

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2021
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: Cllrs. L. Veary, B. Baynham.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk; Reece Simmons, Powys County Council Community Broadband Officer; 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. Bennett, related to residents and to a business owner in High Street, re. grants etc High Street due to Covid-19 and friend of applicant re. planning application 21/0937/LBC.

Cllr. Kirkby, friend of applicant re planning application 21/0881/RES and friend of applicant re. planning application 21/0852/HH.

Cllr. Owens, friend of applicant re. planning application 21/0881/RES.

Cllr. Wilding, applicant re. planning application 21/0881/RES.

Prior to the start of the meeting Members heard from Mr. Reece Simmons re community broadband and the opportunities for improved broadband connections in the Presteigne and Norton area. He explained that there were currently grant opportunities available to fund connections and that although these were UK wide the amount had been added to by Welsh Government making it double the UK wide amount for homes and businesses in Wales. Some projects were already underway in Powys. His role was to facilitate projects and provide advice and guidance on the process however he was impartial and would not recommend a specific supplier. This would be down to the community to select following its own research. These suppliers had access to the Openreach infrastructure and would also install their own where needed. In most cases the connection costs would be fully met by the grant available or by the supplier as an investment for the future. He confirmed that connections across the border would be possible (given Presteigne's situation on the border with Herefordshire) but that the amount available would be the UK wide amount for properties outside Wales.

Cllr. Preece thanked Mr. Simmons for attending and Members agreed to consider and matter and to discuss further at the July meeting.

MIN 3910 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May, 2021 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3911 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Fold Farm Footpath: Cllr. Kirkby asked if Cllr. Baynham had managed to make on progress with raising this. The Clerk had not received any update but would ask Cllr. Baynham. Cllr. Davies reported issues with stiles further along that route. See later item under HHE.

(2) Proposed Bollards, Scottleton Street: Cllr. Kirkby reported that these had been done but asked if they would be extended any further. The Clerk stated that she understood not at present as the junction had been done due to safety and visibility issues.

(3) Tree in Pound Lane: Done and now removed from list of outstanding items.

- (4) Reporting of Drainage/Highways Issues: Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had used the County Council online system and the works had been carried out very promptly.
- (5) Site Meeting with Natural Resources Wales: Members had all received copies of the notes from the meeting and a further site meeting would be held in due course. The possible sites for a tiny forest had also been considered and none of the possible sites were a problem. Cllr. Bamford reported that a new places for nature fund was now available and that larger packages could now be applied for. Given this she suggested that the tiny forest be put on hold for the time being while the possibility of applying for a wildlife garden be further looked into. She agreed to email Members with more details.
- (6) Donated Bench: Cllr. Davies reported that the executors had been asked for £500 from Powys County Council to site the bench on the junction of Broadaxe and the bypass and this was felt to be expensive.
- (7) External Audit Papers: The Clerk confirmed that these had been sent to Wales Audit Office.

MIN 3912 FINANCE

(1) Donations: No donations this month.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£130.06
F. Preece (Mayor's Allowance – first part)	£500.00
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1383.56
HM Revenue & Customs	£554.82
Mr. N. Close	£126.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mr. N. Close	£14.00
T. Lloyd-John (toilet cleaning)	£618.23
Highground Maintenance (grass cutting)	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Cleanmy (cleaning products)	£61.85
JRB Enterprises Ltd (dog bags)	£119.46 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Border Janitorial (toilet rolls)	£74.40

MIN 3913 PLANNING

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

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

21/0852/HH Grid Reference: E:331961 N: 263827 Proposal: Conversion of garage into additional domestic living accommodation Site Address: 34 Kings Court, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr. Kirkby returned to the meeting.

21/0907/HH Grid Reference: E:331578 N: 264500 Proposal: Retrospective application for the rebuilding of a rear chimney stack Site Address: 1 Church View, Broad Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/0908/LBC Grid Reference: E:331578 N: 264500 Proposal: Listed building consent for retention of works undertaken namely rebuilding of a rear chimney stack Site Address: 1 Church View, Broad Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

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

21/0937/LBC Grid Reference: E:331376 N: 264432 Proposal: Listed building consent for repairs and alterations: provision of new external door, 2 replacement windows, new internal stairway, installation of kitchen & sanitary ware, thermal insulation and rebuilding of section of garden wall Site Address: 45A High Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr. Bennett returned to the meeting.

21/0977/HH Grid Reference: E:330454 N: 268126 Proposal: Installation of a two bay stable with tack room Site Address: Thistle Brook, Meeting House Lane, Norton, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/0999/FUL Grid Reference: E:331348 N: 264155 Proposal: Extension to create a storage building Site Address: Seconds and Co, Presteigne. Cllr. Bennett commented that it was good to support a growing business in the town. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllrs. Owens, Kirkby and Wilding were placed in the waiting room for the duration of the following item.

21/0881/RES Grid Reference: E:330296 N: 266886 Proposal: Reserved matters application in respect of outline planning consent 20/0753/REM (P/2014/0067) for the erection of 10 dwellings and all associated works Site Address: Plots 13-22 Phase 2, Jacks View, Norton, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllrs. Owens, Kirkby and Wilding returned to the meeting.

21/1058/LBC Grid Reference: E:331276 N: 264596 Proposal: Listed building consent for installation of an extractor fan to rear elevation Site Address: 3 Warden View, High Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

- (2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted –
- 21/0272/HH 27 Townend, Presteigne – Consent 12th April.
 - 21/0122/FUL Plots 2 & 3 Silia Meadow, Presteigne – Consent 29th April.
 - 21/0604/HH 44 Caenbrook Meadow, Presteigne – Consent 2nd June

MIN 3914 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Active Travel Route: Cllr. Kirkby reported that an additional sign had now been ordered and that he had offered to put this up when it arrived if this would help. Members then considered the request from a business owner for additional cycle racks in High Street. Members confirmed that they would not wish to lose any parking spaces and the Clerk was asked to contact the Active Travel Officer and Cllr. Baynham to suggest the top of High Street/St. David's Street or if this was not possible then the Shoppers Car Park. Cllr. Kirkby offered to meet the officer on site to discuss possibilities.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: The Clerk confirmed that the County Council and Dark Source were still in discussions with the lighting manufacturer and so were not yet in a position to start the PIR sensor lighting trial. Members considered the next steps and the email from Mr. Harling-Bowen a member of the Council Working Group and it was agreed that –

- Mr. Harling-Bowen be authorised to write to the new Senedd Member, James Evans asking for support.
- Mr. Harling-Bowen be asked to liaise with the Town Council Youth Representatives on further education for students and on obtaining letters of support from teachers and students.
- Discussions with County Council on a letter of support were deferred until the project had progressed further and the main lighting phase was complete.

Cllr. Smith to make contact with neighbouring communities just over the border, but who would be affected by changes in light pollution from Presteigne, and also ask for letters of support. The Clerk to arrange for an item to go in the Community News.

The Clerk would notify Mr. Harling-Bowen re. the above.

(3) Climate Crisis: Update. Members considered the following –

- Presteigne Plastic Project Update: Noted.
- New local places for nature grant fund: Noted above under Minute 3911(5).
- Response from County Council re. weed killing: Members noted the further response as follows – *'The new Biodiversity Officer Holly Dillon is exploring alternative options for weed control and is also looking at possible funding streams. We have suggested to the Housing Service that we can sow a wildflower mix around trees in their Housing estates and I understand they will be liaising with residents and gaining their opinion on this proposal.'*
- Strimming around trees in the Community Orchard: Members discussed the need for strimming around the trees bases and noted that if not done it could inhibit the growth of the trees and also made it very difficult to collect the fruit in the autumn. Clerk to check with the contractor and see if they could mow a little closer to the tree bases.
- Trees Project: Ongoing.

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

(4) High Street Grant Update: The planning application was still pending but further information had been requested by the Built Heritage Officer. The grants team had confirmed that the funding awarded was still available should planning permission be obtained although it would not be held indefinitely.

Cllr. Bennett returned to the meeting.

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

- Organised Litter Pick carried out by staff working at the site.
- Site Meeting to be held on 5th July to sign off the condition of the Meadow following the works.

- Work to Manhole Cover: Some additional work done but still not correct. Clerk to chase.
- Damage to Verge Opposite Site Entrance confirmed to not be Welsh Water.

(6) Presteigne Cemetery Possible Opening Ceremony: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the County Council did not wish to hold an opening ceremony but had indicated no objection to the Town Council holding one. He suggested a number of invitees and it was agreed that due to the situation with covid-19 attendance would be by invitation only. Cllr. Kirkby would arrange a date with Cllr. Preece and invitations would be sent out via the Clerk.

(7) Local Footpath Issues: Members were pleased to learn that the County Council had successfully applied for a grant towards improving footpath access in the area and also in obtaining monies to replace some or all of the Boardwalk to the Withy Beds. The Clerk reported that walk three of the walks drawn up by the Ramblers for the town website would be one of the first to be reviewed for works as a number of issues had been reported to the Clerk. Cllr. Kirkby reminded Members that the Wildlife Trust lease on the Withy Beds would expire in the near future and that the County Council was then looking to ask the Town Council to consider maintaining the site.

(8) Refurbishment of Town Benches: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this was progressing well and that an additional bench outside the Primary School had been added to the list. This would be removed for refurbishment shortly and the Clerk was asked to notify school accordingly. The new bench for siting in Station Road was expected to be delivered by the end of June. Two benches were currently off site for repairs and were expected back shortly.

(9) Accessible Presteigne: Cllr. Bennett asked for support to investigate what could be done in the community to encourage improvements to accessibility to businesses in Presteigne. Members agreed that Cllr. Bennett draft a letter to go out from the Council suggesting ways to improve access etc subject to care being taken to not overburden businesses that were still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr. Bennett invited Members to submit any ideas to him for inclusion.

MIN 3915 NORTON

(1) Community Speedwatch Update: No progress to report.

(2) Community Hub/Church Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that there were still issues with the planning permission needed.

MIN 3916 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: Unfortunately the electrical work/exterior lighting had not yet been completed.

(2) Allotments: Members noted that the fence had not yet been repaired and the quote for the adjustment to the post and rail fence at the car park exit was still awaited.

(3) Meadows:

- Review of Tree Survey: Agreed that the Clerk seek quotes based on the work detailed in the survey.
- Weedkilling around Tree bases: Members noted that the weed-killing had been carried out by the grass cutting contractor to assist with their grass cutting and that the Clerk had asked them to no longer do so.
- Request for Use Leominster Vintage Club -18th July: Agreed.
- Reply re. Scout Hut Pergola: Members noted that the project was on hold for the time being.
- Update on quotes for maintenance works: Ongoing.
- Vandalism: Members noted the recent vandalism and the damage to the gel dispenser. It was agreed that the Clerk purchase a replacement part at a cost of approx. £40 plus VAT. Clerk to ask the police to increase patrols.
- Tree Pruning Event 4th July: Members noted the forthcoming event. Posters would be printed at Artisan and invoiced as usual.
- Use by Sheep Music – July: Agreed. Final date to be confirmed.

(4) Former Reservoir Ground: Members noted the request from the Waterworks Museum to use the Information Boards on its website. It was agreed that Cllr. Kirkby would liaise with the organiser and the Clerk would pass on the contact details.

MIN 3917 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Christmas Lights Anchorage Point Testing Update: The anchorage testing had now been carried out and remedial work was required. Eight anchorage points needed replacing, three were in timber so being reviewed and work was needed to the electrical supply box. The estimated cost (excluding the three points

into timber) was £1300 approx. Members agreed that the work be carried out plus any additional work needed.

(2) Mayor's Chain Update: The Powys County Council Chairman was considering the request for the Radnorshire Chain.

(3) Publication of Draft Minutes: The Clerk reported that the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act introduced a number of changes to the law regarding Town/Community Councils. One of these provisions was that a 'meeting note' must be published as soon as practicable (and in any event within seven working days) after a meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk publish the Draft Minutes (clearly marked as such) online within the time scale stipulated as a full record of the meeting.

(4) Letter from Independent Remuneration Panel: The Clerk reported that at the end of May she had received a letter saying that the Council had not submitted the required return for 2019-20. She had responded indicating that the necessary letter was sent at the start of April 2020 and the matter was now resolved.

(5) Reply from Lloyds Bank re. cashpoint concerns: The Clerk reported that the Bank rang on 7th June and were concerned that someone may believe their card was cloned at the cashpoint and confirmed that they had not been contacted by the police or themselves found any device in or by the machine. This was followed up a week later with a further call indicating an additional security device had been placed on the machine as a precaution. CCTV was already in place and regular checks carried out. Cllr. Kirkby would call into the bank with further information.

(6) Remembrance Day Wreaths: Members agreed to order wreaths with the commemorative centre for the 100 year anniversary of the Royal British Legion/Poppy Appeal in November.

(7) Report on Meeting with Powys Teaching Health Board: Members noted the meeting notes circulated.

(8) East Radnorshire Day Centre: Deferred as Cllr. Baynham was not present.

(9) Issues at Local Doctor's Surgeries: Cllr. Wilding expressed concerns that while other businesses and activities were returning to a more normal way of working this was not happening at either Presteigne or Knighton Surgeries. The Clerk was asked to write to both surgeries asking when normal working practices would resume.

(10) Cemetery Fees Update: Cllr. Baynham had previously informed the Clerk that cemetery fees would be reviewed at the next Burial Board Meeting at the end of July.

(11) NHS Dental Services Survey by Llandrindod Wells Town Council: Members agreed that the Clerk also write to the MP. MS etc supporting Llandrindod Wells in its efforts to improve dental provision in Powys.

(12) Email re speeding on Knighton Road: Members felt there was little that could be done other than inform the police and copy in Cllr. Baynham so she was aware of the issue. The Clerk would inform the resident.

(13) Email re old surgery building: Clerk to try to find contact details for the current owner and write to them expressing concerns at the state of the building and asking that it be secured. The Clerk would inform the resident and also contact the police to see what action could be taken.

(14) Items 3909(10 & (2) – May Meeting: Members noted the Clerk's report on the failure to follow proper process in supporting the two motions and the two items were noted as not being properly reached decisions. It was stressed that this applied to all meetings of the Council.

MIN 3918 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY No surgeries currently being held.

MIN 3919 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham was not in attendance so no report was made.

MIN 3920 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Current Programme for Nicole et Martin. Cllr Kirkby reported that Nicole & Martin had sent details of their 2021 tour to the council with no visits to the UK. It was agreed to write and invite the company to use Went's Meadow in 2022 if they wished.

(2) Gazebos: Cllr. Preece that three gazebos had been missing for some time and appeared to have been removed without permission. The Clerk would email the school to remind it that while there was no problem with them being used they did need to be booked out and then returned promptly.

(3) Visibility Issues from Junctions in Presteigne: Cllr. Owens reported that several residents had reported issues. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Baynham was aware and that an Officer from Highways was to carry out a check any day.

(4) Purchase of Sandwich Boards for Town Use: Cllr. Kirkby asked that this be placed on the agenda for July and he would obtain costings for that meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.