

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 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, C. Ruby, J. Wilding, R. Bamford, N. Rogers, B. Baynham, C. Kirkby MBE, P. Smith.

Apologies: Cllr. L. Veary.

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. R. Bennett, related to residents and to a business owner in High Street, re. proposed changes to High Street due to Covid-19.

Cllr. P. Smith, related to applicant, re. planning application 20/1290/TRE.

Cllr. Owens welcomed the Members of the public to the meeting.

MIN 3794 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th August, 2020 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3795 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AND CLERK'S REPORT

From 15th July meeting -

- (1) Missing Bin, St. David's Street: Still not replaced. The Clerk would chase it up with the County Council.
- (2) Issues with Garage at Radnorshire Arms: The Clerk had heard nothing further and would contact the County Council to get the present position.
- (3) Outdoor Gel Dispenser/new dispensers in Toilet Blocks: The Clerk reported that these were being well used.
- (4) Completion of GDPR Form: Cllr. Owens reminded Members of the need to complete the form if they had not already done so.
- (5) Letters of Thanks to Covid-19 Volunteers: Cllr. Owens informed Members that letters had now gone out to all those involved.
- (6) Sale of Land at Cemetery: Cllr. Owens confirmed that this had now been completed and asked that thanks to Cllrs. Wilding and Kirkby be formally recorded. Cllr. Kirkby reported that he and Cllr. Wilding had recently met with the County Council to discuss various aspects of the work and that tenders would go out soon with the intention of the work being completed by the end of 2020. Members noted that the hedge was being fully removed.
- (7) Letter to Health Board re. Knighton Hospital: The Clerk confirmed that she had chased this up and had received acknowledgements each time but no full reply, the most recent being earlier in the week. She would follow this up again.

From 19th August meeting -

- (8) Mayor's Chain: Cllr. Owens was making enquiries about a repair.
- (9) Withy Beds Grant Application: A reply was now expected in mid October.

MIN 3796 FINANCE

- (1) Donations: No donations this month.
- (2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

NEST (direct debit)	£163.31
Mrs T.A. Price (salary)	£1687.56
HM Revenue & Customs	£773.06
Powys County Council (cemetery land purchase)	£5000.00
Mrs T.A. Price (travel/stamps)	£87.27
Screwfix (replacement tap)	£18.99
Presteigne Building Supplies	£31.51 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Lloyd-John	£660.70
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£319.57 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£94.50
N. Close	£133.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£35.00 ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT
Beaumont's Electrics (safety inspections)	£300.00

(3) Receipts: The following receipt were noted –

Powys County Council (second payment of precept)	£23,617.00
H. Roberts (fitness class – donation)	£25.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(4) Future Computer Maintenance Contract: Members agreed that a new contractor should be found and were asked to provide the Clerk with some possible firms/persons from which to obtain quotes.

(5) Bank Transfer: The transfer of £5000 from the Capital Reserve Account to the Treasurer Account to cover the contribution towards the cemetery land purchase was approved.

(6) Pay Award: The national pay award for local government workers of 2.75%, and therefore the increase to the Clerk's pay from 1st April 2020, was noted.

(7) Request from Presteigne and Norton Community Trust for £1000: Request agreed and monies to be taken from free reserves. Clerk to arrange the necessary bank payment.

Presteigne and Norton Community Trust	£1000.00
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Cllr. Kirkby reported that the Trust had now met to discuss the future actions of the Trust and the request for Norton Community Trust to run the Church Project with PNCT. The Minutes of that meeting were being circulated. Members also noted the resignation of Cllr. Owens from the Trust and Cllr. Ruby put her name forward for the Trust to consider as a replacement Director.

(8) Attendance of the Clerk at the virtual training course 'Understanding Local Government Finance (Advanced)' at a cost of £30 was approved.

MIN 3797 PLANNING

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

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

20/1290/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331331 N: 264489 Proposal: Application for works to 5 trees within a conservation area Location: 39 High Street, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllr. Smith was returned to the meeting.

20/1375/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331621 N: 264587 Proposal: Application for works to trees in a conservation area Location: Bridge Inn, Broad Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2AB. Resolved no objections be raised.

20/1345/FUL Grid Reference: E:331399 N: 267686 Proposal: Change of use of holiday let to a residential dwelling Site Address: Faraway, Stonewall Hill, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2HB. Resolved no objections be raised but that the County Council be asked to check the conditions placed on the previous planning application.

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

20/0462/HH 4 Castle Dyche, Presteigne : Approval 4th August.

20/0859/HH 43 Hereford Street, Presteigne : Approval 4th August.

20/0860/CAC 43 Hereford Street, Presteigne : Approval 4th August

20/0609/FUL Presteigne Mill, Presteigne (change of use): Approval 27th August.

MIN 3798 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) PACDG Update: The following items were noted –

- Community Volunteer Exchange: Investigating the idea of a volunteer exchange to amalgamate the existing volunteer registers and attract new volunteers, building on the good

will generated by the success of the volunteers during the lockdown. Hopefully working together with PNCS

- Future & Climate Emergency – Food Resilience / Grow Local: Exploring the possibilities and opportunities of a community-led food resilience project.
- Future – Learning from The Pandemic: Exploring ways the community can learn from our response to the pandemic.
- Tourism – Town Walks: Completed in conjunction with the WI.
- Street Cleaning: A new person has been found to carry out the work and will be starting shortly.

(2) Active Travel Routes Update: Members were informed that the TRO process was soon to be re-started and Cllr. Baynham explained that due to the break during the covid crisis it would be necessary to re-start the process from the beginning. Cllr. Kirkby reported that the signage was still not in place along Hereford Street. The Clerk would look into this.

(3) Dark Skies Project: The Clerk reported that Kirsty Williams AM had been approached and asked to look into Government support for the project but that the Minister contacted had stated that nothing was currently available. As the approach had been made under tourism the Clerk had replied suggesting that, due to the energy saving that would result, this would be better directed to the Minister responsible for climate change. The previous grant application, made before the covid-19 crisis, was currently suspended and it was not known when or if the fund would recommence. Discussions between Dark Source and the County Council Officer on the planned changes in Norton had taken place and the survey of Presteigne would take place in due course.

(4) Grass Cutting/Wildflower Verges and Roundabouts: Cllr. Baynham reported that a resident had got together a volunteer group to rake off the long grass after the final cut for the year and she would liaise with them on this.. She added that she felt the scheme had been successful but suggested a site meeting with the County Council to review matters. Cllrs. Baynham, Smith, Bamford and Ruby to attend and to report back to the October meeting.

(5) Climate Crisis Update: Cllr. Bamford reported the following –

- Local places for nature grant - Had been successful and she would store the plants etc until the School could accommodate a visit to carry out the work.
- Climate Change Monies - Advised Members that she may wish to apply to the Council for a portion of the climate change project monies.
- Woodland Trust Trees - Due to arrive for planting in November and volunteers would then be sort to assist with the planting.
- Report on Activities – Cllr. Bamford would compile a short report on the activities carried out so far.

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

(6) Covid-19 Measures and the High Street: Cllr. Kirkby reported that other than the 20mph signs none of the proposed works had yet been carried out. Cllr. Baynham was able to confirm that the Officers were waiting for the Highways department to schedule a time for the work.

Cllr. Baynham reminded Members of the grants available and that they needed to be claimed through a constituted organisation. She added that a Council Officer had visited many of the High Street premises and that reaction to the scheme had been mixed. Members agreed that the information provided should be re-circulated to CONNECT although it was felt that the opportunities were limited given the nature of the High Street.

Cllr. Bennett was returned to the meeting.

(7) Noise Issues: Members noted the report from the Environmental Health Officer as follows –
Labtech - Investigations were undertaken with the use of Noise Monitoring equipment and two visits made to a complainant. The visits were undertaken when our complainant stated that they could hear the hum and on both occasions two officers failed to hear the noise or indeed any noise from Labtech so the complaint was closed down.

Cross Border Hum - The Officer was still of the opinion that the matter falls for Herefordshire to investigate however, in an attempt to offer some assistance, they would be willing to investigate. He pointed out that low frequency noise is extremely difficult to deal with as the sound waves can travel many miles so pin pointing the source could be very difficult and any mechanical piece of equipment was capable of producing it. Another issue could be related to the person suffering as a very high proportion of complaints relating to low frequency can be attributed to Tinnitus type illness. The sound is real but such is the persons hearing that only they can hear it. He added that it may well not be the case in this instance but that it was a possibility. Any complainant should make contact to

log a complaint and this could be done at public.protection@powys.gov.uk or 01597 827467. The complainant would be sent logs to complete over a period of time and the County Council would attempt to witness the noise. At the moment, because of strict working practices due to covid 19 this could be difficult.

The Clerk had advised the original complainants of the situation.

(8) Footpath across John Beddoes Campus School Field: Cllr. Baynham reported that this matter had been briefly discussed at a recent Governors meeting. It had not been discussed in depth and full details were not yet known. She added that the intention was not to prevent use of the field for community sport use. Members felt more detail was needed on the exact diversion, access to Kings Court etc before they could consider a letter of support and asked that the matter be included on the October agenda when more details could be supplied.

(9) Welsh Water and Sewerage Upgrade: Cllr. Kirkby reported on the recent site meeting attended by Officers representing Welsh Water, himself, Cllr. Wilding, the Clerk and a Land Agent from McCartneys on behalf of the Town Council. Disappointingly it seemed that the opportunity to link the work with the active travel route to Norton would not be possible and that the County Active Travel Officer had some monies available to assist with this but not enough to cover the full length of the proposed path. The majority of the pipeline would be mole ploughed in and therefore there would be minimal disruption to land and surfaces. The route would now come up from the allotment car park through Went's Meadow but access to facilities would be maintained and disruption would be kept to a minimum. Welsh Water had agreed to tarmac the entrance to the allotment car park. Cllr. Wilding stated that it might be possible to install the active travel path between the pipeline and the hedge and at a similar time in order to minimise the disruption to the landowners involved but that contact would need to be made with those landowners fairly soon and it would help to know how much money was available from the County. Cllr. Baynham said that she would follow this up and that the County Council Officer was in touch with the Welsh Water contractor and would be looking at what was possible.

MIN 3799 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that there had been no progress with the planning application but that a positive meeting had been held with Presteigne and Norton Community Trust and that it would act as an enabler for the Church project.

(2) Community Speedwatch Update: Cllr. Ruby reported that two volunteers were still awaiting training. Cllr. Ruby would collect the radar gun from the former project co-ordinator and asked about storage. The Clerk confirmed that storage was available in one of the toilet block buildings and asked Cllr Ruby to let her know when she wanted them collected and stored. Cllr. Ruby would also contact the PCSO to chase up the necessary paperwork.

(3) Planning and Environmental Health Issues, Norton Village: Members noted the replies from Natural Resources Wales and the County Council. Cllr. Ruby still had concerns and Cllr. Baynham advised that issues should be reported to the County Council via the online form. No further action.

(4) Trees at new home site, Norton Manor Park: Members noted that the Clerk had advised the complainant on how to contact the County Council and that action could only be taken if the trees in question were covered by a tree protection order.

MIN 3800 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Members noted the completion of electrical inspections. Some works were recommended and the Clerk was awaiting a quote from the electrician.

(2) Allotments: Members noted the new officers elected at the PNAA AGM. Two items had been raised for repair and these had been dealt with. Concerns had been raised about one plot and the Clerk was attempting to resolve the matter.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed -

- Fields in Trust Information - Agreed to defer to the Sites & Buildings Committee Meeting in November.
- Recent Vandalism – Members noted the recent incidences of vandalism.
- Use of new Barn for fitness etc: Members noted that the barn was being very well used.
- Events on Meadow: Members considered whether to now allow events on the Meadow subject to current Government restrictions. The Clerk informed Members that even if Government regulations permitted events it would still be necessary, as owners of the site, to ensure that it was safe for them to do so. Cllr Kirkby stated that the Norton Fireworks, in their usual form, were already

cancelled and it did not seem to be possible for the Presteigne event to take place either as current regulations in Wales limit groups meeting outside to a maximum of 30. It was agreed that no events be allowed until the end of 2020 and the matter would be reviewed at the main January meeting in 2021. In addition, the Clerk was asked to draw up a checklist to supply to the informal small groups using the space.

- (4) Installation of Smart Electricity Meters on Council Premises: Members agreed that the Clerk go ahead and arrange for smart meters to be installed.
- (5) Norton Kiosk Electrical Inspection: Now completed with no issues raised.
- (6) Storage at Secondary School: Cllr. Preece reported that due to building work access to the building was currently very difficult but that it was hoped that the work would be completed by the end of the month.

MIN 3801 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- (1) Future Education Provision in Presteigne: Cllr. Baynham reported that she had recently had a positive conversation with the Portfolio Holder and that he had indicated that currently the covid 19 crisis was taking up a lot of time and had pushed the education review to one side. Cllr. Baynham and the Clerk would both remind the Portfolio Holder of the need for a further meeting towards the end of October. Cllr. Baynham had emailed both Schools to let them know.
- (2) Future of Old School Building and the Letter from Presteigne Youth Project Directors: Members had all received a copy of the letter from the current Directors. Cllr. Owens reported that the Project was financially sound and that the current Chairman was hopeful that at least one potential Director had been found. Members were advised that if they were interested they should get in touch with the current Chairman to discuss matters in more detail.
- (3) Letter from Resident re. new estate opposite King's Court/Kayes Site: Members noted the letter received and asked that the Clerk reply stating that Kayes Site was in private ownership and therefore outside Council control and that the land opposite King's Court had been planned for housing for some time with the properties built to be affordable meeting an established need.
- (4) Walks from Radnor Ramblers: The Clerk confirmed that full details had now been supplied and as soon as she had time she would add a new website page. A letter of thanks would be sent.
- (5) Electric Vehicle Charging Points Update: The Clerk reported that these were due to be operational by the end of the week.

MIN 3802 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

No surgeries currently held.

Items from Members on town matters (normally from Town Walk):

- Possible yellow lines towards old Council Depot: Members to visit and item to be reviewed at a future meeting.
- Wall, Station Road: A resident had reported stones falling out and felt it was a safety issue. Clerk to ask County Council to investigate.

MIN 3803 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Baynham reported the following matters –

- County Council continued to meet via Teams video software.
- Many seconded staff now back in their normal posts.
- Budget update presented to Members.
- Covid-19 cases in Powys increasing and measures were in place if this continued.
- Climate Crisis Vote to be re-taken at September meeting.
- Meeting with Fay Jones MP to take place in October.
- Current arrangements with Libraries (details would be forwarded) with book packs available to order and some computer use now possible.

MIN 3804 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

- (1) One Hundred Mile Walk: Members congratulated Cllr. Bennett on completing his recent charity walk.
- (2) Christmas Lights: Members felt the lights should continue if at all possible.
- (3) ...
- (4) Council Meetings: The Clerk stated that current advice was not to meet in person unless it was unavoidable.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm