

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2024
HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. B. Baynham (Mayor), T. Owens (Deputy Mayor), D. Edwards, F. Preece (via video link), M. Williams, M. Price, J. Wilding, A. Van Huls.

Apologies: Cllr. L. Abecasis.

Members noted the resignations of Cllrs. Firth and Gray which would be formally accepted at the meeting on 24th January.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

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. Edwards, member of Norton Community Hub Management Committee re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Norton Community Trust. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Edwards, Trustee East Radnorshire Care re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to East Radnorshire Care. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Van Huls, member of Norton Community Hub Management Committee re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Norton Community Trust. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Van Huls, Trustee East Radnorshire Care re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation East Radnorshire Care. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. Wilding, member of Norton Community Hub Management Committee re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Norton Community Trust. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Cllr. M. Williams, Trustee of Sheep Music re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to Sheep Music. (Blanket Dispensation applies)

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. B. Baynham, employee of East Radnorshire Care, re. setting of precept and budget relating to grant allocation to East Radnorshire Care.

MIN 4287 PLANNING

No planning applications were considered.

MIN 4288 FINANCE

(1) Payments: The following payments were approved –

B. Baynham (refund expenses)	£21.42
Mrs T.A. Price (pay)	£1558.36
HM Revenue & Customs	£631.86
NEST	£146.30
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACC
B. Baynham (annual Cllr. allowance)	£208.00
Beaumont Electrical Services (work at toilets)	£540.00
R. Price (hedge trimming etc)	£384.00 MEADOW ACC

EDF Energy (Barn)	£22.97 MEADOW ACC
EDF Energy (W/T)	£28.61
EDF Energy (H/S)	£105.97
JRB Enterprises Ltd (dog bags)	£161.10 MEADOW ACC
T. Lloyd-John	£408.49
HSBC (bank charges)	£8.00 MEADOW ACC
HSBC (bank charges)	£10.00

(2) Donations: The requests from three national organisations were refused, with Members feeling that any grants made should be to local organisations.

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted -

Powys County Council Third Precept Payment	£24,312.60
Website Advertising	£91.00
Powys County Council (refund wildflower grant – part)	£986.88

(4) Review of Allocated and Free Reserves and Budget Monitoring to end December: The Clerk explained the various allocated reserves, the projected spend to the end of the financial year and the estimated free reserves at the year-end which would approximately equal just under three months expenditure. This was considered adequate given that a number of allocated reserves were in place to cover the major risks.

Members reviewed the allocated reserve balances and it was agreed to remove the allocated reserve for footpaths of £100. It was also agreed to use £20,000 of the Meadow allocated account and open a HSBC money market account (three month term) in order to maximise the interest payable. This account to be rolled over for further three month terms until needed. Otherwise no change to allocated reserves. Members noted that the website provider had suggested that the site needed updating and the Clerk was asked to enquire what the cost to do this would be.

Members also considered the budget update to the end of December. No comments were made.

(5) Setting of Budget and Precept for 2024/25:

Cllr. Baynham left the room during the discussion and decision on the donation to East Radnorshire Care.

Members considered each budget line in turn and made adjustments as appropriate.

Organisations allocated grants for 2024-25 were as follows –

Air Ambulance	250
British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths)	75
East Radnorshire Care	2000
Memorial Hall (to be paid when constituted committee formed)	1000
Mid Border Arts	1500
Norton Community Trust	2000
Norton Community Trust (Fireworks)	400
PACDG	250
Presteigne Festival	1250
Presteigne Fireworks Display (Sheep Music	500
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000
Powys CAB	200
The Samaritans	250
Youth Project	1000
Miscellaneous	500
	13,425.00

New projects included were –

Council Laptop	750
Christmas Lights, Norton	500
Maintenance and Tidy Up, Norton - inc repainting of kiosk/benches.	500
Maintenance Presteigne & Norton inc grass cutting.	1000
	2750

Ongoing projects allocated further monies were –

Anchorage Test for Xmas Lights	125
Toilet Blocks (2) (reserves to be used for balance)	10000
Funding twds Town Library Service (reserve held)	0
Presteigne Christmas Lights.	2000
Wildflowers/ Bulbs/Verges/Roundabouts	0
Street Lighting/Dark Skies Project (reserve held)	0
Climate Crisis Project Grants (reserve held)	0
Regular Updating of Website	300
New Street Cleaning Arrangements	250
Storage Container (reserve held)	1000
	13,675.00

No amount was allocated for the roundabouts as it was expected that both would be sponsored by local businesses in 2024.

Administration costs were agreed as £34,330 and the amount for the maintenance and running of Went's Meadow £11,275.

This produced a budget of £75,455 and it was agreed to set a precept requirement of £75,752.22. This would result in a precept of £56 per Band D property, a £2 increase on 2023-24. Members noted that the precept had been kept at £54 for three years (23-24, 22-23 and 21-22), with £55 in 20/21 and £54.14 in 19-20.

The full budget would be placed in the Council Accounts section of the Presteigne.org.uk website.

MIN 4289 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Potholes: Cllr. Williams asked that potholes be included for discussion under Highways at the next meeting.

(2) Memorial Hall: Cllr. Baynham provided a brief update following the public meeting and it was noted that some people had agreed to consider becoming trustees. A further meeting with the County Council had since been held. Cllr. Wilding felt that the County Council should be held to re-opening the Hall and this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.