

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Mrs Tracey Price (Clerk)
Garn Farm
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15th July, 2021

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council on **WEDNESDAY 21st July, 2021 at 7.00 p.m.** via video conferencing and you are hereby summoned to attend.

The public and press are cordially invited to attend.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME DUE TO GUEST SPEAKER, MARTIN KEMP FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85176695584?pwd=MIIsYTlnVFpxQ0pUNEtpa3JlBWUpXdz09>

Meeting ID: 851 7669 5584 Passcode: 526068

Or Dial in by your location 0330 088 5830 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2021 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

4. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

From the Meeting of 16th June. Also to receive the Clerk's Report.

5. FINANCE

a) Donations: To consider the following donations –

Norton Community Trust £2000.00 (precepted)

Also to note the email of thanks from Presteigne Festival.

b) Payments: to approve the following payments –

Artisan Print (posters – pruning)	£14.70 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Morti Sport & Play (part – dispenser)	£48.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mrs T.A. Price	£1383.56
HM Revenue & Customs	£554.82
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£130.06
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace)	£26.31
JRB Enterprises Ltd (dog bags)	£261.60 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Chem Assist (for toilets)	£166.80
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace)(Direct Debit)	£33.88
EDF Energy (Hereford Street)(Direct Debit)	£89.65
EDF Energy (Barn)(Direct Debit)	£21.59 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Broxap (new bench)	£837.60
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Lloyd-John	£594.23
Welsh Water (Meadow)(Direct Debit)	£13.49 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£56.00
N. Close	£234.50 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Welsh Water (Wilson Terrace Toilets) (Direct Debit)	£38.29
Welsh Water ((Hereford Street Toilets) (Direct Debit)	£174.25

c) Budget Update to end of June, 2021.

d) To consider a budget to improve audibility at Council meetings.

e) To consider purchase of sandwich boards for general community use (Cllr. Kirkby) (cost £150).

f) To note the following receipts –

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

6. PLANNING

(a) To consider applications received:

21/1044/HH Grid Reference: E:330454 N: 268126 Proposal: Demolition of storage container and erection of a garage with storage over Site Address: Thistle Brook, Meeting House Lane, Norton, Presteigne.

21/1167/HH Grid Reference: E:331205 N: 264501 Proposal: Erection of an extension, to include some demolition Site Address: 33 Castle Road, Presteigne.

21/0987/FUL Grid Reference: E:331637 N: 264197 Proposal: Change of use of on existing shop to residential, partial removal of single storey extension and improvements to parking Site Address: Townsend House, 24 Hereford Street, Presteigne.

21/0741/HH Grid Reference: E:330764 N: 264777 Proposal: Erection of an extension Site Address: 30 Warden Close, Presteigne.

21/1217/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331380 N: 264626 Proposal: Proposed works to tree in a conservation area (removal of sycamore tree) Location: The Rectory, St David's Street, Presteigne.

21/1095/HH Grid Reference: E:331152 N: 264466 Proposal: Creation of a dropped kerb Site Address: 52 Castle Road, Presteigne.

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 –
21/0389/HH Old Vicarage, Norton: Consent 29th June.
21/0390/LBC Old Vicarage, Norton: Consent 29th June.

7. HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- a) Active Travel Routes Update.
- b) Dark Skies/Lighting: Update on trial of PIR sensors.
- c) Climate Crisis: Update.
- d) High Street Grant Update.
- e) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade Update and report on site meeting. (Cllr. Kirkby).
- f) Presteigne Cemetery Opening Update. (Note consideration of request re. fees will be at the end of July).
- g) Bench Refurbishment Updates (Cllr. Kirkby).
- h) Grass Cutting Schedule and comments from public on reduced cutting. (safety cut mid May and mid July, full cut mid September).
- i) Access for Fire Engine/Parking by Cashpoint.

8. NORTON

- a) Community Speedwatch Update (as emailed 15th July).
- b) Norton Community Trust Update and to consider a letter of support.

9. SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

- a) Public Conveniences:
 - To note completion of electrical work to Toilet Blocks.
 - To agree works to re-paint cubicle doors (ladies) Hereford Street Building. (Estimated cost £150-200 for labour and materials)
- b) Allotments: Update on fence works (Cllr. Wilding).

- c) Meadows: To include –
 - Western Power Tree Works.
 - Update re. recent vandalism.
 - Report on Orchard Pruning.
 - Report on grass cutting around orchard etc (Cllr. Bamford).
 - Scouts Activity Day – 27th August.
 - Guerrilla Gardener's/Ligne Garden.
 - Report on condition of Boultibrooke Weir and meeting with NRW (see separate report).
 - Update on use of New Barn (see Clerk's Report).
 - Possible Use by Play Radnor during Summer Holidays.
- d) Former Reservoir Ground Information Boards (Waterworks Museum): Update Cllr. Kirkby.

10. CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- a) Christmas Lights Anchorage Point Testing Update.
- b) Mayor's Chain Update/further response of County Council on Radnorshire Chain.
- c) Police and Crime Panel Report 20/21 (as emailed): Information only.
- d) Community Broadband: To further consider the opportunity available and whether to proceed with such a project and if so to consider forming a working group to take the next steps.
- e) Town Wifi Scheme SMART towns: To consider possible projects as per email (previously circulated).
- f) Update re. old Doctor's Surgery, Harper's Lane.
- g) To note any replies re. dental provision.
- h) Speeding on Knighton Road Update.
- i) East Radnorshire Day Centre: Report by Cllr. Baynham.
- j) Welsh Government: - Consultation on Qualifications of Clerks in Wales Regulations (closes 24th September).
- k) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine.
- l) To receive the reply from Presteigne Medical Centre on access to the Surgery.
- m) To consider concerns over fire service changes (Cllr. Kirkby).

11. TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY/

No Surgeries at present. To be reviewed at August meeting.

12. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

13. RESIGNATION OF CLLR. VEARY

To note the resignation of Cllr Veary and to consider a replacement youth representative and replacement Member for the Climate Change Working group.

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

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

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

- 16. To consider the quotes received for tree works on Council land.

Enc. Clerk's Report July. Minutes of June Meeting. Various Background papers.

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.

PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT

JULY 2021

1. Audibility at Council Meetings: Members will all be aware that this has been raised as an issue via email by several members of the public following the May meeting and that a solution is being looked at. Mid Border Arts are installing their own broadband connection and with the help of Cllr. Owens we expect to have a solution. There is an item under finance to discuss.

2. Dark Skies: The PIR sensors trial is underway. Please feed back to me any comments you have. Currently these are set to –

Switch on at 100% after dark when presence detected.

Dim down to 30% after one minute of no presence detection.

Stay at 30% until further presence detected.

Note: These are trial settings only to allow more people to experience the trial without having to wait until midnight.

Powys County Council have been very good at assisting with this and also very patient in waiting to carry out the lighting work until our testing has been carried out. You will recall that the supplier and PCC are willing to provide a number of sensors for installation if these are agreed and there was also the question of using the gofundme monies and the Town Council allocated reserve to purchase more of these sensors. At the meeting therefore I am asking for the following decisions (if you feel ready to do so) –

- Should the sensors be fitted and if so where (NB PCC do not wish to do this on housing estates). Centrally through the town as discussed previously?
- Do you wish to use additional funds to purchase more sensors given that retro fitting is problematic and expensive?
- If so how much funding do you wish to allocate?
- Next Steps regarding other lighting in our area?
- Next steps regarding external lighting at the Assembly Rooms if any at present.

Letters of support have been received from James Evans AM and Nigel Brinn at Powys County Council.

3. Visibility at Junctions – Grass Cutting: Cllr. Baynham had arranged for these to be inspected and the grass cutters were on site on 23rd June to cut where necessary.

4. Cleaning of Hereford Street Toilets: Again Members have been informed of the questions raised and of my replies. The resident has been advised of the formal complaints procedure should they not be satisfied. I should add that the cleaner has this month reported that excrement was smeared over the wall of a cubicle at Wilson Terrace and that it is regularly on the floors at both sites. I think this illustrates the work put in and the willingness to tackle the most unpleasant of tasks.

5. Visits from Motorhomes: I had a call from a visitor who uses the Hereford Street car park and so our public toilets there and the lady particularly asked that I pass on her thanks for running the facility and keeping it in such good order. She was also pleased that it is open 24 hours a day.

6. Allotment Plot: Concerns were raised by the PNAA in April over the condition of one plot at the site. I was in touch with the tenant at the time and they very much wished to keep the plot but for various reasons were struggling to get to it at present. They agreed to cover it over/keep down the weeds until they were able to re-commence full cultivation. This did not happen and I have been in touch again and been assured that it will be done very soon.

7. Vandalism on Went's Meadow: The police inform me they have closed the enquiry – *'All lines of enquiry are complete, no witnesses identified and no CCTV of the area. No suspects identified,*

therefore crime has been closed. Local NPT area aware and will included the offence location in their Patrols.'

8. Use of New Community Barn: I just wanted to update you on use of the building at present. It continues to be used every weekday evening for several hours each plus several mornings and afternoons throughout the week and weekend. Donations towards upkeep are encouraged but this is voluntary.

9. Scouts Event: Friday 27th August 11am – 2pm outside of the Scout hut and onto Went's Meadow. We are hoping to run between 6 – 10 activities promoting Scouting and Presteigne Scout Group. The only activity that would have fire as part of it would be on the brick BBQ stands behind the Scout hut and will be extinguished before leaving. Activities we are considering are: Boulderling wall, Laser targets, Sort archery, Fire & food - damper twists / camp fire doughnuts (individually portioned beforehand), Craft - something relevant for each section , Origami, Problem solving activities, Orienteering, Whittling and fire lighting, Shelter building, Knot station.

10. Ligne Garden: Thanks to the Guerrilla Gardeners for their work at the Ligne Garden.

11. Old Doctor's Surgery, Harper's Lane: The police have replied as follows –
We held a joint visit with the Fire Service and Environmental Health in relation to this property two weeks ago due to concerns of its safety as we are aware youths are accessing it. Our Crime Prevention Officer also conducted a survey which has since been shared with the relevant partner agencies to stress the severity of our concerns and the need for it be secured. Environmental Heath agreed to make contact with the necessary team to arrange for the property to be boarded up so prevent access. I will chase this today to see where we are at with it. The report produced was also going to be shared with the owner of the property who we personally have had difficulty reaching.

The premises is on our daily patrol plan and is therefore checked daily- unfortunately during day shifts this means it is checked when the youths are likely in school/ college and is therefore unattended. I believe I know who the youths entering the building are- and they have been advised numerous time- although haven't been caught actually in the premises. Unfortunately with all the windows damaged and the door unable to close its easy for them to access the property. If the neighbours could report their concerns at the time via 101 that would be a great help as we can get straight there if we are local but will prompt a response from Llandrindod if there are no officers working from Presteigne increasing our chances of catching the youths in the act.

Unfortunately I didn't attend the joint visit as I was on an alternative engagement, however Fraser did. He's off today but back in tomorrow so I'll speak to him then to see where we are at with this as I know efforts were being made by partner services to secure the building, make contact with the owner and remove some of the vehicles from the front. I hope that helps in terms of a starting point as efforts are underway to get the building secured- I'll try and hurry this a long if I can prior to the summer holidays as we will no doubt see a peak in activity at this location during this time when the youths aren't committed with school and college.

12. Dental Provision: As requested I wrote to our MP, MS etc. James Evans MS had raised a question at the senedd and the link is

<https://record.assembly.wales/WrittenQuestion/82584>

His response to the Town Council was – Thank you for contacting James Evans MS. He has seen the documentation from Llandrindod Wells Town Council on this matter and is meeting them in the coming weeks to discuss in further detail. James Evans MS has asked Welsh Government what support they intend to provide to address the declining provision of NHS dentists in Brecon & Radnorshire.

James Evans MS is committed to working with Powys Local Teaching Health Board, Welsh Government and the British Dentistry Association to try to improve our dental provision here in Brecon & Radnorshire.

13. Speeding on Knighton Road: Formal reply from Highways via Cllr. Baynham - *I have asked our travel team and they have advised that the best route is for the community to go to the police regarding speeding. Another way is to go to Go Safe and they will be able to assist. The strips can monitor speed, count and classification, they have advised that the community could contact the travel team for these to be put in place but it would be something that they would have to pay for. I will be out in Presteigne soon so I will check the signs and road markings to make sure they are ok. I do have another contact but I would like to discuss with him first, he deals with motorbike safety and he can put relevant signs/marker boards up, but I will check what he can do first and get back to you. Hope this is some help to you.*

14. Gazebos: The School has apologised for removing the gazebos without permission. I have stressed that the Council is most willing for the school to use them but does need to know if this is planned to make sure they are not already in use.

15. The Council on Social Media: I thought I would update you on this side of things as I have not done so for a while. The Council has two facebook pages - the Town Council page and one for Presteigne and Norton Covid support. Both pages I post on regularly – several times per week.

The Council fb page has 590 followers and from 8th June to 5th July the total post reach was 2187 and the total engagements with posts was 786. Often the reach is fairly immediate – within a few hours or one day and it is a useful way of communicating with the public. Some posts on their own reach more than 1000 people.

The covid-19 page is gradually needing less posts than during the height of the pandemic. It has 492 followers and during the same period had a post reach of 365 and 111 engagements with the posts.

I tend not to reply via facebook to any comments/questions but do so via private message or email if needed.

The Council also has an Instagram account which I use much less but again it is a useful way of communicating and currently has 163 followers.

To those Members on facebook – please share Council posts if you can and encourage others to follow the page.

PRECEPT 2021-22	BUDGET UPDATE	
Expenditures		
Council Administration Costs		
Mayor's Allowance - NOW 1500 INC 500 EXP	1200	£500.00
Clerk's Salary PAYE inclusive	25500	£6,075.26
Audit Fee (Internal and External)	750	£110.00
Insurance (agreement to 2/9/22)	1200	
Membership of SLCC	240	£234.00
Stationery & Computer Sundries/Petty Cash	650	£311.53
Computer Service/Repairs	150	
One Voice Wales Annual fee	475	£476.00
Training/Conference Fees for Clerk	200	
Travelling Expenses	200	
Election Expenses	300	
Remuneration of Councillors/Cllr Expenses	0	
Councillor Training	150	
Information Commissioner Data Registration	35	£35.00
	31,050.00	7,741.79
Donations & S137s		
Air Ambulance	300	£300.00
British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths)	60	
East Radnorshire Day Centre	2000	£2,000.00
Knighton & District Leg Club	100	
Memorial Hall	750	£750.00
Mid Border Arts	1250	£1,250.00
Norton Community Trust	2000	
Norton Sports Committee (Fireworks)	250	
PACDG	250	£250.00
1st Presteigne Guides	100	£100.00
Presteigne Festival	1250	£1,250.00
Presteigne Fireworks Display (Sheep Music)	500	
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup	500	£500.00
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250	£250.00
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000	£2,000.00
Powys CAB	200	£200.00
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	250	
The Samaritans	200	£200.00
Wardens Guardian Foundation	250	£250.00
Youth Project - see below	0	
Miscellaneous (MBA & Macmillan)	1500	£287.50
	13,960.00	9,587.50
Ongoing Projects:		
Anchorage Test for Xmas Lights	100	
Toilet Blocks (2)	9000	£2,077.26
PACDG (street cleaning)	250	
Funding twds Town Library Service (reserve held)	0	
Presteigne Christmas Lights	1300	
Wildflowers/ Bulbs/Verges/Roundabouts	500	
Street Lighting/Dark Skies Project	750	
Climate Crisis Project Grants	1000	
	12,900.00	2,077.26

PRECEPT 2021-22		BUDGET UPDATE	
Projects 2021-22			
	Reuse and Repair	1000	
	Footpath Maintenance	100	
		1,100.00	0.00
Went's Meadow Site inc MUGA etc, Eddie's Meadow			
	Weekly Inspections (inc defib checks)	1300	£252.00
	General Maintenance inc dog bags	3000	£1,137.60
	Grass Cutting/weed killing	3500	£798.93
	Tree works (to use reserves)	0	
	MUGA / New Barn Reserve	2000	
	Allotments	0	
	Utilities/Annual Inspection	400	£25.91
	Misc.	300	
		10,500.00	£2,214.44
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		69,510.00	21,620.99
	Monies allocated to specific reserves		£2,400.00
	Monies re-allocated to free reserves		£0.00
		plus spend from budget is	
			£24,020.99
Spending not within Original Allocated Budget Spend			
Youth Project (from allocated reserve) Sign - cashpoint (34.95 and 3.50)			£1,200.00
			£38.45
			£1,238.45
	VAT Treasurer		£88.75
	VAT Meadow		£345.90
	VAT Allotments		£0.00
	Total VAT		£434.65
GRAND TOTAL ACTUAL SPEND (AS PER ACCOUNTS)			£23,294.09
Check Totals -			
	(Treasurer)	20733.75	
	Allotments)	0	
	(Meadow)	2560.34	
	Check Figure	23294.09	

Site Meeting with NRW Representative – 14th July, 2021

Following on from the NRW/Presteigne Town Council meeting today to discuss possible actions for the weir and the river channel I have summarised the discussion below.

NRW advise that the first step is to contact the CPAT to let them know that the weir is beginning to fail and that the Town Council are considering their options and would like to better understand the significance of the historic value of the weir and CPAT view on the options that might be considered. A response from CPAT will help shape options.

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

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

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

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

OP 1: Do nothing

Op 2: Complete soft engineering work to protect the riverbank by the allotments and the failing end of the weir. Peter Smith suggested that some of the stone abutments at each side of the weir would benefit from some lime repointing NRW agree this would be appropriate but the trees on these banks and the present erosive flows are the most significant issue in the long term integrity of these walls. For information as we know lime mortar is highly alkaline like cement and highly damaging to the ecology of rivers so if this work is carried (albeit minor works) it needs to be done very carefully to avoid any falling into the water. The RWT withy beds may be a source of willow and timber. For information NRW have a potential source of money this year to fund the soft revetment (bank protection) works and possibly weir notch which would all have to be carried out by 1st October this year and there is a possibility that the funding will also be available next year however, though the review of all the weirs around Presteigne as mentioned above will likely guide where this money would be prioritised. I will be able to make a case within NRW for the spend especially if it looks like an underspend is likely then NRW will probably look to spend the money if it demonstrates benefit to the river.

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

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

Clearly some options such as 2 and 3 can be combined and consideration should be given to the fact that any works carried out would likely require maintenance and monitoring in the long term. This may be required as part of a Flood risk activity Permit (FRAP).

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

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

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