

# Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JULY 2023 HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: Cllr. M. Williams.

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.

Note: The representatives from the Police did not attend.

*Personal: None.*

*Personal and Prejudicial:*

*Cllr. L. Firth, renting a property on the same site re. planning application 23/0398/FUL.*

### MIN 4218 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

The Minutes of the Climate Crisis Committee meeting held on 5th July, 2023 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

### MIN 4219 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

(1) Leisure Centre: Cllr. Baynham reminded Members that the public consultation was now open and asked them to encourage people to respond. Cllr. Owens had recently been interviewed by ITV in connection with the campaign to keep the centre open.

Cllr. Firth had not yet made any progress with a formal visit to the Centre to look at the possibility of solar panels.

(2) Sleeping Dragon: Members had all received the latest update via the community newsletter. The Clerk confirmed that the Council donation had still not been drawn down.

(3) Response to Ambulance Service re Co-Responders: Members had all received a copy of the letter which had now been sent. Thanks noted to Cllr. Owens for producing the draft content.

(4) Annual Audit Return: The Clerk confirmed that this had now been sent to the Wales Audit Office.

(5) Letter to Julie James MS re. Trees: Cllr. Poster confirmed that this had been sent in the name of the Presteigne Tree Group.

### MIN 4220 FINANCE

(1) Donations: None this month.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1495.00
HM Revenue & Customs	£586.51
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
T. Lloyd-John	£641.23
N. Close	£36.00
N. Close	£144.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89
Signs and Stickers (hi-vis jackets)	£19.35
Kington Building Supplies (verge postmix)	£33.24

EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£77.65
EDF Energy (Meadow Barn)	£41.64 MEADOW ACCOUNT
HSBC (Bank Charges) – Treasurer Acc)	£8.00
HSBC (Bank charges) – Meadow Acc)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Nature Reserve Payments –	
JA Francis & Sons (gate)	£1862.04
N. Hand	£1339.00
Presteigne Building Supplies	£27.41
Kasasagi	£175.00

(3) The following receipts were noted:-

Heritage Lottery (grant refund)	£9530.14
Heritage Lottery (grant refund)	£1551.70
Heritage Lottery (grant refund)	£1339.00
Heritage Lottery (grant refund)	£3327.38

(4) Budget update to end of June, 2023: Noted. No comments or questions.

(5) Payment towards Presteigne Library Service: Cllr. Baynham explained the history of the allocated reserve for library provision in Presteigne. Payments had previously been made in 2018/19 and 2019/20. Both or £1073. Members agreed that no payments for earlier years should be paid and that they would consider payment for 2023/24 at their September meeting when they would have information available on the contributions made by other Community or Town Councils towards their library. Cllr. Baynham would ask for the information on other donations.

## **MIN 4221 PLANNING**

*Cllr. Edwards left the room for the duration of the following item due to her position on the County Council planning committee.*

Cllr. Wilding joined the meeting at this point.

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

23/0859/FUL Grid Reference: E:331532 N: 264397 Proposal: Change of use from disused vacant doctors surgery to 4 one-bedroom flats to rent Site Address: Surgery, Harper's Lane, Presteigne, LD8 2AN. Cllr. Poster read an email from nearby resident's concerned at the suggested development. Members discussed the concerns raised which it was felt would be addressed by the County Council. Cllr. Poster would advise the resident to submit their comments direct to the County Council. Resolved to support the application.

23/0975/REM Grid Ref: E: 331360 N: 264502 Proposal: Section 73 application to remove condition no. 4 attached to planning approval PR309601 (RAD/1996/0177) (so that ancillary dwelling can be used as a separate dwelling from main house) Condition Number(s): 4 Conditions(s) Removal: Condition removed, so that the ancillary dwelling can be used as a dwelling in its own right and sold or let independently of Sutton House (Main Dwelling) condition request is for removal not varied. Location: Sutton Barn, High Street, Presteigne Powys LD8 2BA. Resolved no objections to the application.

*Cllr. Firth left the room for the duration of the following item.*

23/0938/FUL Grid Reference: E:331215 N: 264770 Proposal: Provision of 10no iso containers for storage let purposes on existing concrete hardstanding Site Address: Presteigne Depot, Mill Lane, Presteigne, LD8 2DA. Members noted the emails received from nearby residents. Resolved no objections to the application providing the containers are sited on the existing concrete hardstanding, that this is not disturbed and no groundworks are carried out given that the land is contaminated. It was noted that the site is in a residential area and so opening hours should be properly considered with this in mind.

*Cllr. Firth returned to the room.*

*Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.*

(2) Planning Decisions: No decisions this month.

(3) Bute Energy/GreenGen Project: No update this month.

(4) Infrastructure (Wales) Bill 2023: Noted.

(5) Draft TPO, John Beddoes School Field, Presteigne: Members were pleased to see this order had now been produced and it was agreed that the Clerk respond in support.

(6) Planning Enforcement Update: Members received an update on the ongoing enforcement action. The Clerk was asked to respond expressing concern at the statement concerning 'acceptable modifications' given that the alterations had taken place on illegally constructed buildings.

## **MIN 4222 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: The Clerk informed Members that following the submission of the application a number of questions had been raised and answered but that a working group meeting was needed to discuss one or two matters relating to County Council policy. The Clerk would arrange.

(2) Climate Crisis Update: The following matters were discussed –

- Nature Reserve Project: Cllr. Bamford reported the following –  
Project extension granted until 31<sup>st</sup> October.  
Ponds still not holding water. Money is available from the grant to do more work to make them watertight. Cllr. Bamford circulated an information leaflet from the Freshwater Habitats Trust which contained details on the pros and cons of different types of liner/methods. She would look at obtaining accurate costings and bring these to the August meeting for approval.  
Meeting with National Forest for Wales Team to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> July to see if the project was eligible for inclusion.  
Information Boards to be done.  
Path Mowing Schedule to be produced.
- Report on PCC Climate Stakeholder Group Meeting: Cllr. Poster reported briefly on this meeting.
- Meadow Area and Local Places for Nature Grant: Cllr. Bamford reported on a recent site meeting on Went's Meadow to discuss the creation of additional wildflower meadow areas. Some recommendations had been made and she had found a grant fund that could be applied for to meet the costs. She could also include some of the poorer verge areas for improvement. Given the fund closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> July it was agreed that Cllr. Bamford submit an application with the exact areas to be decided if successful. The application would also include a request for funding to provide an information leaflet on the project.
- Climate Crisis Committee Recommendations as follows:-  
*Update on progress of nature reserve project: Noted.*  
*Evaluation report for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund: Agreed.*  
*Hedge Management plan for adoption by Full Council: There were some questions about the proposed plan and there was also a contradiction with the new Eddie's Meadow Management Plan stating annual trimming and the Hedge Management Plan saying two to three years. Agreed that Cllr. Wilding and Cllr. Poster meet to discuss the plan put forward from Committee and prepare several options for consideration at the September Meeting.*  
*Attendance of Cllr. Poster at future Climate Crisis Stakeholder Group Meetings: Confirmed.*  
*Suggested budget for the Climate Crisis Fund in 2024/25 of £200 (subject to Committee review in October) Noted.*

No report on climate change conference in June as Cllr. Poster was unable to attend.

(3) Street Cleaning Update: Cllr. Baynham reported that she and the Clerk had met with the previous street cleaner and limited cleaning had recommenced. As previously discussed, the cleaner will provide focussed cleaning before/during events and include clearing up from the Autumn leaf fall. In addition he had been asked to provide a small number of hours weekly from now until the late Autumn. Invoices would be submitted for payment monthly and the need for public liability insurance was noted. The Clerk would remind the cleaner of this and Members would review at a later meeting.

(4) Information on National 20mph Changes: Noted.

(5) BT Kiosk, Station Road: Members noted that a request for cleaning and re-painting had been submitted to British Telecom and had been agreed.

(6) Fold Farm DMMO Application Update: Members noted that the Clerk continued to chase for updates but that there had been no progress as yet.

## **MIN 4223 NORTON**

(1) Community Trust Update: Work progressing well. To be visited as part of Town Walk in August.

## **MIN 4224 SITES AND BUILDINGS**

(1) Public Conveniences: Members approved the estimated cost for urinal repair and noted that the internal paint of Hereford Street had been confirmed for late July/August.

(2) Allotments: Members noted the recent repairs to two of the three pumps.

(3) Meadows:

- Review of Management Plan, Eddie's Meadow: Members noted the contradiction regarding the hedge cutting and it was agreed to review the Plan in September and consider it alongside the hedge management options.
- Update on vandalism: PC Fraser Scott had taken the offenders to clean the picnic bench although the Barn had been done by the Carnival Committee as it had not been possible to get the offenders on site before Carnival Day. There was no further update as the police had not attended the meeting as planned.
- Use by Create Play, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> August: Approved.

(4) Community Storage Update and Decision.

- Temporary Arrangements for Storage of Council Items: These were now stored at Moor Farm. Other organisations had now almost all removed their belongings from the old Sixth Form Block. The School had advised that nothing further could be removed due to drilling for potential asbestos.
- Proposal for new community storage and pop-up refreshment area: Cllr. Bamford reported that she and the Clerk had met with the Regeneration Team to see if the project would be eligible to apply under the Transforming Towns Grant and a summary of the project would be considered by the team to confirm. If all was in order a full application would need to be made. Cllr. Bamford explained the project and that it would probably need planning permission. Mr. O. Rimington was willing to cost out the project if the Council was in agreement with the proposal. Members agreed that the project should go ahead and asked for costed proposals for the September meeting. A Working Group would be needed to run the project if it went ahead and the following names were agreed – Cllr. Edwards, Cllr. Wilding, Cllr. Bamford, Cllr. Firth. Mr. O. Rimington and Mr. C. Kirkby would be part of the group as non-Councillor representatives.

(5) Ligne Garden: The Clerk reported that the Guerrilla Gardeners had requested more gravel for the Ligne Garden. Members agreed that the Clerk order a bulk bag of gravel and that she arrange the Community Payback team to spread it as required.

#### **MIN 4225      CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

(1) Update on current situation – Presteigne Memorial Hall: Water now drained for health and safety reasons. As far as Cllr. Baynham was aware there had as yet been no reply from the Charity Commission on the query raised and she was not aware of the progress of the fire works needed but would chase it. It was noted that given that even when the necessary fire safety works were done legal paperwork would be needed to formally set up the Committee and so any re-opening was unlikely before the end of 2023. Cllr. Baynham suggested that representatives of the Town Council meet with representatives from the Hall Committee to discuss the situation and how the Town Council could assist them to move things forward.

(2) Complaint re. grass cutting: Cllr. Baynham read the complaint to the meeting and asked for Members thoughts and comments. It was agreed that some areas had been unsuccessful and that a full review of the verge cutting arrangements should be carried out at the September meeting.

(3) Youth Matters Update: Cllr. Abecasis reported on his recent meeting with the Head of John Beddoes Campus to discuss obtaining the views of student representatives and their aims and aspirations for the town. The intention was to form a group of about twelve students and the first meeting would be in September. Cllr. Abecasis had also volunteered to provide help and advice to catering and food students.

(4) Updated Standing Orders: Update Standing Orders approved.

(5) One Voice Wales Awards: Members noted the two awards received, Best Website and Best Community Engagement (for the new barn project).

(6) Annual Fireworks/Bonfire: Members noted that Sheep Music would not be running the annual bonfire and fireworks in 2023 but hoped to do so in 2024. Members were concerned that there might not be an event and the Clerk was asked to publicise the need for another Community Group to consider running the event.

(7) Email from Jane Dodds MS re. dental services: Noted.

(8) Email from John Beddoes Campus re use of school field: Members noted the issues experienced. With regard to the re-routing of the footpath the Clerk was instructed to remind the School of the Council's suggestion that the path be routed around the outside of the school field using the surfaced pathways already in place.

#### **MIN 4226      COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr. Edwards:-            Free School Meal Vouchers to cover the Summer Holidays.

Cllr. Baynham:-          Full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Luncheon with King Charles and Queen Camilla in Brecon on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**MIN 4227 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

- (1) Bus Engines Idling outside Secondary School: Cllr. Owens reported that this was again occurring. The Clerk would contact the School.
- (2) Letter of Thanks: To be sent to the Carnival Committee.
- (3) Town Walk: Members were asked to submit suggestions for places to visit to the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.53 pm.