

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Mrs Tracey Price (Clerk)
Garn Farm
Chapel Lawn
Bucknell
Shropshire.
SY7 0BT

9th December, 2021

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council on **WEDNESDAY 15th December, 2021 at 7.30 p.m.** at the Assembly Rooms, Broad Street, Presteigne and also via video conferencing and you are hereby summoned to attend.

NB – if there are changes to covid-19 restrictions this meeting may be held entirely by video conferencing. A note will be put on the town website if this is the case and Members will be notified by email.

The public and press are cordially invited to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting -
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88421758758?pwd=dG16eTBzeczJGckQ5ajRJNGdKeTBjdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 2175 8758 Passcode: 577981
Or Dial by your location 0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

Yours sincerely

Tracey Price

TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the terms of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct Order) (Wales) Order 2008 and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016.

3. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: CLLR. VAN DEN ENDE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November, 2021 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

To approve that the Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 24th November, 2021 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

To approve that the Minutes of the Sites and Buildings Committee meeting held on 30th November, 2021 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

5. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

From the Meeting of 17th November. The Committee Meetings will be considered at the appropriate point on the agenda. Also to receive the Clerk's Report.

6. FINANCE

a) Donations: To consider the following donations – none this month.
To note the email of thanks from PACDG (street cleaning).

b) Payments: to approve the following payments –

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Mrs T.A. Price | £1383.56 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | £554.82 |
| NEST Pensions (direct debit) | £130.06 |
| T. Lloyd-John | £378.49 |
| N. Close | £10.50 |
| N. Close | £98.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| F. Preece (Mayor's Allowance second instalment) | £500.00 |
| Mrs T.A. Price (refund Amazon – computer mouse) | £9.99 |
| JHA Price & Sons (fencing allotments) | £382.32 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| JRB Enterprises Ltd (dog bags) | £261.60 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Highground Maintenance Ltd (grass cutting) | £319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Presteigne Building Supplies | £38.78 |
| Presteigne Building Supplies (new barn) | £82.92 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Roy Price (hedge cutting etc) | £426.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT |

c) To submit provisional new projects for 2022-23.

d) Circulation of Accounts from Organisations receiving £250 or more annually from the Council and applications for grants in 2022-23.

e) Annual Review of Direct Debits.

f) To note refund of £33.00 from Meadow Account to M. Galliers. This was paid by bank transfer in error and has been returned.

g) Letter from County Council re. estimated election costs in 2022.

h) To note the Section 137 limit for 2022-23 will be £8.82 per elector.

i) Receipts: To note the following receipts:

£130.00 - Website Advertising.

j) To consider offer of £250 from Presteigne Carnival Committee towards the cost of replacing the Sheep Music Stage.

k) Request for Use of Climate Crisis Grant Fund to plant yellow rattle in verges and to hold further tree information talks.

7. PLANNING

(a) To consider applications received:

21/1992/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331313 N: 264509 Proposal: Application to works to a tree in a conservation area namely to fell tree Location: Postings House, 32 High Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2BE.

21/2098/REM Grid Reference: E:331696 N: 264492 Proposal: Section 73 application to vary condition no. 2 attached to planning approval P/2018/0156 to allow an extension of time in which to submit a reserved matters application Site Address: Land At, Fold Farm, Broad Street, Llanandras.

21/2120/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331444 N: 264340 Proposal: Felling of 3 trees, an ash, cypress and sycamore, within the conservation area Location: Harford House, Hereford Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2AT.

21/1950/CAC Grid Reference: E:331301 N: 264590 Proposal: Removal of existing rear pitched roof dormer window and construction of larger flat roof dormer as replacement to existing dwelling. Site Address: 2 Pound Lane, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2DB.

21/2068/FUL Grid Reference: E:333946 N: 263259 Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building to cover an existing silage pit. Site Address: Broadheath Farm, Presteigne, LD8 2HG.

21/1949/HH Grid Reference: E:331301 N: 264590 Proposal: Removal of existing rear pitched roof dormer window and construction of larger flat roof dormer as replacement to existing dwelling Site Address: 2 Pound Lane, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2DB.

21/2046/FUL Grid Reference: E:330453 N: 267162 Proposal: Conversion of barn to form 3 dwellings, to include alterations to access and all associated works Site Address: The Old Granary, Norton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2EY.

21/2047/LBC Grid Reference: E:330453 N: 267162 Proposal: Conversion of barn to form 3 dwellings and all associated works Site Address: The Old Granary, Norton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2EY.

21/2075/HH Grid Reference: E:331170 N: 264361 Proposal: Proposed creation of new access including a dropped kerb and three off-street parking spaces Site Address: 20 Castle Road, Presteigne, LD8 2EB.

21/2123/HH Grid Reference: E:330766 N: 264695 Proposal: Garage conversion/ rear extension to form new bedroom & utility room. Addition windows to existing dwelling Site Address: 58 Warden Close, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2DH.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PLANNING APPLICATIONS MAY BE RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA AND MAY BE ADDED DUE TO THE TIGHT TIMESCALE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS. SEE THE TOWN COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE OR THE PLANNING PAGE ON THE COUNCIL SECTION OF THE TOWN WEBSITE FOR LATEST APPLICATIONS.

(b) Planning Decisions: To note the following decisions –

- 21/1385/HH 1 The Barn, Presteigne: Consent 15th November.
- 21/1839/TRE Radnorshire Arms Hotel: Approval 18th November.
- 21/0805/LBC Hall Cottage, 3 Oak Villas, Broad Street, Presteigne: Approval 18th November.

- (c) Consultation on planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets.
- (d) To receive the resident comments on planning application 21/1801/FUL, Pen Offa (not within PNTC area) and consider whether to submit comments to the County Council (as emailed).
- (e) Senedd Petition calling for moratorium on IPUs (as emailed).

8. HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- a) Dark Skies/Lighting: Application Update. To include possible activities for Dark Sky Festival in February.
- b) Climate Crisis Update.
- c) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade Update. To include reply from Welsh Water on lighting for its sites in Norton and Presteigne.
- d) Powys County Council Car Park Charging Order Notification.
- e) Lugg Bridge Update and report on Site Meeting.
- f) Presteigne Roundabouts – Update from Caring for God’s Acre.
- g) Presteigne Cemetery: To consider Town Council organising the fencing of the hedge and invoicing County Council for payment (Cllr. Baynham).

9. NORTON

- a) Norton Community Trust Update.

10. SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

- a) Public Conveniences: See Sites & Buildings Committee Recommendations.
- b) Allotments: See Sites & Buildings Committee Recommendations.
- c) Meadows: To include –
 - Use Request Presteigne Carnival Committee – 7-10th July, 2022.
 - Work completed by Cllr. Bennett.
 - CCTV Update.
- d) Adopt a Bench Update.
- e) Recommendations of Sites and Buildings Committee.
- f) Town Fingerposts Update.
- g) Withy Beds Boardwalk Update.
- h) Defibrillator Checks (batteries, pads etc) (Cllr. Baynham).
- i) To consider the Sites and Buildings Committee Recommendations as follows –

Allotments:

Use of plot 36 by the PNAA (at no charge). To be reviewed after one year.

Maintenance items as listed in the Minutes to be completed.

Rent to remain unchanged at £28 per plot.

Meadows:

Grass cutting contract to be awarded to High Ground Maintenance Ltd for a period of three years from April 2022.

Minor maintenance items to be carried out as listed.

Cllr. Wilding to be asked to arrange the cut of the car park field prior to the 2022 Carnival.

Quotes to be obtained for work to paths.

Quote/Estimate to be obtained for changes to main Knighton Road entrance for consideration as new project in 2022-23.

Quote to be obtained for re-rendering of wall, old Barn area.

To consider siting of additional tree by Barn.

Approval for replacement of Sheep Music stage to be replaced (quote to be supplied at meeting).

Quote to be obtained from replacing of timber steps Skateboard Area.

Toilets

Cleaning contract for 2022/23 to be awarded to T. Lloyd-John.

Draft budget recommendation of £10,500 for 2022/23, £9500 to be raised from the precept and £1000 to come from allocated reserve for the toilets.

11. CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- a) Town Wifi Update.
- b) Community Broadband Scheme Update.
- c) Well-Being in Powys – Consultation (as per link emailed).
- d) Review of Bus Routes (Cllr. Baynham).
- e) Cabinet Written Statement: Review of the Ethical Standards Framework for Wales (as emailed). Information.
- f) Update on Assembly Rooms Lift Installation.
- g) To review updated Tourist Information Map (as emailed).
- h) WAST - Ambulance Service not calling the First Responders in cardiac arrest situation. (Cllr. Baynham).

12. TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

To receive items reported at the December Surgery.

13. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

14. EMAILS OF COMPLAINT RE. PLANNING COMMENTS

To consider a response to the emails as circulated.

15. ANY URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION (at discretion of Chair)

16. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS

Due to the confidential nature of the business on this agenda, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of the following agenda items

17. RECOMMENDATIONS OF STAFFING COMMITTEE

To consider the recommendations of the Staffing Committee as included within the Minutes and the confidential note circulated.

Enc. Clerk's Report December. Minutes of November Meeting. Sites and Buildings Committee Minutes, Staffing Committee Minutes. Various Background papers. Confidential Staffing Note (Members only).

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SITES AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 30TH NOVEMBER 2021
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs R. Bennett, C. Kirkby MBE, D. Davies, N. Rogers, P. Smith.
Outside Representatives: Ms. K. Lewis, Mr. G. Graham, Mr. R. Rimington.

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 and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016.

Personal: None.

Personal and Prejudicial: None

MIN SB1/21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2021/22

Cllr Bennett was proposed by Cllr. Kirkby, seconded by Cllr. Davies and duly elected.

MIN SB2/21 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2021/22

Cllr Kirkby was proposed by Cllr. Davies seconded by Cllr. Bennett and duly elected.

MIN SB3/21 ALLOTMENTS

(1) Report by the PNAA Representative: Members noted the written report received with the issues to be discussed under (2) below.

(2) PNAA Raised Matters: The following matters were discussed –

- Use of Plot 36: Ms. Lewis suggested that the PNAA look after the plot to use as a Grow, Cook, Share Project. Transition Presteigne might also be interested in being involved in this as a project. Cllr. Kirkby proposed that the plot be placed under the remit of the PNAA for one year following which it would be reviewed.
- Maintenance to main access paths: Ms. Lewis requested that gravel/chippings be provided to level off the communal paths although it was noted that the clover growth attracted bees etc to aid pollination so there was not an issue with the paths generally just the unevenness of the surface.
- Replacement of Rotting Upright Planks by River (adjacent to plot 23): These had been missed when the contractor did the other fence repairs. Ms. Lewis and Cllr. Bennett would discuss this further and let the Clerk know the details so the contractor could be asked to do these when he checked the skateboard fencing in April.
- Repairs to Main Gate: Thanks noted to Cllr. Bennett for repairing the gate which was now much easier to open.
- PNAA intend to employ someone to tend to the paths over the Summer months and also to increase the number of green waste bins to two.
- Request for Rent Freeze: Noted. To be discussed at the appropriate time on the agenda.

(3) Work/Maintenance Plan for 2022-23: To include the matters identified above –

- Additional gravel for communal paths.
- Repairs to fencing at rear of plot 23.

It was noted that the fallen tree at the car park entrance was currently being removed. Mr. Rimington had raised concerns that the adjacent tree was also unstable and the Clerk was asked to report this to Western Power as it was close to the power lines. She was expecting the Western Power contractor on site soon and would try to add it to the list to be checked.

- (4) Expenditure 2021-22 to date: Members reviewed the expenditure for the year so far which was in line with expectations and had a remaining ring-fenced balance of £3217.98. The recent fencing repair invoice had already been deducted.
- (5) Untidy Plots Update: Ms Lewis reported that there had been two plots causing concern over the year. One tenant had since surrendered their tenancy and the plot had now been re-let to the previous tenant of plot 36. The second had been covered over by the tenant following a request by the Clerk but had caused some issues with weeds seeding over neighbouring plots. The Clerk explained that the tenant had been unavoidably unable to tend her plot in 2021 but that she fully expected to in 2022.
- (6) Rent Review for 2022-23: Agreed that the rent remain unchanged until the next review in 2023.

Mr. Rimington joined the meeting at this point.

MIN SB4/21 WENT'S AND EDDIE'S MEADOWS, MUGA, FOOTBALL PITCH

- (1) Grass Cutting/Weed Killing Arrangements for 2022/23: It was agreed that the grass cutting had been carried out to a high standard and there were no complaints. Agreed to recommend that the grass cutting contact be awarded to High Ground Maintenance for a three year period from April, 2022 to March, 2025.
- (2) Maintenance Plan for 2022-23. The following items were discussed –
- Back Field – Mr. Graham had attended to gaps in the hedge and offered to clear the self seeded saplings at the far bottom corner to allow the established trees to have sufficient space. It was agreed that he do this. He added that an annual cut would be beneficial. He pointed out that the grass cutting of that field had not been fully done this year and it was noted that this would need to be arranged for early Summer in 2022 in order for it to be available for the Carnival on 9th July. Cllr. Wilding be asked to arrange this.
 - Gate leading to Wilson Terrace: Off hinges and needed replacing. Clerk to ask Mr. Close if he could do this. Noted that an additional baton would be needed the post.
 - Footpath down Meadow: Mr. Rimington mentioned that the path was sinking below the level of the surrounding ground and that it needed topping up with gravel. Additional gravel was also needed behind the new Barn. Mr. Rimington was asked to get a price for this work so that approval could be sought from Full Council.
 - Alteration of Main Gate: The Committee discussed the options for changing this in order to increase the parking available and so improve safety. Mr. Graham felt that a proposed scheme needed to be drawn up before any price could be obtained but given the time scales if this was to go forward as a new project Mr. Rimington was asked to obtain an estimate of cost so the project could be considered for inclusion in the budget for 2022-23. Mr. Graham would draw up a plan as soon as possible.
 - Request for Planting of Yew Tree: Mr. Rimington suggested that a Yew Tree be planted on the steep bank to the Western end of the walkway to assist with ground cover where the mowers did not reach. The Clerk expressed concerns that Yew was poisonous to animals/humans and was not suitable for a public area. Cllr. Kirkby suggested that another type of tree he was aware of might be suitable and agreed he would research the exact type and discuss with Mr. Rimington.
 - Sheep Music Stage: This had deteriorated over the year and was now in need of fairly urgent attention. Cllr. Kirkby suggested proceeding with the plan to purchase high grade sleepers (24) at £30 each as previously discussed.
 - Barn Wall: Agreed to repaint during an Easter work day. Quote to be obtained for re-rendering. Estimated cost £1000.
 - Growth of Clematis, Ligne Garden: Ms. Lewis agreed to help Mr. Graham with cutting this back.
- (3) Report on Annual Visual Tree Inspection/Programmed Tree Works: Members noted that Mr. Close had completed this and reported on a number of branches along the track from the Knighton Road gate. The Clerk would ask Mr. Close if he was able to deal with these. The condition of the Walnut tree was a concern and the Clerk would ask the tree surgeon to look at it when he did the other works.
- (4) Rospa Inspection Report: It was noted that the majority of items discussed were minor and had been completed. A small number would be completed in due course but one larger item of concern was the condition of the timber steps around the skateboard area. Cllr. Bennett agreed to look at replacing these when considering the work/costs for the timber stage.
- (5) Community Building: It was noted that the decorative panels were now in place and all agreed they looked incredible. Access to the rear of the building had been improved. Mr. Rimington reported a number of small cracks in the concrete floor particularly near the stage area and he would repair these in the Spring.

Cllr. Kirkby reported that some monies remained in the budget and suggested that this money be used towards the path improvement given that part of it served the new building. Mr. Rimington stated that there were some invoices still to submit for the project so the remaining monies would need to be assessed then.

(6) Budget Consideration for 2021-22: Following discussion it was agreed to recommend the following budget –

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Inspections (inc defib checks) | £1300 |
| General Maintenance | £2500 |
| Grass cutting/weed killing | £3600 |
| Dog Bags (50 boxes as bulk buy) | £1000 |
| Professional Inspections | £500 |
| MUGA / New Building Reserve | £2000 |
| Utilities | £250 |
| Misc. | £300 |
| Total | £11450 |

(7) Grant Applications: There were no immediate projects. Mr. Graham suggested a pump track and agreed to find out approximate costs as the Clerk thought that the budget may be beyond the small grants readily available. The Clerk asked that if anyone thought of a project to let her know so she could get Council to consider it.

MIN SB5/21 TOILET BLOCKS

(1) Report on year to date: The Clerk reported that it had been a fairly quiet year although there had been several incidents of vandalism. She praised the work and reliability of the current cleaner. Currently she was looking into the possibility of installing cctv onto the meadow and toilet blocks and would report to the full Council in due course. The Wilson Terrace building had now closed for the Winter.

The possibility of opening the Wilson Terrace block over the Winter months was discussed and the Clerk confirmed that this had been previously explored and it had not been considered and not considered to be feasible. She suggested possibly extending the opening times perhaps by a month at each end of the season and was asked to cost out this for Council consideration.

(2) Cleaning Arrangements/Contract for 2022-23: Agreed to recommend that the contract for 2022-23 be awarded to Ms Lloyd-John at the prices stated.

(3) Maintenance Work:

(4) Budget Consideration for 2022-23: Agreed to recommend that the budget be set at £10,500 with £9500 to be raised via the precept and £1000 to come from the allocated general reserve for the toilets.

There was no urgent business.

Summary of Full Council Decisions Required –

Allotments:

Use of plot 36 by the PNAA (at no charge). To be reviewed after one year.

Maintenance items as listed above to be completed.

Rent to remain at £28 per plot.

Meadows:

Grass cutting contract to be awarded to High Ground Maintenance Ltd for a period of three years from April 2022.

Minor maintenance items to be carried out as listed.

Cllr. Wilding to be asked to arrange the cut of the car park field prior to the 2022 Carnival.

Quotes to be obtained for work to paths.

Quote/Estimate to be obtained for changes to main Knighton Road entrance for consideration as new project in 2022-23.

Quote to be obtained for re-rendering of wall, old Barn area.

To consider siting of additional tree by Barn.

Approval for replacement of Sheep Music stage to be replaced (quote to be supplied at meeting).

Quote to be obtained from replacing of timber steps Skateboard Area.

Toilets

Cleaning contract for 2022/23 to be awarded to T. Lloyd-John.

Draft budget recommendation of £10,500 for 2022/23, £9500 to be raised from the precept and £1000 to come from allocated reserve for the toilets.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

DRAFT

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24th NOVEMBER 2021
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

Present: Cllrs. F. Preece (Mayor), D Davies, D. Edwards, C. Ruby, B. Baynham.

Apologies: Cllr. C. Kirkby MBE.

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 2108 and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2116.

Personal: None.

Personal and Prejudicial: None.

MIN ST1/21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2021/22

It was proposed that Cllr D. Davies be elected chairman and this was unanimously agreed.

MIN ST2/21 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2021/22

It was unanimously agreed Cllr Fiona Preece (Mayor) be elected Vice-Chairman.

MIN ST3/21 PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022/23

It was noted that there was no statutory increase in 2022/23.

MIN ST4/21 EXPECTED INCREASE IN NATIONAL PAY SCALES 2021/22 AND 2022/23

It was agreed the Council should budget for expected increases of 1.75% for 2021/22 and 2022/23

MIN ST5/21 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 2160 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business because of the confidential nature of the following items.

No public were present.

MIN ST6/21 ANNUAL APPRAISAL OF CLERK AND REVIEW OF CLERK'S HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk's annual appraisal was noted and agreed.

A discussion took place regarding the timing of the Town Clerk's Annual Review and a number of recommendations were agreed to submit to Full Council - full details are contained in the confidential note to be produced which will be placed on file and attached to the Clerk's appraisal for 2021.

It was agreed that a vote of thanks should be recorded for the sterling work carried out by the Town Clerk during another difficult year.

MIN ST7/21 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR CLERK IN 2022/23

It was confirmed Presteigne and Norton's contribution to the total training budget for the Clerk was £330 per annum. It was agreed this amount for training be allocated for 2022-23. It was noted there is a 50% bursary available for the SLCC Conference for Welsh Clerks and it was agreed this should be explored. It was agreed to invite the Clerk into the meeting for clarification on this point.

The Clerk, Mrs T Price joined the meeting to clarify and then left.

After discussion, it was agreed the training budget contribution from Presteigne and Norton Town Council would be £280, as requested by the Town Clerk.

MIN ST8/21 REVIEW OF STANDARD HOURS AND HOURS/PAYMENT FOR ALLOTMENT WORK FROM APRIL 2022

The Committee reviewed the hours spent on allotment work, as provided by the Town Clerk and were unable to set an average due to the fluctuation over the last five years. A number of recommendations were agreed to submit to Full Council - full details are contained in the confidential note to be produced which will be placed on file and attached to the Clerk's appraisal for 2021.

MIN ST9/21 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2022/23

It was agreed the Council would assume there would be a cost-of-living increase of 1.75% in both the current and forthcoming year. The budget for the Clerk be set at an amount to allow for this. The Clerk would be asked to provide amended figures for the full Council meeting. Training Budget be set at £280.

MIN ST10/21 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

None.

Summary of Recommendations -

To note that there would be no increase in pension contributions in 2022-23

To note the expected increases in the national pay scales for the current and forthcoming financial years.

To confirm the annual appraisal of the Clerk.

To recommend a Training Budget of £280 for 2022/23.

To recommend a budget for salary costs in 2022/23. Amount to be confirmed at Full Council meeting.

Recommendations regarding the Clerk's appraisal, hours, pay for allotment work etc (as per confidential note).

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT DECEMBER 2021

1. Assembly Rooms Lift: I understand that this has now been agreed by PCC and arrangements underway.

2. Street Lights, Broadaxe Business Park: I understand that these have now been changed and are the 2200k dark sky suitable lights. I have written to the Officer at Welsh Government to thank him and he has replied to say that he will be looking to use the same lanterns in other rural developments which is good news for dark skies generally.

The lantern upgrade in Norton is expected to start very soon.

3. Withy Beds, Boardwalk: As per my email to confirm the plans of PCC are to install new surface boards (5-6mm thick) which can be put in place over the top of the existing boardwalk. These boards will be screwed over the top of the existing boards and are anti slip. The cost of the boards alone is £23k with stainless steel screws coming to about £1k. He then has to pay for installation. Using this option will mean he can do the whole boardwalk rather than just 30m of the 250m if he replaced the boardwalk completely. He will also see that any rotting supports are replaced and any damaged sections repaired before the new boards go down on top. I realise that we had hoped for complete replacement but that just isn't going to happen with the money he has available.

4. Adopt a Bench: I have the ok from our insurers although we will need to write a guidance note to adopters and do a risk assessment. That I can sort out in due course. It would be helpful to have a Councillor to assist with this – to feedback and help with the guidance, the press release etc. Anyone willing to volunteer?

5. Changes to Election Rules: This was emailed around last month but in summary for you the main changes are –

- Delay in introducing personal statements for candidates so not part of the 2022 elections.
- Electronic submission of nomination forms will be an option that can be offered but it is not compulsory.
- A change to the formula for polling and counting agents.
- Publication of Home Address no longer compulsory.
- Requirement to include details of political party membership on the nomination form.

The PCC Election Team will be briefing the Powys Branch of Council Clerks on the arrangements for this in March.

6. Notices - Do Not Feed the Rats!: These are done.

7. Grants to Organisations: These did start flooding in during the last week. Just to let you know that the Playgroup is not applying this time and a letter of explanation is included within the folder of accounts which will be circulated.

8. Wales Training Seminar for Clerks: This was held on 17th November and largely concentrated on the new 'Toolkit for Town and Community Councils' the draft of which is coming out to a number of Clerks to pilot in the New Year (including me). It should help all Clerks both new and old to be able to check that they have all the necessary policies and procedures in place and references where to look for additional information and is part of a drive by both Welsh Government and the Audit Office to improve governance.

There was also a session on common insurance issues and on how to produce a Place Plan.

9. As agreed earlier in the year I have kept aside the grant requests from larger organisations so they can be considered as a whole in January. A list of these will go out to you with the January papers or before.

10. Staffing Committee: My apologies to the members of the Staffing Committee who did not receive all the papers printed off in their posted copy. I am trying to reduce printing as much as possible as part of our climate pledge but I should have stressed to you all that I do not print every single thing off and post to those still receiving their papers in this way although you can always ask for something if you particularly want it. The meeting papers in full are those in the pdf sent to you as part of the summons to attend the meeting.

Over half of you do still ask for posted papers and that is of course fine and I can print all the documents if you wish but this does come at a cost both in time, in the office expenses and to the environment. Let me have your thoughts at the meeting so I know what you prefer.

11. Annual Report: I am sure Members will remember that the first Annual Report as required in the recent Local Government Act will need to cover the 2021-22 year. I am after volunteers to provide an article on an area of Council activity for example the new Barn (a bit before this year but still worth a write up), the Tree Weekend, the nature reserve project, Town Wifi plans, the work of a Councillor etc or indeed anything you consider relevant. I hope many of you, if not all, stand again in May but if not I need to get your items in ready! It's an annoying year to start really as it would have been good to include Councillor profiles for Members during the year in questions but that does not make sense if you are no longer in the role.

12. External Audit: Just in case those of you that have been on the Council for a while are wondering this has still not been received. This is the first year that the Wales Audit Office have taken the work back in house and they have also had to cope with a large number of audits not completed by the contractors last year. Hopefully it will arrive soon with the invoice to assist that budget allocation in January.

13. Dark Skies: Helen Gooderham has now been into the Primary School and the school has thanked her as follows – *I just wanted to say a huge diolch yn fawr (thank you) for this morning. Both the staff and children found it incredibly interesting and really enjoyed it. We really appreciate you giving up your time. It's so lovely for them to hear what's going on in Presteigne and their community.*

14. New Welsh Government Toolkit (Draft): Members have all received an email about this and the need for input from Members if at all possible. The final toolkit is intended to be available to all Councils soon after the May elections.

15. Work on Meadow: Cllr. Bennett has now cut the hedge in Eddie's Meadow that the tractor cannot access. He has also put the replacement oak post in in the car park. It turns out the posts are set into massive amounts of concrete. Bearing that in mind he managed to dig out all of the rotten post and soil from the middle of the concrete and put the new post back into the original hole in the concrete. As the new post is ever so slightly smaller than the old it has a slight wobble to it but there's no way it will fall over and should sure up as the soil hardens around it.

16. CCTV: I have looked into this further, meeting to Police Officers on the Meadow to discuss. They could only suggest cctv and referred me to various data protection policies. It would involve quite a lot of extra administration with additional policies and procedures, the need to secure the hard drive onsite so there was no access to the data by the public or staff/Members other than myself (data protection). The alternative to stream direct to me and back up online would require the data to be encrypted (again to secure the data). I have spoken to Brecon TC who have systems in place. The cost for their toilets was £1500 approx. While ours would not necessarily be the same it seems it would be a significant figure. I wonder if the signage alone would be a good first step and may help as a deterrent. The police advise that this is permissible.

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2021
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. F. Preece (Mayor), D. Davies, T. Owens, R. Bamford (via video link), C. Ruby C. Kirkby MBE, B. Baynham, R. Bennett, P. Smith, J. Wilding, N. Rogers.

Apologies: Cllr. D. Edwards (Deputy Mayor).

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. Baynham, Cabinet Member at Powys County Council and related to member of staff, re letter from Dolau School.

Cllr. Bennett, close friend of applicant, re. Planning applications 21/1910/FUL and 21/1911/LBC.

*Cllr. Kirkby, close friend of applicant, re. Planning applications 21/1910/FUL and 21/1911/LBC.
close friend of one applicant, re. co-option.*

Cllr. P. Smith, close friend of one applicant, re. co-option.

MIN 3966 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2021 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3967 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Cemetery: Cllr. Kirkby asked if there had been progress on the fencing works and Cllr. Baynham agreed to ask the Officer if they would accept the verbal quote or if they required something in writing.

(2) CCTV: The Clerk reported that she had not heard anything further from the police and agreed to chase this up.

(3) Trees by Pond, Lower Went's Meadow: The Clerk confirmed that the tree work contractor had been asked to attend to the extra two trees although he had not yet been on site.

(4) December meeting – New Projects: Members were reminded about putting forward of projects for the 2022-23 budget. There was no requirement for detailed figures however an estimate of cost would be useful.

(5) Council Tax Base: The figure for 2022-23 would be £1308.28 per £1 precepted, up from last year's figure which was £1287.30. (In 2021-22 a precept of £54 was set). Full calculations of the options would be provided with the January meeting papers.

MIN 3968 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The email of thanks from PACDG (street cleaning) was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Mrs T.A. Price | £1461.91 (inc allotment hours) |
| HM Revenue & Customs | £607.53 |
| NEST Pensions (direct debit) | £130.06 |
| T. Lloyd-John | £678.23 |
| N. Close | £77.00 |
| N. Close | £160.99 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Artisan Print (leaflets – nature reserve) | £7.96 |
| Highground Maintenance Ltd | £319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT |

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Arrow Plant & Tool Hire (for new barn) | £200.58 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Mrs T.A. Price (expenses) | £44.67 |
| Mrs T.A. Price (expenses – Meadow locks) | £8.99 MEADOW ACCOUNT |
| Branching Out (forest school) (climate crisis grant) | £250.00 |
| Border Janitorial Supplies | £74.40 |
| Kington Building Supplies (wood bark) | £177.58 MEADOW ACCOUNT |

(3) Advertisements on Town Website 2022: Members agreed to keep the advertising charges the same as 2019 (2020 was free due to covid). They also agreed to continue the advertisement for the site in Broad Sheep magazine at a cost of £40 per year.

Broad Sheep (advertisement) £40.00

(4) Remuneration of Members: Noted that all Members had now refused the annual £150 allowance for 2021-22.

(5) Request for British Sign Language Posters at Wilson Terrace Playground: Members considered the request for some signs at the playground. Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council had given permission but had asked for bilingual signage. It was agreed that a maximum budget of £100 be allocated from free reserves to purchase some signs.

(6) Bank Transfer: The following bank transfer was approved –
Meadow Account to Treasurer Account £131.06 (to cover allotment hours worked by Clerk).

MIN 3969 PLANNING

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

21/1839/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331282 N: 264547 Proposal: Lopping of branches that are low/diseased or threatening buildings, numbered on plan with species and action required Location: Radnorshire Arms Hotel, High Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/1864/REM Grid Reference: E:330425 N: 267326 Proposal: Section 73 application to remove condition 6 from planning approval 21/0389/HH in relation to archaeological contractors and groundworks Site Address: The Old Vicarage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2EN. Resolved no objections be raised.

21/1900/FUL Grid Reference: E:330707 N: 264485 Proposal: Erection of a holiday let chalet, connection to an existing package treatment plant and formation of internal access track Site Address: Holiday Chalet at Harp Meadow, Warden Road, Presteigne, LD8 2NL. Resolved no objections subject to the following - a suitable condition be placed on the dwelling to ensure it remains permanently as a holiday unit only; the chalet is no larger in size than the one already on site and given there will now be four chalets in close proximity that the Planning Department feels this is an acceptable density.

Cllrs. Bennett and Kirkby left the room for the duration of the following two items.

21/1911/LBC Grid Reference: E:331414 N: 264389 Proposal: Listed building consent to renovate existing domestic accommodation including re-siting stairs; to provide a new external door opening; to replace an existing rooflight and add 2 additional rooflights; to enlarge proposed storage shed Site Address: Corner House, High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections subject to the approval of the Built Heritage Officer.

21/1910/HH Grid Reference: E:331414 N: 264389 Proposal: Renovations to existing domestic accommodation including re siting stairs; to provide a new external door opening; to replace an existing rooflight and add 2 additional rooflights; to enlarge proposed storage shed Site Address: Corner House, High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections subject to the approval of the Built Heritage Officer.

Cllrs. Bennett and Kirkby returned to the room.

It was noted that building work had commenced in the Radnorshire Arms Garage without any planning permission being sought. Cllr Baynham had asked the Built Heritage Officer for clarification regarding the necessity for Listed Building Consent for the works.

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

- 21/1044/HH, Thistlebrook, Meeting House Lane, Norton: Consent 22nd September.
- 21/0987/FUL, Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne: Consent 5th October.
- 21/1453/CAC, Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne: Consent 5th October.

- 21/1523/FUL, Faraway, Stonewall Hill, Presteigne: Consent 11th October.
- 21/116/FUL, Unit 4, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne: Consent 25th October.
- 21/0977/FUL, Thistlebrook, Meeting House Lane, Norton: Consent 1st November.
- 21/0702/FUL, Plot 4 Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne: Approval 2nd November.

MIN 3970 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Active Travel Route: The Clerk had raised the various queries on the one-way trial and received the following replies –

- The Area Traffic Officer is aware of the lighting issue with the one no entry sign, which is due to difficulties connecting to an electrical supply. Street Lighting are still looking at this but, in the meantime, an assessment had been made and the combination of the street lighting, the other (lit) no entry sign, as well as the recently installed road markings, was sufficient at this time.
- With regards to the extra signage at the bottom of Station Road, again an assessment was made and there was no additional signage recommended, with all that required by Highway legislation having been installed already.
- The one-way system is a trial so all queries and feedback can be reviewed as part of the analysis process at the end of the eighteen months.
- Unsure where google get their road information from but the highway layouts which Powys County Council are responsible for (as Highways Authority) are recorded on a national gazetteer.

Cllr. Baynham confirmed that there was no likelihood of any further routes in the Presteigne and Norton area for some time and so it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda for the time being.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: The following items were discussed –

- General Update: The County Council are expecting the first batch of lanterns to be delivered in November and to start installing in Norton at the start of December.
- The Streetlighting department have got a huge amount of work on this winter, so they will only have one electrician installing lanterns in Presteigne and maybe not on it full time, so the work may roll over into the new financial year.
- Agreement to fund difference in cost for future replacements to the Pudsey Diamond Light fittings confirmed.
- Light Readings (as previously circulated): Members noted the light fittings and asked Mr. Harling-Bowen to explain the reasons for the differences to the earlier readings. Mr. Harling-Bowen confirmed that this was probably due to different weather conditions at the time the readings were taken.
- Letters of support, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, Radnorshire Mammal Group, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Caring for God's Acre: Noted.
- Welsh Water Community Fund Grant Application: Members were delighted to learn that the project had been awarded £500. The Clerk would write a formal letter of thanks to Welsh Water, not only for this grant but also as thanks for all the grants given to organisations in the Presteigne and Norton area by the Fund.
- Lighting of Welsh Water Sites: The Clerk was asked to chase the enquiry re. the use of 'dark sky friendly' permanent lighting on the Welsh water sites once work was complete.

(3) Climate Crisis: Update: Cllr. Bamford reported that the tree weekend had been a great success.

(4) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Cllr. Kirkby asked about progress with the compensation claim and the Clerk confirmed it was still with Welsh Water for review.

(5) Lugg Bridge: Members noted the reply from the County Council which was as follows –

Lugg Bridge is a structure that spans the border between Powys and Herefordshire. The bridge is maintained as a joint structure by Powys as the designated Maintaining Authority.

The bridge was last formally inspected on 28/12/2020 which identified a number of low priority remedial works including pointing and vegetation removal to various parts of the structure. These identified works will be scheduled in due course but may be subject to delays due to other higher priority works and available budget. No concern was raised at the time of the inspection about the overall integrity of the bridge.

With regard to the weight capacity of the bridge, the structure was strengthened back in 1981 where a reinforced concrete saddle was constructed over the three arches. This substantially increased the load

carrying capacity to well in excess of even the current permitted maximum allowable load of vehicles that can travel without authorisation, currently set at 44 tonnes, which is the typical articulated HGV with a 3-axle tractor unit and a 3-axle trailer. Any loads in excess of this are deemed to be Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL's) and require authorisation from the Highway Authority to travel the route. These are assessed on a case-by-case basis. As such no weight restriction is considered necessary at this time.

Cllr. Kirkby expressed concern that the pointing the top side of the bridge at the bottom of the arches needed more urgent attention than stated as it would leave the stones very vulnerable to damage from flood water. He wanted PCC to confirm that the small bridge over the leat had also been strengthened for these large loads. He also pointed out that the end stone was at an angle and needed re-setting correctly. This had been reported some 3-4 years ago. He repeated his offer to meet an officer on site. The Clerk would report these concerns to the County Council.

(6) Update on Footpath Issues: Cllr. Baynham reported that, using the funding obtained for spending in the Presteigne area, extensive works were to be carried out on a length of the path along the Clatterbrook, initially from the Joe Deakins Road and the BOAT. The path would be improved and patches of vegetation cut back hard to improve access. The Officer had looked at the issues with the walks on the town website but only one landowner had accepted the offer of a free metal gate and installation. Free stile kits would be provided to the remainder but these would have to be installed by the landowner themselves. Still no formal reply had been received regarding the Fold Farm footpath. Cllr Baynham reported that issue had been discussed with the Senior Officer in charge who had also discussed it further with the member of staff involved.

(7) Update on Street Cleaning from PACDG: Members noted that over the last month or so the cleaner has cleaned around the cenotaph twice, the length of Broad Street twice including the Scallions, the car parks and around the Secondary School. He had also been up to Norton and had a good go at the drains and manhole covers on the main road up to the church. The big problem at present of course was leaves. The cleaner focusses on whichever areas look most in need, and is very happy to respond to more requests from the Members if they see areas that need doing. He will now be doing a regular Norton visit. Members would notify the Clerk of any areas needing attention.

MIN 3971 NORTON

(1) Community Speedwatch Update: Cllr. Ruby had nothing to report and asked that the item be removed from the agenda for the time being.

(2) Community Hub/Church Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that the planning permission was still awaited.

(3) Bus Timetable Boards: Members viewed the photographs provided by a member of the public and the Clerk confirmed that the Boards were not the responsibility of the bus companies. The Clerk was asked to submit a request for refurbishment to the County Council.

At this point Cllr. Baynham suggested that a review of the bus routes themselves would be sensible and the Clerk was asked to include this on the December agenda.

MIN 3972 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The Wilson Terrace toilets were now closed for the Winter.

(2) Allotments: All items would be on the Sites and Buildings Committee agenda for the end of November.

(3) Meadows: the following matters were discussed –

- Concerns over rats/feeding of rats by barn. Members noted the reply from Environmental Health and the suggestion that the Clerk contact a professional pest controller. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for the necessary pest control. They also agreed that the Clerk produce specific notices stating the rats should not be fed.
- Update re. tree planting request Chatterbrook WI: Members noted that the WI had now found another location for a tree and so would no longer be planting one on Went's Meadow.
- Use of new Barn for Leominster Morris Men (Sunday mornings): Noted.
- Use Request from Pop Choir, 19th December: The Clerk would check the diary and confirm.

(4) Play Sufficiency Assessment: Cllr. Kirkby had reviewed the document and suggested that the following comments be submitted – to note that the Town Council has worked closely with PCC to improve the Presteigne play areas with works including the zip wire and the other items of play equipment plus the new grant for the Lugg View site. Local young people had also improved the bike track area on Went's Meadow.

- Cllr. Kirkby had also noted a provision for the removal of 'No Ball Game' signs but pointed out that one remained in Lugg View. Cllr. Baynham would arrange for this to be removed.
- (5) Weir: Members noted the reply from CPAT and the Clerk confirmed that the Officer was planning to visit and take photographs.
- (6) Lugg View Playground Grant Update: Members noted that the new equipment would be installed early in the new year weather permitting.
- (7) Adopt A Bench: Members were pleased to hear that the County Council had no objections to the scheme but that volunteers would not be covered but its insurance. The Clerk felt it would be possible to include this under the Town Council insurance but would need to check this. Members agree that the scheme go ahead subject to the Clerk being able to confirm insurance arrangements.
- (8) Wilson Terrace Playground: Members agreed to allocate the £1000 donation for the new roundabout.

MIN 3973 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- (1) Update Mid Border Arts: Members noted that the information on the lift had been sent to the County Council but that the grant money needed to be spent within six months and so a decision from the County Council was needed urgently. The group were still waiting for the formal lease. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the County Council to ask that the issue with the lift be expedited with urgency.
- (2) Town Wifi Update: No progress could be made until a contractor was appointed. Cllr. Ruby suggested that a letter be sent at once to all the businesses in High Street and Broad Street advising them of the scheme but it was agreed that it was better to do this once the contractor was in place and had carried out some initial surveys. Cllr. Kirkby asked that it be noted that the Judge's Lodgings was willing to host a modem.
- (3) Community Broadband Scheme Update: The Working Group had met with the Community Broadband Officer and Broadway Partners earlier in the week and had been impressed with the information provided. It was agreed to ask Broadway Partners to undertake the scheme with the Town Council, that the Clerk draft an initial letter for Broadway to send to residents and businesses and that project group comprise the working group of Members with interested members of the public to be possibly added at a later stage. The Clerk would inform Broadway Partners. Members also considered the extension of the scheme over the border to the properties in Ford Street, properties which had LD8 postcodes. The Working Group would discuss this further with Broadway Partners and the Broadband Officer.
- (4) Update on Presteigne Library Service/Volunteers: Cllr. Baynham reported on a meeting held with the current Acting Principal Librarian and was pleased to confirm that work had begun on getting the volunteers back into the library. Cllr. Kirkby added that he was aware that volunteers had received a communication from the Branch Librarian that day. Members also noted the details supplied on the new outreach project and asked if the mobile library would be continuing. Cllr. Baynham would check.
- (5) Letter from Police and Crime Commissioner re. public survey: Noted. Members could complete this as individuals if they wished.
- (6) Update re. Old Doctor's Surgery, Presteigne: Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council had no power to board up the building although Environmental Health had visited to investigate a rat problem. Residents were advised to report the problems via 101 and Members were encouraged to do this also. The Clerk was also asked to do so on behalf of the Town Council. The issues would also be discussed at the Community Safety Partnership meetings. Cllr. Kirkby had suggested that the police contact their colleagues in West Mercia and ask that they call on the registered owner but this had not happened as yet. Cllr. Baynham had asked for details of the charge on the property and if the sum involved would ever mean that the building would be re-possessed but had as yet had no reply.
- (7) One Voice Wales Survey on Hybrid Meetings: Agreed that the Clerk respond appropriately.
- (8) Letter of Congratulations from James Evans MS re Lugg View Playground Grant: Members noted the letter and it was agreed to invite Mr. Evans to visit the new barn and the new playground equipment in due course.
- (9) Reply from Welsh Government re. Multi Location Meetings: Members noted that a reply had been received and Welsh Government had confirmed that it would be funding a three year Digital Delivery Manager post, hosted within One Voice Wales, one role for the new post will be to advise the Minister on supporting the Local Council Sector to meet its statutory obligations under the new Act.
- Cllr. Baynham left the room for the duration of the following item.*
- (10) Statutory Notice of Closure – Llanfihangel Rhydython School and letter/email from Chair of Dolau School Action Group: Whilst sympathising with the position Members did not wish to submit any comment as a Council. Members could object as individuals if they wished.

Cllr. Baynham returned to the room.

(11) Painting Of Information Board Posts Update and Painting of Fingerposts: The Clerk reported that there were three finger posts that would probably need re-painting. It was agreed to get more detailed costs for repainting the finger posts and for the work anyway to be delayed until the better weather in the Spring. This would also allow an amount to be considered for inclusion in the 2022-23 budget.

MIN 3974 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

Agreed to re-start in December. Cllrs. Wilding and Ruby would attend.

MIN 3975 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Sensors to be installed on refuse bins so the County Council would know automatically when full.
- Investment in schools continuing via the 'Transforming Education' programme but taking longer than anticipated. Presteigne would be in phase two of the project.

Cllrs. Kirkby and Smith left the room for the duration of the following item.

MIN 3976 CO-OPTION

Members unanimously agreed that the vote be held by ballot. The Clerk circulated ballot papers. Following a vote Kate Van Den Ende was duly elected.

Cllrs. Kirkby and Smith returned to the room.

MIN 3977 DATES FOR JANUARY MEETINGS

12th January – Budget Setting Meeting.

19th January – Full Ordinary Meeting.

MIN 3978 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

- (1) Judge's Lodgings AGM: Cllr. Kirkby reported that the organisation had done well post pandemic and that plans for the flats were progressing.
- (2) Radio 4 Any Questions: Recording in Presteigne on 3rd December.
- (3) Presteigne Bonfire and Fireworks: Congratulations and thanks to Sheep Music for an excellent fireworks event.
- (4) Norton Bonfire and Fireworks: Congratulations and thanks to Norton Sports Committee for an excellent fireworks event.
- (5) Staffing Committee: Agreed to amend start time to 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.31 pm.



Transforming Presteigne Roundabouts into Wildflower Areas

During 2020 between April and November we:

- Removed unwanted plants such as nettles and docks.
- Deadheaded the daffodils and gave the areas a light scythe – targeting coarse grasses to ensure they didn't overcrowd the forthcoming plug plants. Removed the clippings.
- Planted over 60 locally sourced ox-eye daisy plug plants and 6 locally sourced knapweed plants.
- Due to the spring drought we needed to water the plants around 10 times - this kept most of them alive but with the intense heat and lack of shade around a quarter didn't make it.
- Cut and composted over 20 ton sized builders sacks of grass clippings over the year.
- Raked up and composted the grass clippings that we noticed were fly tipped in June on both roundabouts.
- Raked and prepared areas in the centre of the roundabouts for sowing seed.
- Harvested seed from St Andrews churchyard in Norton.
- Sowed the harvested seed, along with yellow rattle seed, on prepared areas.
- Undertook turf transplants between the flower rich verge and the larger Kington roundabout.

During 2021:

1. ***Remove any re-emerging unwanted plants e.g. docks, thistles, nettles (that will out-compete the finer wildflowers).*** Through the growing season we removed any re-emerging unwanted plants e.g. docks, hogweed. We also cut the seed heads off cock's-foot grass (that will out-compete the finer wildflowers). It was good to see that no nettles had returned.
We gave the areas a light scythe early on – targeting coarse grasses to avoid them overcrowding the finer wildflowers. We raked, removed and disposed of the clippings.
2. ***Supplement the ox-eye daisy plug plants with a further 10 plants in each roundabout (all of local provenance). Norton churchyard has very few daisies so it would be best not to harvest this particular species from there. Ox-eye daisies are key in making the***

roundabouts visually attractive so people can easily understand why the grass has been left to grow.

In spring we planted a further 10 Ox-eye daisy plants in each roundabout. We planted them in three clumps per roundabout to decrease the competition with the grass. These have all taken well. In September we planted a further 20 plants in each roundabout including Cowslips, Lady's Bedstraw, Meadow Cranesbill, Knapweed and St John's Wort.

3. *Undertake 2 cuts throughout the early growing season, collecting and removing clippings after each cut. This cutting ceases during May, June and July and the flowers are left to bloom.*

We did this selectively with a scythe, rather than a mower, so that we could leave the daffodils enough time to die back. The grass arisings were fewer than last year which is a good sign.

4. *After the flowers have bloomed a 3rd cut and removal of the long grass will take place.*
This was undertaken in July - 9 ton-sized bags of grass clippings were removed.

5. *In July/August seeds will be collected from St Andrew's churchyard. These will be sown on the roundabouts along with the seeds of yellow rattle.*

Seeds were collected and were sown in September, along with more £50 worth of yellow rattle seed.

6. *One further cut (4th cut) will be undertaken in October so the grass is short and neat all through the winter.*

In September the contractors (council?) cut the outside 3m of each roundabout. We cut the inside portion of each roundabout, raked up, removed and disposed of the grass clippings. We planted more wildflower plants and seeds (as outlined in number 2).

This proposal was based on the current contractors continuing to cut the 3m edge around each roundabout at their normal frequency but this year they didn't do this. Unfortunately this led to the roundabouts looking more neglected than planned. However what has gone well is the addition of more plants and seeds which should lead to a better show of perennial wild flowers in 2022. The flowers will be more apparent if the contractors keep the edge close mown.

Thank you for inviting us to be involved in this initiative.

Caring for God's Acre
11 Drovers House, The Auction Yard, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9BZ
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
info@cfga.org.uk
01588 673041

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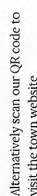
Mae'r map hwn yn dangos cyfeusterau a mamau gallweddol i ymweld â nhw yn y dref. Mae manylion Taith Gerdded y Dref, sydd wedi ei seilio ar yr un map, ar gael yn rhad ac am ddim ac mae'n cynnwys mwng 20 o seocod gwyth a mamau o ddiddordeb hanesyddol - gallwch ddod o hyd i gopïau yn Angweddfa Llety'r Barnwr siopau anrwydol yn y dref, a gallwch ei lawrwytho o wefan y dref.

Yn ogystal â'r warchodfa natur, y ddôl a'r coedwigoedd y gallwch eu gweld ar y map, gallwch hefyd gerdded yn ysthyth o'r dref i'r wlad ac archwilio cefn gwlad gogoneddus Sir Faesyfed. Gallwch gael tafenni am y llwybrau cerdded yrr o Lety'r Barnwr neu eu lawrlwytho o wefan y dref.

Ar ein Stryd Fawr ffyniannus mae amrywiaeth o siopau, afardai a chaffis annibynnol – dim ond ychydig funudau droed o'r fan hon ac yn aros i gacl eu harchwilio.

rhellach i ffordd, mae Llanandras wedi'i amgylchynu gan erddi gogonedus, ffermydd gwaith, cestyll, plastai a gwylodig a safleoedd archeolol, ac wrth gwrs, gefn gwlad godiog. Mae gwybodaeth ar gael yn Llety'r Barnwr ac ar welan y dref. Mae trefi a phentrefi o ddiddordeb ar y ddwy ochr y ffin sy'n hawldd eu cyraedd, yn cynnwys Jwyldd, Llanillien a Llanfair-ym-Muallt, ac mae hyd yn ffordd Henffordd lai nae awr i ffordd mewn car.

For more information, have a look at our comprehensive
own website – www.presteigne.org.uk
gael rhagor o wybodaeth, edrychiwch ar ein gwefan gyn-
nwyslawr – www.presteigne.org.uk



Fel arall sganiwch ein cod QR i
ymweld â gwefan y dref

