

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton **PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH APRIL 2025 **HELD AT THE EAST RADNORSHIRE DAY CENTRE, SCOTTLETON STREET,** **PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

Present: Cllrs. T. Owens, (Mayor), D. Edwards, A. Ramsay, J. Ramsay, L. Harling-Bowen, M. Price C. Ross, F. Preece, B. Baynham, N. Rogers, C. Kirkby MBE (part of meeting only).

Apologies: None. Absent: Cllr. A. Van Huls (Deputy Mayor).

Resignation of Cllr. J. Wilding: Cllr. Owens announced that he had received the formal resignation of Cllr. Wilding. Members noted this with regret

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

Prior to the start of the formal meeting Members held a minute's silence in memory of former Cllr. D.L. (Jim) Rogers.

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. F. Preece, close personal friend of applicant, re. pre-planning consultation for land North of Scottleton Street, Presteigne.

MIN 4461 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March, 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4462 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) QR Link to Council Web Pages: Cllr. Edwards noted that notices had been put up to provide the public with quick access to the Council website.
- (2) Warden Guardian Foundation: Cllr. Owens apologised but he had been unable to attend the AGM.
- (3) New Website: The chosen provider had accepted the contract to build a new Council website.

MIN 4463 FINANCE

- (1) Donations: The following donations were approved –

Presteigne Memorial Hall (re VE Day Event)	£150.00
(From Mayor's Allowance, Cllr. Owens)	
Annual Grants as precepted -	
Wales Air Ambulance	£250.00
East Radnorshire Care	£2000.00
Presteigne Memorial Hall	£1500.00
Mid Border Arts	£1500.00
Presteigne and Norton Community Trust	£2000.00
PACDG	£250.00
Presteigne Festival	£1500.00
Judge's Lodgings Trust Ltd	£2000.00
Powys CAB	£200.00
Brecon and Radnor Samaritans	£250.00
Presteigne Youth Project	£1000.00

- (2) The following payments were agreed –

Mrs T.A. Price (pay)	£1622.20
HM Revenue & Customs	£703.97
NEST	£150.64
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£449.69 MEADOW ACC
Lyreco (toilet rolls)	£38.35
Microsoft (email storage)	£19.99
British Gas Lite (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£15.00
SLCC (annual membership)	£300.00
One Voice Wales (annual membership)	£612.00
EDF Energy (Meadow/Barn)	£19.74 MEADOW ACC
Chemassist	£406.80
T. Lloyd-John	£434.49
N. Close	£100.00
N. Close	£140.00 MEADOW ACC
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00 MEADOW ACC
EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£85.19
Zoom (annual subscription)	£155.88

3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted–

Allotment Rent	£168.00 (2024-25 Accounts)
	£84.00 (2025-26 Accounts)
	£28.00 (2025-26 Accounts – Deposit)
Website Income (2024-25 Accounts)	£26.00

(4) Approval of Annual Accounts 2024-25: The annual accounts were approved as circulated.

(5) Year End Documents: Completion of end of year VAT return, HMRC information and Councillor Remuneration Payments Return documents was noted.

(6) Renewal of Christmas Lighting in Presteigne: Members had all received a copy of the summary produced by Cllr. Harling-Bowen but noted that the lowest price submitted was still well in excess of the budgeted amount of £3000. In addition it seemed that new lighting would require additional power sources and the Clerk recommended that the view of the Council's contracted installer be sought before any final decision was made. Cllr. Baynham suggested that the purchase of new lights be deferred until 2026-27 in order for additional monies to be budgeted for and to allow for the availability of additional power points to be investigated. It was agreed to defer any purchase until the next financial year and in the meantime to investigate the availability of other power sources such as the street lights and to obtain the view of the company that installed the lights each year. For 2025 the current lights would be used.

(7) Budget Update/Review of Allocated Reserves to end of March, 2025: Members had all received copies of the allocated and free reserve analysis as at the end of 2024-25 but allowing for the £20,000 held from the lottery grant which was still unspent and the £13,000 allocated from reserves towards the 2025-26 budget. Free reserves remaining fell centrally within the three to twelve months expenditure suggested in the Governance guide.

(8) Review of Bank Accounts: The Clerk explained that a separate record was now kept of the capital monies remaining from the sale of the cemetery land and so there was no longer a need for a separate bank account. It was agreed to transfer the balance into the main money manager savings account and to close the existing 'capital' account. In addition it was agreed to transfer the balance in the Warden Reserve Account into the Meadow current account – this being the account used for works on the former reservoir ground. The Clerk was also asked to look at the ease of renaming the Meadow account to better reflect the whole of the spend on that account.

MIN 4464 PLANNING

Cllr. Edwards left the room at this point due to her position on the County Council Planning Committee.

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

25/0011/FUL Grid Reference: E:331313 N: 264509 Proposal: Internal and external works to include, replacement windows and external ramp and steps (part retrospective) Site Address: Poste House, 32 High Street, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections be raised providing the Built Heritage Officer had no concerns.

25/0010/LBC Grid Reference: E:331313 N: 264509 Proposal: Internal and external works to include, replacement windows and external ramp and steps (part regularisation of works) Site Address:

Poste House, 32 High Street, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2BE. Resolved no objections be raised providing the Built Heritage Officer had no concerns.

25/0420/FUL Grid Reference: E:331339 N: 263945 Proposal: Erection of two general industrial units and associated infrastructure Site Address: Plot 5, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne, LD8 2UH. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllrs. Edwards returned to the room.

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

24/1806/FUL, Went's Meadow Storage, Presteigne: Approval 28th February.

24/1417/FUL, Western Way, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne: Refused 28th February.

25/0199/TRE, Appletree Lodge, Hereford Street, Presteigne: Approval 5th March.

24/1180/HH, The Rectory, St. David's Street, Presteigne: Approval 21st March.

25/0203/REM, Unit 1, Presteigne Mill: Approval 26th March.

24/1149/LBC, 11 & 12 Broad Street, Presteigne: Approval 28th March.

24/1148/FUL, 11 & 12 Broad Street, Presteigne: Approval 28th March.

24/1567/FUL, Lloyds ATM, Presteigne: Approval 28th March.

24/1568/LBC, Lloyds ATM, Presteigne: Approval 28th March.

(3) Open Spaces Assessment (GI Suggestions): Cllr. J. Ramsay explained the table of suggestions and the accompanying map which had been drawn up with the assistance of the Tree Group and then reviewed by the Climate and Environment Working Group. Cllr. Baynham had obtained an explanation for the use of any data submitted from the Planning Officer and it was noted, in particular that hedges were covered under a general policy. She also expressed concern that, due to the shortness of time available to submit a list, it had not been possible to consult with the individual landowners adding that without a full explanation for the use it was difficult to assess whether specific sites should be included. It was agreed to submit the list of sites but to add a note that private landowners had not been consulted due to time constraints. Cllr. J. Ramsay would update the table and map and provide to the Clerk for submission to the County Council. *Cllr. Preece left the room at this point having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item.*

(4) Pre Planning Consultation: Land North of Scottleton Street, Presteigne: Members had reviewed the documentation online and agreed to submit the following comments – the presence of Japanese knotweed was noted and Members stressed the need for this to be professionally removed and destroyed. Members were pleased to see that the neighbours had been consulted. They also wished to make the agent aware of the current parking issues (cars parked up onto the pavement) to the South side of Scottleton Street which could impact on the proposed access to the development. Overall Members were pleased with the proposed development, particularly the affordable housing element.

Cllr. Preece returned to the room.

MIN 4465 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: Cllr. Harling-Bowen provided a brief update as follows –

- Talk given to Llandrindod Wells Dark Skies Group.
- Further work to develop a dark skies support group. It was suggested that this could be a part of the dark skies working group subject to Council approval and Cllr. Harling-Bowen would bear this in mind.

(2) Climate and Environment Update: In his absence Cllr. J. Ramsay had reported the following –

- Working Group had met to discuss sites for inclusion on the list requested by the County Council as part of the Local Development Plan.
- Powys Climate Stakeholder Group attended.
- One Voice Wales Section 6 Reporting Webinar: Both Cllr. J. Ramsay and the Clerk had attended one of these sessions.
- Biodiversity Training: Cllr. Baynham confirmed she had attended this training via the County Council.

(3) High Street Grant Update: The Clerk confirmed that this had been concluded and that she had been told another scheme was due to start for 2025-26 although she had had no details confirmed as yet. Thanks were noted to former Cllr. Wilding for his work in getting the project started.

(4) Fold Farm DMMO Application: No committee date had been confirmed as yet.

(5) Car Parking: Cllr. Baynham asked that this again be deferred as the expected paper had not yet been submitted to Cabinet at the County Council.

(6) Active Travel Guidance Consultation: Members were encouraged to comment as individuals. No comments to be submitted as a Council.

(7) Slough Road Issues Update: Cllr. Baynham had been working hard to address the various issues raised. She noted that the parking situation at the school was, if anything, getting worse and advised that she was working to find a solution. With regard to the brook problems work was scheduled for over the Summer. Members agreed to leave the issues with Cllr. Baynham to monitor.

(8) Mill Lane Issues: Members noted the email from a resident raising several issues. Cllr. Baynham would ask if the contractor could be instructed to cut the grass triangle at the start of the footpath, the overgrown trees in the former Depot boundary were noted as the responsibility of the site owner. Members were unsure where the loose stones were and it was agreed that Members would visit the site and report back to the next meeting. The Clerk would advise the resident.

MIN 4466 NORTON

(1) General Works: Cllr. Edwards advised that she was currently restoring a donated bench and would replace it on site once complete.

(2) Telephone Kiosk Repair: Members agreed that the Clerk arrange the repair at an approximate cost of £50.00

MIN 4467 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The following items were discussed -

- Wilson Terrace Toilets now re-opened and disabled cubicle lock repaired.
- Wilson Terrace Toilets - Repair to rotting cladding: Agreed that the Clerk arrange for the rotten board to be replaced.
- Toilet Roll Thefts: Members were pleased to note that these seemed to have stopped at present.

(2) Allotments: The following matters were considered –

- Update on rabbit proofing/Request for materials: Agreed up to £75 towards the cost of materials. Members noted with thanks the willingness of the PNAA to carry out the repairs needed.
- Update on Unpaid Rent: One tenant was yet to pay. Agreed to allow until 30th April following which the Clerk would give notice to the tenant to quit the plot.
- Disposal of abandoned Storage Box: Cllr. Ross agreed to remove this, clean it and place it on freegle.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

Update - café bar/storage: Ground works commenced on 8th April. The trees required under the planning permission were now planted. Fund raising continues to raise the final £2000 needed for the project.

Update – Brilliant Basics Grant (paths): The County Council had confirmed that the grant had been secured. Given former Cllr. Wilding had been leading the project the Clerk asked for help in obtaining the quotes and organising the works on site. Cllr. Owens agreed to speak to Mr. Wilding to get the information needed to hand over the project.

Condition of New Barn Ironwork (beginning to rust): Agreed to monitor.

Update re. bike track works: Cllr. Owens reported that he had suggested a meeting on site with the parent overseeing the project but as yet had not been able to get a date arranged. He would invite Mr. Close and Mr. Graham once a date was confirmed.

Concern over rubbish/stones regularly left on floor of new barn: Noted.

Tree Guards, Community Orchard - No longer rabbit proof: It was felt that the trees were probably strong enough to not need replacement guards and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

Possible Hire of Wood Chipper: Cllr. J. Ramsay asked that the Council agree to fund the hire of a wood chipper for the forthcoming work day if the promised free chipper was not confirmed. Members agreed a budget of up to £100 as a contingency.

(4) Nature Reserve Matters: Cllr. J. Ramsay had given a general update as follows –

- All matters in hand.
- Playgroup Fund Raiser on 12th April had been very successful.
- Tree Group/Warden Guardians Joint Event – 31st May: Members agreed to the use of the Reserve for part of this event. Cllr. Baynham advised that the County Council Officer should be consulted.
- Upgrading of path: To be looked at in due course.

Cllr. Kirkby joined the meeting at this point.

MIN 4468 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Leisure Centre Update: Cllr. Baynham reported that the comments of the Working Group had been submitted to the County Council. Nothing further to report at this point.

(2) Town Council Surgeries –

- Update on earlier items: Footpath roundels would not be replaced until the Footpaths Officer had checked that the route was passable along the legal route. All highway matters reported to the County Council. Police informed re. noisy car exhausts.
- Items from April Surgery: Cllr. A. Ramsay had not attended so no items to discuss.
- Member(s) to attend May Surgery: Cllr. Ross agreed to attend.

(3) Removal of Lloyds Bank Cashpoint: Members noted that this had now been removed and that a LINK cash machine had been installed in the Spar shop. Members were concerned at there being no 24 hour access to cash but felt there was nothing further that could be done.

(4) Notification of next Sustainable Powys Events: Noted. The Llandrindod event was on 20th May.

(5) One Voice Wales - Invitation to submit up to two motions for consideration for debate at National Conference in October: None put forward.

(6) Report on Meeting with High School: Cllrs. Baynham, Owens and Edwards had attended and Cllr. Baynham reported on matters discussed. She added that a catchment review was due in the Summer. No further action at present.

MIN 4469 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Edwards had no report to make.

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Estyn Report on the Education Department: Following a very poor report a School Improvement Board had been set up. One of the major issues raised was site security and this was of direct relevance to the John Beddoes Campus which had a public footpath across the school field.

MIN 4470 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Road Re-surfacing at the Rodd: Noted that this had now been completed. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Herefordshire Council and to point out other local roads that were in need of urgent attention, namely, at Coombes Moor, under Nash Wood and the road from Presteigne to Stapleton.

(2) Reminder- Meadow Work Day: 26th April. Members encouraged to attend.

(3) Visit to Presteigne by Jane Dodds MS: Cllr. Harling-Bowen reminded Members about this meeting to discuss dark skies and to view the changed lighting in the area.

(4) Meeting Start Times: Clerk to check when this could be reviewed and to put back on the agenda once the six months had expired.

(5) East Radnor Care: Cllr. Baynham reported that a new electric vehicle had been purchased and charging point installed via grant funding obtained.

(6) Defibrillator Training: Cllr. Harling-Bowen asked if the Council could organise training in the use of the defibrillators. He was advised that the Fire Service would do this on request. Cllr. Baynham would consider East Radnor Care holding a session.

(7) Accident, Rev. Hollinghurst: Cllr. Owens had purchased a get well card to send on behalf of the Council.

The meeting closed at 9.11 pm.