by the allotments and the failing end of the weir.

OP 3: As part of any work to the weir structure design in a notch to aid fish passage in low flows where the weir is currently failing and needs repair.

Op 4: Managed removal in full or part of the existing structure.

Clearly some options such as 2 and 3 could be combined and consideration should be given to the fact that any works carried out would likely require maintenance and monitoring in the long term.

This may be required as part of a Flood risk activity Permit (FRAP).

Regulatory requirements for option 1 would be a FRAP and SSSI consent however the latter can be included in the former so effectively one actual consent.

Significant works on the weir will also require an impoundment licence. These can all be applied for with advice and guidance on applications provided, on the NRW website.

The Wye and Usk Foundation (WUF) which is a River Trust are able to carry out soft revetment (green engineering) bank protection work and minor weir works such as notches they also apply for FRAPs etc so it may be worth contacting them for a quote for this kind of work.

Members considered the above and agreed that the Clerk write to both NRW and CPAT asking for formal advice but stressing that had not at this stage confirmed ownership or liability.

- Update on use of New Barn: Members noted the new building was being well used and the Clerk was asked to circulate a summary of the current regular use.
- Possible Use by Play Radnor during Summer Holidays: Agreed.

(4) Former Reservoir Ground Information Boards (Waterworks Museum): Cllr. Kirkby and the Chairman of the Warden Guardians had met with the representative of the Waterworks Museum and the Museum would do both a physical display and one online. Cllr. Kirkby proposed that the Council fund an additional set of the information boards in order for them to be displayed in the museum. Monies to be taken from the Warden Reserve Account. Members discussed this and agreed that a further set of boards be purchased for donating to the museum at a cost of £225 plus VAT.

MIN 3928 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Christmas Lights Anchorage Point Testing Update: The Clerk reported that the anchorage testing details had been received and that the necessary works to replace a number of the anchorages had been requested.

(2) Mayor's Chain Update: Cllr. Baynham reported that the request for the Radnorshire Chain had been discussed by the Democratic Services Committee and that no decision had been taken but the Radnorshire

Members had been asked to consider their views. Cllr. Baynham reported that there was unlikely to be a meeting before September.

(3) Police and Crime Panel Report 20/21: Noted.

(4) Community Broadband Project: Agreed to defer a decision on this until the September meeting.

(5) Town Wifi Scheme SMART towns: Members considered this and the Clerk stressed that 'SMART' capabilities were additional benefits and that the primary aim was to provide residents and visitors alike with access to free wifi when in the town. Cllr. Ruby agreed to investigate the possibilities with the Community Broadband Officer and report back to the September meeting.

(6) Update re. old Doctor's Surgery, Harper's Lane: The Clerk reported that she had contacted the police and they had been in touch with the County Council to arrange for the building to be secured and had also obtained land registry details and written to the owner. No reply had yet been received.

(7) Replies re. Dental Provision: Members noted the replies from James Evans MS and Fay Jones MP.

(8) Speeding on Knighton Road Update: Both the County Council and police had been contacted. The police would arrange for the road traffic unit to attend to check speeds and the Clerk was asked to contact the County Council to ask if it would be possible to install the traffic monitoring strips.

(9) East Radnorshire Day Centre: Cllr. Baynham reported that Day Centres were expected to hear later in the Summer when they could re-open. In the meantime home support was continuing and was successful and the County Council was considering rolling out the scheme over Powys. In order to better reflect the expanded range of services offered by the Centre applications had been made to the Charity Commission and Companies House to amend the registration to East Radnorshire Care Ltd.

(10) Welsh Government: - Consultation on Qualifications of Clerks in Wales Regulations: Resolved no comment be made.

(11) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine: Noted. The Clerk would send the magazine to Cllr. Wilding.

(12) Replies from Presteigne Medical Centre and Wylcwm Street Surgery, Knighton on access to the Surgery and Services: Both replies were noted.

(13) Fire service – Loss of Land rover: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the station had recently had its land rover removed and that this had not been replaced. This reduced operational capacity and was a concern given the nature of the rurality of the area. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Fire Officer to ask why the Presteigne Station was left without a land rover, particularly given other stations had had their vehicles replaced. Cllr. Kirkby was pleased to report though that the station was due to receive additional training and ppe in the near future to assist with the co-responder's role of the station.

MIN 3929 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY No surgeries currently being held. To be reviewed at August meeting.

MIN 3930 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Request for three Tree Protection Orders on Oak trees on the John Beddoes Campus School Field.
- Grant Information to be circulated.
- Overgrown Shrubs behind Lugg View: Council Housing Department to deal with these.
- Bollards, Scotleton Street: An additional two or three bollards could be put in place and this would be arranged.

MIN 3931 RESIGNATION OF CLLR. VEARY

Members noted with regret the resignation of Cllr. Veary. The Clerk would commence the casual vacancy process. Cllr. Kirkby would check to see if Ms. Veary wished to remain in her role on the Presteigne and Norton Community Trust.

MIN 3932 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Additional Event on Went's Meadow: Mid Border Arts – Little Rumba on 22nd August.

(2) PACDG Litter Picks: Cllr. Ruby reported that a recent litter pick in the town centre had collected nine bags of waste and two bags of recycling. The group would carry out a further pick before Presteigne Festival.

(3) Presteigne Library: Cllr. Wilding asked that the Clerk check on the situation with the library and normal re-opening.

(4) School Re-Organisation:

(5) Former Sixth Form Building: Cllr. Preece reported that the building had recently been broken into but nothing taken. The building had been secured and the police notified.

(6) Mayor's Sponsored Walk: Cllr. Preece asked that Members consider sponsoring her and to contact her if they were able to do so. Charities to benefit were East Radnorshire Day Centre and the Co-Responders.

MIN 3933 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS

Due to the confidential nature of the following business, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) members of the public and press were excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following agenda item.

MIN 3934 TREE WORKS

The Clerk had advertised the work on the facebook page and also emailed a number of local contractors inviting them to quote for the work. The County Council had agreed to carry out the works to trees one and two of the arboriculturist's report so the quotes considered were for the remaining trees for which work had been recommended.

Three quotes had been received and Members agreed that the work be awarded to Mr. A. Mills subject to the satisfactory risk assessments and insurance.

The meeting closed at 9.51 pm.