

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2023
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards (Mayor), B. Baynham (Deputy Mayor), T. Owens, M. Williams, J. Poster, J. Gray, J. Wilding, F. Preece, A. Van Huls, L. Abecasis, L. Firth.

Apologies: Cllr. Bamford.
Absent: Cllr. M. Price

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: None.

No Guest Speaker as the Ambulance Service had cancelled an hour before the meeting.

MIN 4160 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January, 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the Minutes as such.

MIN 4161 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

- (1) Speed Enforcement: Requested for Norton any Presteigne By Pass. Chased for response on 13th February.
- (2) County Council Quarterly Briefing: This had taken place in mid-January and covered the following – Ukrainian Arrivals, Cost of Living Hubs (46 in Powys), Test and trace work with Covid, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Mid Wales Regional Investment Plan, Budget update with a projected 5% rise in Council Tax proposed at present. Budget to include 16.446 million saving cost reductions in services and a 4.7 million reduction in school spending. The 5% Council Tax rise is also projected for a further four years. Climate change conference planned (in conjunction with Llandrindod Wells Town Council) on 14th June
- (3) The organisations applying for grants had all been notified of the Council's decision. Thanks had been expressed by East Radnorshire Care, Judge's Lodgings Trust, PACDG, Wales Air Ambulance and Mid Border Arts.
- (4) Climate Crisis Committee: First meeting to take place on 22nd February.
- (5) TPOs and Local Development Plan Interactive Map: To be included in next County Council briefing.

MIN 4162 FINANCE

- (1) Donations: None this month.
- (2) Payments: to approve the following payments –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1498.40
HM Revenue & Customs	£583.11
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
T. Lloyd-John	£421.49
N. Close	£28.00
N. Close	£126.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

HSBC (Bank Charges December – Treasurer Acc)	£10.00
HSBC (Bank charges December) – Meadow Acc)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highline Electrical (removal of Christmas Lights)	£540.00
Tree Shop Ltd	£57.60
Powys County Council (green waste bin)	£40.00 (Debit Card)
P. Ward (biodiversity plan)	£400.00
Paramount Plants	£525.00
Paramount Plants	£95.00
Ashridge Nurseries	£109.74
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£4.55
Presteigne Building Supplies	£193.24
T. Price (refund stamps)	£10.88
Artisan Print	£24.34
N. Hand (pond works)	£1488.00
P. Hollins (pond works)	£9084.00
Habitat Aid (seed mix)	£182.70
One Voice Wales (training fee – J. Gray)	£17.50

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted:

Website Advertising	£19.00
Allotment Rent	£56.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(4) Promotional Banner for East Radnor Leisure Centre: Members considered providing funding for two banners and allocated a maximum of £200 to be used from free reserves if needed. Clerk to suggest to Freedom Leisure that it produce some banners in the first instance before purchasing any from Council funds.

MIN 4163 PLANNING

(1) Planning Applications:

Cllr. Edwards left the room for the duration of the following item due to her position on the Council County Planning Committee.

Cllr. Baynham left the room for the duration of the following item due to having already submitted her comments on the item in her capacity as County Councillor.

The following pre-planning application was discussed –

Upgrade to existing radio base station installation at mbnl pow089, By-pass near Industrial Estate, Joe Deakins road (B4355), Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2DL: Members considered the information provided and resolved to submit the following comments –

- concerns over the height - feeling 18m would make it much more visible. To ask what the height of the existing structure was.
- if the height is not able to be reduced then would re-siting further into the industrial estate be an option.
- could the structure be green in colour to facilitate it blending in.
- a request that the existing tree cover should remain in any event as it provides excellent screening currently.

Cllrs. Edwards and Baynham returned to the Room.

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

22/190/HH, 9 Harpers Lane, Presteigne: Approval 9th January.

22/1871/HH, Westering, Stonewall Hill: Approval 2nd February.

MIN 4164 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting Update: A Working Group meeting had been arranged for 1st March. Consideration of monies for signage and professional photographs deferred for initial discussions at that meeting.

(2) Climate Crisis/Nature Reserve Update: Cllr. Bamford had submitted a written report on progress at the new nature reserve including the Heritage Lottery agreement to spending more on the gate using the contingency; everything going to plan on the site with approximately 1200 trees planted by various groups and volunteers so far, ponds dug and slowly filling and the path is currently being put in. She had been talking to residents about helping them with more privacy where needed through

additional planting. Pruning day had gone well with about 15 people attending and the contractor will finish any extra work as needed.

Members considered the selection of a contractor to carry out the necessary tree works and agreed to allocate the work to Alan Jones Tree Surgery.

(3) Town Investment Plan Update: The Clerk had spoken to Rose Regeneration but the final version was not as yet agreed by the County Council and she had been unable to get a copy of the latest version.

(4) Presteigne Roundabouts: Cllr. Baynham was pleased to report that Radnor Hills had agreed to sponsor and maintain the Greenfield Road Roundabout during 2023. A quote for attending to the other roundabout had now been received from Caring for God's Acre and Members agreed the cost of £275.

MIN 4165 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Wilding reported that a builder had now been appointed and works were in progress.

MIN 4166 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Cleaning contract for 2023-2025 now signed.

(2) Allotments: Three plots now surrendered and re-let from March, 2023.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Use by Norton Show Committee for Craft Fair: 28th August, 2023: Noted.
- Update on conifer hedge cuttings: Members noted that these had still not been moved. Agreed that the Clerk arranged for the cuttings to be burned alongside the orchard prunings but that a letter be sent to the resident advising them that in future cuttings should be immediately removed.
- Cutting of Back Field: Mr. Graham was still looking into possibilities and he had also himself cleared some of the areas that had been uncut for some time. Members noted their thanks for this and asked that the Clerk convey their thanks.

(4) Uneven Play Surface, Wilson Terrace Play Area: Cllr. Firth had taken photographs of some of the problem areas. Some of the issues were caused by moles but by the 'Little City' unit the grass matting had risen and needed attention. The Clerk would ask the County Council if this could be attended to. She was also reminded of the promise of a toddler swing to replace one of the normal ones and would remind the officer.

(5) Withy Beds Update re management/lease arrangements and consideration of Community Asset Transfer: Members noted that the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust had indicated a willingness to renew its lease on expiry and that the County Council was willing to accept a Community Asset Transfer request from the Town Council if it wished to do so. Members considered that there was no need for such a transfer given a new lease was to be in place.

MIN 4167 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Town Wifi Update: Units on the Assembly Rooms still not in place. The possibility of an extra unit on the Memorial Hall was being considered.

(2) Community Broadband Scheme Update: Next meeting due on 20th February. The Clerk would raise the issue of unwanted spam emails from Broadway Partners,

(3) Wales Air Ambulance and possible closure of Welshpool Base: The consultation was not yet public.

(4) Attendance at Remembrance Sunday Services: Cllr. Abecasis was concerned that Members had not received enough explanation of the protocol around attending the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service.

(5) Discussion with Ambulance Service and First/co Responders Service: Deferred as the Ambulance Service had not attended the meeting.

(6) Powys Well Being Plan: Consultation: Resolved no comment be made.

(7) Knighton Hospital: Report on briefing by Health Board: Cllrs. Baynham and Edwards had attended and reported briefly on the plans for the Hospital.

(8) Disabled Access High Street Update: The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the shop and that Head Office had looked into this in the past and concluded that a permanent ramp was not possible. She was asked to remind the manager that he had promised to provide the detail.

(9) Request for Use of Town Council Emblem in Sleeping Dragon Fund Raising Project: Agreed that the emblem could be used to indicate Town Council support for the project. Clerk to agenda a possible donation in March.

(10) Future of East Radnorshire Leisure Centre Working Group Update: No further meeting held. Funding confirmed for 2023-24 but a full review would be carried out over the coming months and no decision had been made about longer term funding.

MIN 4168 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Edwards reported the following: -

Current focus on budget for 2023-24.

Meeting with Officer to discuss arrangements for cutting of verges in Presteigne and Norton (attended by Cllr. Baynham also).

New text message service for those with hearing problems.

Apprentices being sought.

Cllr. Baynham had nothing further to report.

MIN 4169 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Visit to Labtech: Cllrs. Edwards and Baynham together with the Clerk had received a tour of Labtech and a briefing on the recent incident.

(2) King's Coronation: Cllr. Edwards confirmed there were no plans at present for any Mayor's event.

(3) Memorial Hall: No event planned for Coronation. County Council about to carry out various checks and inspections to bring everything up to date. 70th Anniversary Party to be held and combined with the retirement of the present Chairman at the AGM in June.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.