

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JULY 2022
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards (Mayor), B. Baynham (Deputy Mayor), F. Preece, T. Owens, R. Bamford, L. Abecasis, M. Williams.

Apologies: None.

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 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. Bamford, close of friend of neighbour of property re. planning application 22/1104/HH.

MIN 4079 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 15th June, 2022 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4080 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Tree and TPO Information on County Council Website: Members noted the recent reply stating that the inclusion of more information online would be looked at, as would the possibility of using an interactive map although it was noted that the website did not currently have any mapping of this kind and so this was likely to take some time.
- (2) Painting of Cemetery Gates: Cllr. Baynham had nothing to report on this.
- (3) Tree, adjacent Kington Roundabout (former site of the Dragon structure): Members noted that the tree was in a poor condition but were not aware who had placed it there. It was expected that the recent rain would have helped the tree improve and it was agreed to do nothing further for the time being.
- (4) IT Equipment for Hybrid Meetings: The Clerk confirmed that this had now all arrived and would be in use for the September meeting.
- (5) External Audit: The Clerk had not heard anything from Wales Audit Office as yet.
- (6) Bus Timetables and Cases: The Officer had now confirmed that the cases were on order and that one spare one had been found to replace the one in Norton. It was hoped that that would take place this week.
- (7) Mayor's Chain: The Clerk circulated a sample link from a supplier of gold or silver plated chains and Members discussed the various options. It was agreed that the Clerk obtain a sample of the silver plated link and that information be collated on repair/replacements and honours boards in order for a decision to be made at the next budget setting.
- (8) Holly Tree, Albert Square: An Officer from the County Council had now visited and felt that the tree was not dead and so did not need removal. He had agreed to monitor the tree periodically. He had also indicated that he was not aware of who was responsible for the pump.
- (9) Lugg View Playground Equipment Grant: Members noted that the grant completion report had been finished and sent to the Lottery.

MIN 4081 FINANCE

(1) Donations: None this month. The letter of thanks from the Wales Air Ambulance was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1423.24
HM Revenue & Customs	£561.53
NEST (Pension contributions)	£132.30

Presteigne Co-Responders (Cllr. Preece – Mayor’s Expenses)	£125.00
East Radnorshire Care (Cllr. Preece – Mayor’s Expenses)	£125.00
Mrs. T. Lloyd-John (inc £65 for deep clean at W/Terrace)	£706.23
Highground Maintenance Ltd (grass cutting)	£345.89 MEADOW ACC
Presteigne Building Supplies	£19.94
Presteigne Building Supplies	£11.54
Mrs T. Price (refund expenses/travel etc)	£40.51
EDF Energy (direct debit)(Wilson Terrace)	£25.27
EDF Energy (direct debit)(Hereford Street)	£88.80
EDF Energy (direct debit)	£74.27 MEADOW ACC
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00 MEADOW ACC
N. Close	£70.00
N. Close	£164.50 MEADOW ACC
PHS Group	£155.72
Welsh Water (Meadow)	£17.21 MEADOW ACC
Welsh Water (Hereford Street)	£237.25
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace)	£80.75

(3) Budget Update to the end of June, 2022: Members noted the budget update. There were no questions and all was as expected for the time of year.

(4) Receipts: The following receipts were noted –

Norton Manor Park Defib Group	£61.16 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Allotment Rent (one plot - part year)	£14.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

MIN 4082 PLANNING

Cllr. Edwards left the room for the duration of the planning application items 1 and 2 due to her position on the County Council Planning Committee. Cllr. Baynham took the Chair for these items.

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

22/0936/HH Grid Reference: E:331556 N: 264410 Proposal: Demolition of outside toilet & shower and construction of rear extension to accommodate disabled shower and toilet, cloakroom, utility room and kitchen extension Site Address: 9 Harper’s Lane, Presteigne, LD8 2AN. Resolved no objections be raised.

22/0943/HH Grid Reference: E: 331479 N: 264300 Proposal: Replacement of four plastic first floor windows with new wooden sash windows and the widening of one window over the front door to the original width; addition of stone steps on existing concrete steps & masonry painting Site Address: The Oxford, Hereford Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AT (amended particulars). Resolved no objections be raised.

22/1063/HH Grid Reference: E:331469 N: 264169 Proposal: First floor extension to bungalow, and the installation of new pvc windows within the north eastern and south-western elevations. Site Address: 6 Appletree Meadow, Presteigne. Resolved no comment be made.

Cllr. Bamford left the room for the duration of the following item.

22/1104/HH Grid Reference: E:331350 N: 264342 Proposal: Two storey extension to side of existing dwelling Site Address: 2 Woodyard , Green End, Presteigne, LD8 2DT. Resolved no comment be made.

Cllr. Bamford returned to the room.

22/1173/LBC Grid Reference: E:330477 N: 267125 Proposal: Replace existing porch with an enlarged porch and WC Site Address: Taylors Farmhouse, Norton, Presteigne, LD8 2EL. Resolved no objections be raised providing the Built Heritage Officer is satisfied with the proposal.

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

22/0663/HH Porthleven House, Presteigne: Approval 6th June.

22//2068/FUL Broadheath Farm, Presteigne: Approval 10th June.

22/0901/TRE, Garrison Cottage, Church Street, Presteigne: Consent 29th June.

22/0685/HH, Castle Barn, High Street, Presteigne: Approval 4th July.

Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.

(3) Powys LDP Settlement Audit: Members had all received a copy of the data for review. A number of comments had already been made. In addition the Clerk was asked to query the number of convenience stores listed (5) as Members could only think of two.

(4) Renewal of Local Development Plan: Members noted the information circulated and the proposed timetable. The call for candidate sites was expected to start in the late Autumn.

(5) Latest NRW Advice to Planning Authorities: Members noted the information as circulated.

MIN 4083 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: The following items were discussed –

- Problem with Lighting Milbank: A new double fitting had been ordered and would be installed soon.
- Dark Skies Application: Expected to be complete in the next few weeks. It was agreed that the draft would be circulated to all Members for approval.
- Presteigne Street Lighting: Work ongoing.

(2) Climate Crisis Update:

- Nature Reserve Grant Update: Cllr. Bamford reported that there had been some legal queries and so the paperwork was not yet complete. The plant survey with the schoolchildren had been completed and the school had very much enjoyed the visit.
- Tree Hub Update: The Clerk confirmed that she had registered the Old School but that it seemed the larger hubs were not yet finalised and so she had heard nothing else as yet.

(3) Fold Farm Footpath Update: Cllr. Williams reported that the Rambler's Association had now submitted the details to its legal department for comment although this was expected to take some time. The Clerk had chased the matter with the Portfolio Holder and there had been a delay in getting a response but one was promised by the end of the week. The Clerk was authorised to contact Fay Jones MP and James Evans MS if no satisfactory reply was received by the end of July. It was also agreed that Members would look at the route on the town walk.

(4) Lugg Bridge: The following were reported -

General works: Members noted the reply received which was as follows – *'I am hoping to get the coping reset during the summer along with a plug for the protruding branch. We have just started our planned maintenance programme and when we have works in the area I will get this done. That will be the extent of the works this year, as we have numerous structures in the county that are in greater need of repair than anything at Lugg Bridge.'*

Damage to Flood Defences: The latest reply from NRW was *'NRW is carrying out enquiries and an investigation to establish whether it is feasible to stabilise the wall and property. A site visit was arranged for yesterday with a potential contractor to assess the situation and provide views to NRW. The cause of the collapse is complex in nature and requires extensive enquiry and investigation. Thank you for letting NRW know of young people accessing the river. NRW has placed signs in the vicinity informing the public to keep out. In addition, NRW is seeking to work collaboratively with the Local Authority on means to prevent access to the river. The approach NRW is taking is intended to be pragmatic in these difficult circumstances and is not an admission of liability or an acceptance of responsibility for the collapse of any rectification work. NRW is in contact with the owner of the affected property and we will continue to assess our position as enquiries and investigations continue.'*

The Clerk and Cllr. Baynham had been in touch with the emergency planning section at the County Council and it had raised the issue of future flooding with NRW. Updated flood risk maps had been received together with an indication that NRW was assessing its options and the Officer would assess these and associated time scales once the detail was received.

(5) Update re. Street Cleaning Project: The Clerk had received the latest information on the street cleaning project and the work done. She had however not been able to get the remaining hours spread over a longer period. Members would review arrangements for the project when considering a budget for 2023/24.

(6) Expiry of Permissive Footpath Agreement – Rockbridge: Members approved the signing of the renewed agreement by Cllr. Edwards.

(7) Works to Stepping Stones, Clatterbrook Footpath: Members were disappointed to learn that the new stepping stones could not now be done until 2023 and then only if a grant was received. They were concerned over access during the wetter weather. No further action at present. Clerk to keep under review.

(8) Update on One Way Trial, Hereford Street: Members noted that the trial period was now halfway through and that no changes were proposed until the end of the trial. Cllr. Baynham stated that she had suggested the double yellow lines be extended as vehicles were parking over the road markings making it difficult to see that there was no entry from the town end of the street. Cllr. Edwards as also aware of problems with the bus routes with services collecting from Lugg View but not returning along that route and dropping passengers off some distance further away. The Clerk would report both concerns and she was also asked to report the need for regular cutting of the hedge near Clatterbrune in order to improve visibility.

(9) Welsh Government Information on Introduction of 20mph Limits: Members had some concerns about this for lengths of road such as the by pass although they could see the benefits for the core town centre. Information noted.

MIN 4084 NORTON

(1) Community Trust Update: Cllr. Edwards reported the following –

- Lease Signed.
- Planning Consents all in place and building regulation applications submitted.
- Removal of Pews underway and several sold already.
- Architect working on the specification for tenders for the works.
- Diocese still responsible for the Churchyard itself.

(2) Community Speedwatch: Cllr. Edwards reported that more volunteers were still desperately needed.

MIN 4085 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: Members noted that the deep clean of the Wilson Terrace block was now complete.

(2) Allotments: Items discussed as follows –

- New Tenant: One plot re-let and rent paid for a part year.
- Rabbit Problem: The Clerk informed Members that she had now had several emails from tenants concerned at the number of rabbits on the site. She had obtained quotes for a three monthly or yearly control service from a local pest control company but Members felt these were expensive and would not have any long-term effect if rabbits could still enter the site. Members also noted that condition seven of the allotment rules provided for individual tenants to fence off their own plots 'for example to exclude rabbits'. She was asked to respond to the tenants and PNAA pointing out this condition but adding that the Council continued to look into possibilities and would also be seeking costings for replacing the current chicken wire fencing and any damaged wooden fence sections. The Clerk was also asked to contact a local contractor to ask for advice and a cost to do this work.

(3) Meadows:

- Small repairs to skateboard bowl: Members noted with thanks that a volunteer had carried out some repairs to cracks in the concrete on the skateboard area.
- Vandalism incidents at Skateboard Bowl/Old Barn/Small Shed: Noted. If incidents continued to escalate then further measures would be considered.
- Use by RWT (volunteer event – change of date) 1st September: Noted.
- Use by Milicia de Santa Maria 30th July: Approved.
- Use by Play Radnor for drop-in sessions over Summer: Approved.
- Use by RWT Friends of River Lugg on 4th July: Noted.
- Quote for various works on Went's / Eddie's Meadow: Members agreed to accept the quote from Rory B Landscaping for the strimming and tidying of various sites around the Meadows.
- Storage Container for Community Use: Members discussed the options for this and the Clerk reminded them that she believed it would be possible to obtain grant funding if a container was included as part of an application for outdoor games equipment etc. In the first instance Cllr. Bamford agreed to ask Mr. O. Rimington about drawing up a plan for a bespoke shed with approximate costs. Members noted that the Carnival had again mentioned how much more convenient it would be to have the storage on the Meadow.

(4) Boultibrooke Weir - Update on planned works: Due to have started on 26th July for two to three days.

MIN 4086 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Town Wifi Update: The Clerk reported that the town wifi should now be up and working. She had still been unable to secure permission from the County Council for the two units proposed for the Assembly Rooms and there was also scope for one unit on the Industrial estate if a location could be found.

- (2) Community Broadband Scheme Update: The Clerk confirmed that the Project had been accepted by the Broadway Board and that work was now commencing on the grant application to UK government.
- (3) Powys Investment Plans Initiative – Presteigne and Norton: The Clerk confirmed that the survey was now live and she had circulated it via social media. The consultant had asked about closing the survey and Members agreed it should be kept open as long as possible and asked the Clerk to request it remained open over the Summer. Members also suggested the next steering group would be better held once the survey results were in. Cllr. Williams expressed concern at the content of some of the survey.
- (4) Letter re. Community Councillor position on PCC Standards Community Sub Committee: Members agreed to submit the Council vote in favour of Mr. N. Dodman.
- (5) Memorial Hall Possible Solar Panel Project: Cllr. Baynham had received an approach from a resident asking for support for solar panels on the roof of the Memorial Hall. The Clerk had established that there was not, at this stage, any request for finance and Members agreed 'in principle' support for the scheme.
- (6) Older Council Accounts/Documents: Members noted the quotes provided and it was felt best to delay any decision for the time being and that over the Summer the Clerk would destroy as many of the older documents as possible (having regard for those documents that needed to be retained). The matter would be reviewed again later in the year.
- (7) Planning Training: Members were reminded of the free planning training on 28th July at 6pm (via video conferencing).

MIN 4087 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

No July Surgery.

September Surgery: Deferred for consideration of the need for the surgeries to continue at the September meeting.

MIN 4088 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Edwards reported she had received complaints over the recent grass cutting in Norton.

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- HOWPS now taken back in house and there were temporary delays in carrying out housing repairs.
- Recent road closure Hereford Street: This had been unauthorised and had caused problems with traffic travelling along High Street in both directions.
- Abandoned Caravan in the By Pass Car Park: this had been reported again.
- County Council Reception held at Royal Welsh Show.

She also asked for contact details for the British Legion Club and Members offered some suggestions.

MIN 4089 CO-OPTIONS

Members agreed unanimously to co-opt Juliet Gray, Jeremy Poster and Mark Price to the Presteigne Ward.

No vacancies now remained on the Presteigne Ward. The Clerk would re-advertise the Norton vacancies.

MIN 4090 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Letter of Congratulations to be sent to the Carnival Committee.

(2) Ukraine Benefit Fund Raiser on Went's Meadow had raised £10,600.

MIN 4091 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/DATE FOR AUGUST MEETING

Date for August meeting and town walk set for 17th August at 6.30pm commencing with the formal meeting at the Assembly Rooms.

Suggestions for the Walk to be sent to the Clerk over the next two weeks. Items submitted at the meeting were Fold Farm Footpath, Memorial Hall (to view solar panels site) and the new Nature Reserve Field.

The meeting closed at 9.53 pm