

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2020
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CORONAVIRUS)
(WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

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

Apologies: Cllrs. L. Veary, C. Ruby, N. Rogers, R. Bamford, B. Baynham.

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:

Cllr. R. Bennett, friend of applicant for use of Meadow for adventure cinema, re. use of Meadow for Adventure Cinema.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. R. 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 20/1687/LBC.

Prior to the meeting Members received an update from Kerem Asfuroglu of Dark Source on the lighting project. He confirmed that the trial would be taking place in January and repeated his thanks to the County Council for their support for this. Three columns in Broad Street and three in High Street would be changed. He also provided images of High Street and the Assembly Rooms building with potential enhanced lighting as suggestions for delivering part of the enhanced lighting part of the project. Full funding had not yet been obtained. Cllr. Kirkby pointed out that the lights would need to be out of reach of pedestrians and also suggested that it might be possible to include enhanced lighting in the covid-19 support grant the Council was considering applying for. It was agreed to discuss this with the Powys CC Officers concerned.

Mr. Asfuroglu confirmed that current funds held were approximately £2500 (including the TC budgeted allocation of £750). He also confirmed that he was investigating the possible need for planning permission.

MIN 3816 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October, 2020 and the Staffing Committee meeting of 2nd November were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3817 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Missing Bin, St. David's Street: Still not replaced.

(2) Radnorshire Arms Garage: The County Council had now cordoned this off in order to keep the public safe and were contacting the owners. Several tiles had fallen and the weather vane had been removed. Members asked if the barriers could be made more stable as they were continually being moved and also if the Clerk could check if it was necessary to cordon off the whole pavement as pedestrians were having to walk in the road.

(3) GDPR Forms: The Clerk now had a form from every Member.

(4) Mayor's Chain: Cllr. Owens reported that he had now been able to contact a local repairer and Members agreed that the Chain be repaired and cleaned. He was also asked to get a price for some additional discs to be added.

(5) Remembrance Sunday: Cllr. Owens reported on the event which had been of necessity scaled back due to the Covid-19 crisis. Wreaths had been laid for the Town Council in Norton and Presteigne.

(6) Zip Wire: Cllr. Kirkby reported that work had been due to start on site that day and the Clerk confirmed that this had happened but that there had been issues with breaking up the existing concrete and the work was expected to take longer than planned.

(7) Christmas Lights: The lights were due to be installed over the weekend of 21/22nd November and it was agreed that they should be turned on immediately.

(8) Taxation of Member Allowances: Members noted the Clerk's report which stated that One Voice Wales was waiting for Welsh Government to report on a meeting with HMRC to discuss this issue.

(9) Attendance at SLCC National Conference: Members noted that the Clerk had attended the National Conference of Council Clerks which had been held via video conferencing.

MIN 3818 FINANCE

(1) Donations: Members considered the application for a grant from the Bracken Trust Cancer Support Centre. It was agreed to donate £250 - £150 from the miscellaneous donations budget and £100 from free reserves.

Bracken Trust	£250.00
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The letter of thanks for the additional grant for tree works from Radnorshire Wildlife Trust was noted

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved -

NEST (direct debit)	£130.06
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1383.76
HM Revenue & Customs	£555.31
T. Lloyd-John	£618.23
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£49.00
N. Close	£101.50 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Clean My (anti viral cleaning products)	£97.94
EDF Energy (Barn)(Direct Debit)	£27.80 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Batteries Station	£9.43
Border Office Supplies (hand sanitiser gel)	£91.20
Lyreco (office supplies)	£39.54
JRB Enterprises Ltd	£119.46
T. Owens (Mayor's Expenses)	£276.48
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£27.00

(3) Website and Review of advertising charges for 2021: Members considered the charges for 2021 advertisements and it was agreed that following the difficult trading year for businesses that no charge would be made to all those businesses with existing entries. Any new applications would be charged at the current rates.

(4) Internet Banking - Review of Access by Nominated Councillor: Cllr Owens reported that he was finding it difficult and time consuming to log on and asked that a further Member be appointed to view the accounts. The Clerk reminded Members that in order to comply with the Council's internet banking policy the accounts needed to be viewed on a regular basis. Members agreed that Cllr. Davies be added as a view only user to the internet banking.

(5) Inspection of Invoices: The completion of the inspection by Cllr. Owens was noted.

MIN 3819 PLANNING

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

20/1600/FUL Grid Reference: E:330649 N: 266627 Proposal: Enhancement of the existing vehicle access to include a hardstanding splayed access with associated gates, access track widening and landscaping works Site Address: Norton Wastewater Treatment Works, Norton, Presteigne.

Resolved no objections be raised but that Welsh Water be asked to keep the temporary closure of the footpath for as short a time as possible.

Cllr. Bennett was removed to the waiting room for the duration of the following item.

20/1687/LBC Grid Reference: E:331376 N: 264432 Proposal: Various repairs and alterations to include provision of an external door, lining and insulation of internal walls and installation of a simple serviceable timber staircase Site Address: 45A High Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr. Bennett was returned to the meeting.

20/1861/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331380 N: 264567 Proposal: Application for works to a holly tree (to fell) in a conservation area Location: Land Rear of Greystones, 2 St David's Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

20/1862/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331380 N: 264567 Proposal: Application for works to a tree (yew tree) in a conservation area Location: Greystones, 2 St David's Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

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

20/1290/TRE, 39 High Street, Presteigne: Approval 13th October.

20/1415/TPO, Green Acres, Norton Manor Park, Norton: Approval 23rd October.

20/1598/TRE, Ivy House, Hereford Street, Presteigne: Approval 28th October.

20/1159/FUL, Little Shop, Hereford Street, Presteigne: Approval 29th October.

MIN 3820 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Active Travel Routes Update: The Clerk reported that Cllr. Baynham was still arranging a site meeting.

(2) Dark Skies/Lighting: Members had no comments to make on the International Dark Skies preliminary application.

(3) Grass Cutting/Wildflower Verges and Roundabouts: Again a site meeting was to be arranged.

(4) Climate Crisis Update: Members were pleased to note that Presteigne was to be part of the Welsh National Forest. They also noted that with the aid of volunteers Cllr. Bamford had completed the first area of mixed tree planting.

Cllr. Bennett was removed to the waiting room for the duration of the following item.

(5) Covid-19 Measures and the High Street: Cllr. Kirkby reported that a zoom meeting was to be held on 19th November with those traders that had expressed an interest in obtaining a grant. Cllr. Smith had drafted wording for a banner for the High Street (as discussed at the October meeting) and was asked to send the wording to the Clerk in order for the County Council to confirm the wording was in order.

Cllr. Bennett was returned to the meeting.

(6) Welsh Water Sewage System Upgrade: Cllr. Kirkby reported that Welsh Water had confirmed that it would only be removing the diseased ash trees that were directly on or very close to the route of the pipeline. Some Members had received letters, as residents, on the proposed time scales. The Clerk agreed to forward a copy to everyone.

(7) Footpath across John Beddoes Campus School Field: Members agreed that the Clerk write to the school governors indicating support for the re-routing of the footpath around the outside the field and alongside the main road.

(8) Wall, Station Road: A section of this had now collapsed and the area had been cordoned off by the County Council whose officers were in discussions with the owner of the property.

(9) Reply from Cllr. Heulwen re 20mph zones: Members noted that the process would be County wide and would take place in due course.

(10) Cycling onto High Street from Shopper's Car Park: Members noted the information provided by the County Council and it was agreed that there was nothing further to be done. Cllr. Smith would report back to the resident.

(11) Street Naming – Land opposite King's Court: The name had now been confirmed as 'Maes Corton'.

(12) Street Name Signs, Hereford Street: Cllr. Owens reported that he had recently been informed that the ambulance had had difficulty in finding Hereford Street as there were no name signs. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Council and request signs for each end of Hereford Street and also one for the town side of Greenfield Road.

(13) No Entry Sign, Pound Lane: Cllr. Preece reported that this was still overgrown. The Clerk would remind the County Council.

MIN 3821 NORTON

(1) Community Speedwatch Update: No report due to the absence of Cllr. Ruby.

(2) Norton Community Trust: Cllr. Wilding reported that the planning application was still in progress. He also informed Members that as there was currently no electricity supply in the Church he was not sure how the Christmas lights would be installed this time.

(3) Damage to Dog Bag Dispenser: The Clerk reported that this had been damaged but had now been repaired.

MIN 3822 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: The following items were discussed –
Wilson Terrace Building closed for the Winter.

Quote for Electrical Work: Cllr. Kirkby asked that this be brought forward from the Sites & Buildings Committee in order for the work to be carried out as soon as possible. Members agreed that the quote be accepted and the Clerk arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

(2) Allotments: One plot had been re-let.

(3) Meadows: Request to use Meadow for Outdoor Cinema – Members agreed the use of the meadow on 28th May 2021 subject to any covid restrictions in place at the time. Members also agreed that the far field could be used for car parking providing ground conditions were suitable. Cllr. Smith pointed out the need for care over noise levels.

(4) Withy Beds: The following items were discussed –

- Wildlife Trust Tree Work: Cllr. Kirkby had visited the Wildlife Trust Officers on site and work was expected to start very soon.
- Damage to Weir: The Clerk reported that both Natural Resources Wales and the County Council had stated that this was not their responsibility. Cllr. Wilding felt that if the weir was to collapse then this would be a problem for the road bridge and that he believed that the weir had been put in place to protect the bridge for this reason. The Clerk would reply to the County Council to this effect.

MIN 3823 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Letter from County Council Regeneration Team re. broadband project: It was agreed that the Clerk respond indicating an interest in the project.

(2) Future of Education in Presteigne - Reply from Portfolio Holder: Members noted the reply with disappointment however Cllr. Baynham had indicated that further information should be available by March/April.

(3) Grant Fund - Repair and Reuse: Cllr. Kirkby reported that with the help of Cllr. Bamford he was trying to put together a project for Presteigne but he was concerned at the short time scale for applications to be in. He asked for Council agreement for a grant application to be submitted if it proved possible to put everything together in time. There would be no financial commitment from the Council. Members agreed to this request.

(4) Knighton Hospital: Members noted the information from Cllr. Baynham and the Clerk reported that Cllr. Ruby had asked that a letter be written to the Health Board asking that physiotherapy and occupational therapy clinics should re-open as a matter of urgency. This was agreed. Cllr. Ruby had also stated that the League of Friends had received an assurance from the LHB Chief Executive that the plan was to re-open the hospital.

MIN 3824 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

No surgeries currently held.

MIN 3825 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham had sent an email reporting the following matters –

- Active Travel – The Officer has offered to meet the Town Council to discuss the Norton phase but all would need to be mindful of social distancing etc. A total of 4 would be allowed.
- Grass cutting – Meeting arranged but had to reschedule as the Officer has been busy working on Covid related items.
- County Council AGM next Thursday – 26th Nov.
- New Cabinet member has been appointed in Powys. Cllr. Iain McIntosh. There has been a reshuffle with responsibilities regarding planning and environmental health mainly.
- Covid – Member's briefing on the previous Monday indicating that the number of Covid cases has started to decline from the peak of recent weeks, and looking as though the lockdown did work.
- Powys Track & Trace team are in the process of employing 100 new members of temporary staff. Powys has been extremely good at carrying out this function and have been working for other authorities in Wales who have been inundated with cases.

- It has been reported that the road to the Colony is in a dreadful state, and while most of it resides in Herefordshire could the Town Council write a letter asking for action. Also there is a hole at the bottom of the Rodd that has been left for months on end. Agreed that the Clerk report both items.

MIN 3826 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Pavements in Station Road and Broad Street slippy and in need of a clean. Clerk to report.

MIN 3827 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS

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

The Town Clerk left the meeting at this point.

MIN 3828 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

The following recommendations were discussed -

(1) Noted that there would be no increase in pension contributions in 2021-22.

(2) Expected increase in the national pay scales noted.

(3) To note the recommended Training Budget of £330 for 2021/22 with £200 raised from the new precept and £130 carried forward from the 2020/21 training allocation that was unused.

(4) The Annual appraisal of the Clerk was noted.

(5) To note the recommend budget of £25,550 for salary costs in 2021/22.

(6) The updated contract of employment for the Clerk was discussed and confirmed subject to the following amendment – to remove from Clause 11.1 of the Clerk's contract the sentence that says '*and that in the course of your employment members of the public may attend your house*'. Should an elector request a meeting with the Clerk then this will be arranged in Presteigne or Norton as necessary.

The contract would be duly signed by the Mayor/Chairman and the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm