

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Mrs Tracey Price (Clerk)
Garn Farm
Chapel Lawn
Bucknell
Shropshire.
SY7 0BT

13th April, 2023

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council on **WEDNESDAY 19th April, 2023 at 7.00 p.m.** at the Assembly Rooms, Broad Street, Presteigne and via video conferencing and you are hereby summoned to attend.

The public and press are cordially invited to attend.

**PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME DUE TO GUEST SPEAKER(S) FROM THE WELSH
AMBULANCE SERVICE**

(including Bethan Powell, Paramedic and Operations Assistant, Community Support.)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89878534860?pwd=d01iVXdjMTVwNDgzSGxodThWSVY0dz09>

Meeting ID: 898 7853 4860 Passcode: 036066
Dial by your location 0208 080 6592 United Kingdom
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kee9f5tx5V>

Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda SUBJECT TO PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE CLERK AND THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Price

TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the terms of the Local Authorities

(Model Code of Conduct Order) (Wales) Order 2008 and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

To approve that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March, 2023 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

4. **UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT**

From the Meeting of 15th March. Also to receive the Clerk's Report for April.

5. **FINANCE**

a) Donations: To approve the following donations (all as precepted): -

East Radnorshire Care	2000.00
Memorial Hall	1000.00
Mid Border Arts	1250.00
Norton Community Trust	5000.00
PACDG	250.00
Presteigne Festival	1250.00
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250.00
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000.00
Powys CAB	200.00
The Samaritans	250.00
Youth Project	1000.00

Also to consider a donation to the Sleeping Dragon replacement fund (from free reserves or misc. donations budget).

b) Payments: to approve the following payments –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1678.17
HM Revenue & Customs	£709.78
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
One Voice Wales (annual subs)	£546.00
Society of Local Council Clerks (annual sub)	£279.00
Mrs T.A. Price (refund – stamps)	£90.60
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACC
Presteigne Youth Project (hire – tree hub)	£24.00
Microsoft (email storage) (2022/23 Accounts)	£19.99 (Debit Card)
T. Lloyd-John	£414.99
JRB Enterprises Ltd	£734.16 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Barn)	£25.41 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (H'fd Street Toilets)	£166.91
EDF Energy (Wilson Terrace Toilets)	£33.26
Annual Zoom Subscription (refund T. Price)	£143.88
N. Close	£62.00
N. Close	£167.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£4.72 MEADOW ACCOUNT
HSBC (Bank Charges) – Treasurer Acc)	£11.47
HSBC (Bank charges) – Meadow Acc)	£ to come MEADOW ACCOUNT
Nature Reserve Payments –	

Mid Border Arts (room hire)	£100.00
Bucknell Nurseries	£509.50
Presteigne Gates	£208.80
Artisan Print	£26.44

c) Receipts: To note the following receipts –

Allotment Rent 2023-24 Accounts	£56.00
Allotment Rent 2022-23 Accounts	£140.00

d) To note completion of annual VAT return and year end payroll information to HMRC.

e) Review of Project and General Reserve Balances and budget information to 31st March.

f) Approval of Annual Accounts for 2022/23.

g) To receive the report of the internal auditor on the 2022/23 accounts.

h) To agree the transfer of £306.44 from the Meadow Account to the Treasurer Account to cover the additional hours paid to the Clerk in April for allotment work.

i) To approve the transfer of the precepted amount (2023/24) of £12,075.00.00 from the Treasurer Account to the Meadow Account.

j) To approve the transfer of the Meadow VAT reclaim for 2022/23 of £1660.49 from the Treasurer account to the Meadow account.

k) To receive the report of Cllr. Edwards on use of the balance of the Mayor's expenses for 2022/23.

l) To consider the grant application from Warden View Methodist Church (Climate Crisis Fund).

6. PLANNING

(a) To consider applications received: None at issue of agenda but see note below.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PLANNING APPLICATIONS MAY BE RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA AND MAY BE ADDED DUE TO THE TIGHT TIMESCALE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS.
SEE THE TOWN COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE OR THE PLANNING PAGE ON THE COUNCIL SECTION OF THE TOWN WEBSITE FOR LATEST APPLICATIONS.

(b) Planning Decisions: To note the following decisions –
Fairview, Stonewall Hill: Approval 14th March.

7. HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

a) Dark Skies/Lighting Update.

b) Climate Crisis Update (inc Nature Reserve Project and Tree Hub). (Clerk's Report 2b)

c) One Way Hereford Street: Update for Information. (Clerk's Report 2a)

d) Drainage/Flooding Problems, Greenfield Road: Complaint from resident.

8. NORTON

a) Norton Community Trust Update.

9. SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

a) Public Conveniences: To note Wilson Terrace now re-opened and recent vandalism.

b) Allotments: See Clerk's Report 3a. Also to consider agreement of approx £50 funds for additional chicken wire/staples for fencing.

- c) Meadows: To include –
 - Use Request – Mid Border Arts 19-21st May (event on 20th May)
 - Vandalism – fires/vaping equipment (Clerk's Report 3b)
 - Next Sites and Buildings Committee 3rd May: Items for Inclusion.
- d) Community Storage Arrangements/possible grant application.

10. CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- a) Community Broadband Scheme Update.
- b) Ambulance Service –
 - EMERTS Consultation: Report on consultation events from any Members in attendance.
 - Consideration of presentation from Bethan Powell, Welsh Ambulance.
- c) Consultation - Penn Review response (Local Authority Ethical Standards Framework and Code of Conduct) (as emailed 31st March, 2023).
- d) Stakeholder Consultation - Forest Management carried out by Natural Resources Wales (as emailed 31st March, 2023).
- e) Town and Community Council – Environment and Nature event - 14th June 2023 (Clerk's Report 4a).
- f) Town Investment Plan: To receive the final Investment Plan (as emailed 12th April).

11. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

12. ANY URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION (at discretion of Chair)

Enc. Clerk's Report April. Minutes of March Meeting. Annual Accounts. Various Background papers.

PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT

APRIL 2023

1. INFORMATION –

a) Dark Skies Project: Kerem Asfuroglu of Dark Source, the lighting designer and company who/which has provided much time and effort into our project has recently won two awards - Dark Source has recently won two awards, the Spaces Low Budget and the Best of the Best categories at the darc awards. I have passed on the congratulations of all at the Town Council for the success. We are very lucky to have Kerem working with us on our project.

2. HIGHWAYS ETC –

a) One Way, Hereford Street: PCC have provided an update as follows - Following analysis of the one-way trial on Hereford Street it was clear that the system was a success and was well supported by the community. Given this, the Traffic Regulation Order has now been sealed making the one-way system permanent from March 22nd 2023.

After considering some of the comments and suggestions (from the trial period) we will also be making some small improvements to reinforce the one-way system. This will involve a small build out being installed at the no-entry end, with the one no-entry sign being moved on to the build out (where it will be connected to the electric supply and so will be lit). This build out will also prevent vehicles parking across the no-entry road markings.

We expect this work to commence towards the end of March or in early April.

b) Free Trees: Rose has provided me with the following list for the nature reserve –
60 downy birch, 45 black thorn, 75 crab apple, 50 hawthorn, 15 sisal oak, 30 silver birch , 45 hazel.
Given away in total to households this session was 233.

3. SITES AND BUILDINGS –

a) Allotments: I have had an email from the PNAA raising the following issues –

Rabbits- problem ongoing - in the snow found evidence of rabbits near the pond and on the bank. Today had a scout party to look at the fence closely again. Still areas that were not wired high enough so we are having another work party over Easter to redress this.

Allotment tour on June 17 for the Big Green week and open day on sun 3 September.

Pathway developing on the right side of the road bridge at the back of the allotments. Not sure who is using it but that area is I believe a SSSI , so I did not know whether you wanted to put up a fence or similar at the roadside to deter people.

b) Meadows: Nick reports a number of minor (but nonetheless concerning) attempts at starting fires in both the old and new barns, Also a large number of vaping items discarded in the area. There was also an attempt to burn the surface of the toilet pan in the Wilson Terrace toilets.

4. CORRESPONDENCE –

a) Town and Community Council – Environment and Nature event - 14th June 2023: We may send one representative if anyone is interested.

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

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

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards (Mayor)(part), R. Bamford, T. Owens, M. Williams, J. Poster, F. Preece, A. Van Huls, L. Abecasis, L. Firth, M. Price.

Apologies: Cllrs. B. Baynham (Deputy Mayor), J. Gray, J. Wilding.

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:

Cllr. F. Preece, Chairman of Presteigne Scouts, re request to erect patio shelter at Presteigne Scout Hut.

Personal and Prejudicial: None.

As Cllr. Edwards had been delayed and the Vice-Chairman Cllr. Baynham was unable to attend Cllr. T. Owens opened the meeting and acted as Chairman until Cllr. Edwards arrived.

Cllr. Owens welcomed Guest Speaker James Hitchcock, Chief Executive of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust who spoke on the importance of nature and the need to urgently safeguard and encourage nature. He also answered Member's questions and indicated a willingness to work with the Town Council on any potential projects in and around Presteigne and Norton. Cllr. Owens thanked Mr. Hitchcock for attending.

MIN 4170 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February, 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the Minutes as such.

The Minutes of the Climate Crisis Committee meeting held on 22nd February, 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record subject to the addition of 'and also to rake and clear grass' to item 8 and the Chairman signed the Minutes as such.

MIN 4171 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

- (1) East Radnor Leisure Centre: The Clerk had initially had no reply and had chased for a response. A holding response had then been received saying the suggestion would be passed on up to the Manager but that it was not likely to be simple to do.
- (2) 4G Telephone Mast: The Clerk reported that the proposal was not proceeding for the time being.
- (3) Uneven Play Mat, Wilson Terrace: This had been reported and action requested to re-lay it.
- (4) Conifer Branches: Removed by Mr. Close as discussed at the February meeting.
- (5) Disabled Access in High Street: The Clerk had again written for more details but had not as yet received a reply.
- (6) Attendance by Welsh Ambulance Service: Re-arranged for the April Council meeting. Cllr. Preece would inform the co-responders.
- (7) Pond Work, New Nature Reserve: Cllr. Williams asked for clarification on the pond work carried out which Cllr. Bamford provided.

MIN 4172 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The item on the Sleeping Dragon was deferred to the April meeting given the absence of Cllr. Baynham. No other donations.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1498.40
HM Revenue & Customs	£583.11
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£214.80 MEADOW ACCOUNT
T. Lloyd-John	£382.49
N. Close	£35.00
N. Close	£238.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
J. Cromar (tree survey – Meadows)	£870.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Amazon (refund T. Price – batteries)	£16.99
Artisan Print (A3 copies)	£9.60
HSBC (Bank Charges Feb – Treasurer Acc)	£8.00
HSBC (Bank charges Feb) – Meadow Acc)	£10.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Items below relate to Nature Reserve -	
Powys County Council (gateway to nature reserve)	£1337.20
Presteigne Gates Ltd	£288.00
Bucknell Nurseries	£811.25
R.B. Landscaping	£9378.00
Paramount Plants	£442.50
Amazon (refund Cllr. Poster)	£17.30
O. Rimington (design work/refund leaflet printing)	£571.42
O. Rimington (design work – gate)	£320.00
META (translation)	£59.04
A. Dodgson (refund compost)	£31.96
Artisan Print	£73.27
CLAN CIC	£100.00
Amazon (refund R. Bamford)	£41.99
Amazon (refund R. Bamford)	£16.80
Amazon (refund R. Bamford)	£14.72
Presteigne Building Supplies	£421.46
Artisan Print	£16.87
Artisan Print	£7.16
A. Davies	£350.00
J. Stevens	£125.00

(3) Email from PACDG re reduced insurance premium: The Clerk reported that the group had contacted her as their insurance premium was less than expected. The Council had in the past given £250 to cover the insurance for the group and had again set aside £250 in the 2023/24 budget. Members agreed to still contribute the £250 to the group.

(4) The following receipts were noted:

Allotment Rent	£728.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Donations Community Engagement (Nature Reserve)	£131.08
Website advertising	£26.00

(5) Risk Assessment: Members noted the risk assessment as circulated and approved it without change.

(6) Asset Register: Members noted the Asset Register as circulated. The Clerk answered a question from Cllr. Williams on the valuations included. Approved without any changes.

MIN 4173 PLANNING

(1) Planning Applications:

23/0236/FUL Grid Reference: E:331636 N: 263551 Proposal: Proposed erection of a dwelling and all other associated works. Site Address: The Wood Yard, Broadaxe, Presteigne, LD8 2LA. Resolved no objections be raised.

23/0302/FUL Grid Reference: E:330218 N: 267405 Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of detached house including formation of access and associated works (resubmission of

22/1968/FUL) Site Address: Oxenbrook Cottage, Norton, Presteigne, LD8 2EN. Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Decisions: No decisions reported this month.

MIN 4174 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies/Lighting Update: The working group met in early March and Cllrs. Baynham, Williams and the Clerk were taken quickly through the draft application which was very near to completion. A possible Dark Skies Festival in the Autumn was discussed and Mr. Harling-Bowen had several talks/events in mind already. The County Council had seen the proposed lighting policy and is in principle willing to add this to its own lighting policy as an Appendix – this will mean that future developments will need to refer to the policy and should ensure that the lighting continues to conform into the future. It was noted that events and education were the weakest aspect of the application and will need ongoing input. An ongoing monitoring programme of light readings will also need to be in place and Mr. Harling-Bowen is willing to do this. Baseline readings were taken originally plus further sets since.

The application process could take some months as once submitted the IDA may well come back with comments and questions. Since the meeting calculations on the carbon and financial savings had been carried out and these are estimated as 4.5 tonnes of CO2 reduction per year. 54kw saving per night. 19,710kw per year. The study solely focuses on street lighting, signage is not taken into account. If the cost was taken as 0.33p per Kwh, it would result in a £6,500 saving per year. The Clerk added that the projected unit cost for the County Council had since been confirmed as 42p per unit, increasing the estimated saving to £8278.

The Clerk added that the updated draft application had been received that evening and it was agreed that she would circulate it the next day for comment. It was agreed that she collate any comments and that subject to these she approve the application for submission.

(2) Climate Crisis/Nature Reserve Update:

Nature Reserve Update: Cllr. Bamford reported the following –

- Community Engagement Weekend held and successful.
- Large number of Trees planted.
- One hundred and fifty people had subscribed to a mailing list to be kept informed.
- Various Photographs of prominent and important local trees taken free of charge by Mr. A. Ramsey and now printed and on display in the Assembly Rooms. Possible future use to produce a calendar.
- Future events – tree planting 26th March and pond planting 23rd April.
- Ponds now filling with water nicely.
- Possible purchase of two-wheel tractor type machine and various attachments to assist with ongoing maintenance. Agreed subject instead of cut and collect machine subject to lottery approval. Shed adjacent to site available for storage. Clerk to look into possible insurance costs.
- Opening Day 3rd June.

Tree Hub: One hundred and eighty-nine trees given out so far in March.

Climate Crisis Committee Recommendations –

Promotion of the Council Climate Crisis Grant Fund: Noted. Item to be placed in Community Newsletter and online.

Recommendation that dogs not be allowed on the new Nature Reserve: Cllr. Poster outlined the reasoning for this proposal and it was agreed unanimously. Cllr. Poster had drafted some provisional wording for temporary signage which was agreed. Permanent signs would be purchased in due course.

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for the new Nature Reserve: Noted with no further comments.

Review of the management of Council owned hedges: Members agreed that the Committee carry this out and that a report to be presented to Council at the July meeting. Sites and Buildings Committee to be invited to comment at its next meeting.

Changes to the trial mowing arrangements at the Community Orchard/Below the Bike Track: Agreed to cease the trial area around the community orchard but to leave the area below the bike track unmown for the coming year. Contractor to be asked to mow around the edge adjacent to the path.

Letter re Eddie's Meadow: Members agreed the reply as drafted. A copy of the original management plan would also be sent.

Management plan for Eddie's Meadow: Agreed that Sites and Buildings Committee and Climate Crisis Committee to review.

(3) Thanks for 20 – Support Campaign Information: Noted.

(4) Review of Bus Routes/Stops/Electric Bike/Car Grant Scheme: Members noted that Cllrs. Baynham, Edwards and the Clerk had met John Forsey of the County Council to discuss bus routes and the current stops in Presteigne. The following matters were discussed -

- By pass shelter to be cleaned.
- Low usage of the Sargeants Bus and problems with connections e.g. to Llandrindod or Hereford.
- Lack of a direct bus to Llandrindod.
- Hereford Street stop currently on the wrong side of the road – to be moved.
- Townend Stop – bus stop markings to be put on road, stop to be marked.
- Remove old timetable box in Station Road.
- Timetables to be supplied for Clerk to circulate.
- Timetable for x11 to be put at bypass shelter.
- Possible introduction of electric bikes via grant fund.
- Possible electric car share.

(5) Complaint re Condition of Verge/Shrubs, Station Road: The Clerk had reported this to the County Council which had not felt there was a problem. She had then contacted the Guerrilla Gardeners and they had kindly agreed to tidy the area. Members reported that this had been done. The Clerk was asked to thank the Gardeners for their work.

(6) Update re works to High Street: High Street - Members noted the works to be carried out before the end of the month. One Way Hereford Street – Members noted that this was to become permanent. The Clerk was asked to report that the speed cushions near to Clatterbrune were deteriorating at the edges.

MIN 4175 NORTON

(1) Norton Community Trust Update: Cllr. Firth reported that works were on hold pending the attendance of the appointed archaeologist who was due in mid-April. More grant applications had been submitted. Cllr. Bamford added that Cllr. Wilding had re-joined the Presteigne and Norton Community Trust.

MIN 4176 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences: Two blockages had been promptly cleared during the month and there had been no need to close the facilities at any point.

(2) Allotments: Rent coming in well. There were still a number of people on the waiting list.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

Use for Carnival 6-9th July: Confirmed.

Letter from resident re Eddie's Meadow management: Noted. See under Climate Crisis Committee.

Work of Warden Guardians on former Reservoir and Eddie's Meadow: Members were pleased to accept the offer of ongoing help from the Warden Guardians for both Eddie's Meadow and the old reservoir ground.

De-Silting of Pond, Lower Went's Meadow: Members were pleased to learn that this had been done.

Clearance of prunings/tree cuttings – Community Orchard/Far Field: Members noted that a large pile of cuttings remained and considered the suggestion of the hire of a wood chipper. It was agreed that the pile be left until the Autumn when another attempt could be made to dispose of them.

Vandalism at Old Barn: Noted. The Clerk confirmed that the police had been informed.

Tree Survey Report: Noted. Sites and Buildings Committee to review.

Use by Chatterbrook WI 13th July: Confirmed.

Report on Community Orchard: Noted. Sites and Buildings Committee to review.

MIN 4177 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Town Wifi Update: A site meeting should by now have been held to discuss the siting of the two units on the Assembly Rooms. The Clerk would push for a unit on the Memorial Hall which could be connected at a later date once the Hall had a broadband connection.

Cllr. Edwards joined the meeting at this point and took the Chair.

(2) Community Broadband Scheme Update: Members noted that Broadway Partners was intending to proceed in Presteigne and Norton on a commercial basis and that surveying was currently planned to start in the early Autumn.

- (3) Invitation to St. Andrew's Church Service for King's Coronation – Sunday 7th May at 11am: Noted.
- (4) Winding of Town Clock: Members noted the misunderstanding concerning the winding of the clock and were pleased to note that there was in fact a regular clock winder in place plus a back up in case of holiday/sickness. They were also pleased to learn the clock had recently been serviced although a return visit was needed to correct a problem with the hourly chimes.
- (5) Final Report of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: Members noted the final payment levels for 2023-24. Those who had been on the Council for some time were aware that due to the previous wording of the £150 payment allocation it was necessary to put it through payroll. The wording this year had been changed and it is now termed a working from home allowance, so, in the Clerk's opinion, should be non-taxable and able to be paid outside payroll. The Clerk was waiting for confirmation from One Voice Wales/HMRC. Due to it being a larger amount the Mayor's allowance will need to continue to be paid through payroll. The annual £150 had been increased to £156 and in addition there is to be a 'cost of consumables' payment of £52 per year (or reimbursement can be made on receipts).
- All other optional or compulsory payments are unchanged and those available to Presteigne and Norton Town Councillors for 2023/24 are -
- Care costs to attend meetings (mandatory)
 - Travel costs (45p per mile) (optional)
 - Mayor's Allowance/Expenses (optional).
 - Annual Working from Home Allowance of £156 per year (mandatory)
 - Expenses Allowance £52 per year (mandatory)
- Payment is made in or around January to those Members that have not declined it.
- (6) Town Investment Plan Update: Members had only received the plan that day and the Clerk was instructed to ask for additional time for comments to be submitted. They were however concerned at the query on the need for affordable housing and the Clerk was asked to reply immediately stressing that the Council felt very strongly that there was unmet need for such housing. Subject to any comments received the Clerk was authorised to agree the plan as circulated.

MIN 4178 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Clerk read the following report from Cllr. Baynham: -

Powys County Council set its budget two weeks ago and agreed a rise of 5% in council tax. Cllr. Baynham did not support that budget and voted to abstain however the majority of Councillors voted for the budget, and it was passed.

As a member of the Employment Committee she had recently been a member of the interview panel to appoint both a Head of Children's Services and a Head of Adult Services. Both very important roles within the council.

She had supported Cllr. Wilding as Vice-Chairman of the Memorial Hall Management Committee by liaising with County Council Officers recently to discuss statutory testing with a satisfactory outcome.

Several Highways issues have been attended to over the last month and unfortunately due to the weather last week the recycling collection did not happen but crews will take any extra recycling this week.

Finally an apology for the mix up regarding the clock on the Assembly Rooms.

Cllr. Edwards added that local businesses able to apply for a business rates reduction should do so by 30th March and that Keep Wales Tidy were holding litter picking events over the coming fortnight if anyone wished to be involved.

MIN 4179 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

- (1) Bunting left by old HSBC: Cllr. Abecasis reported that bunting here had not been removed. The Clerk advised that this was not the Council's bunting and Cllr. Abecasis would contact the Carnival Committee.
- (2) Bin/Signage at top of St. David's Street: Cllr. Abecasis reported that the resident had asked to discuss these and possible/change removal. He would contact Cllr. Baynham as these were County Council items.

- (3) Dead Tree, Nature Reserve (backing onto Castle Road properties): Cllrs. Bamford and Poster would take a look.
- (4) Standing Water: Cllr. Edwards had reported this at the far end of Home Farm Lane. Clerk to also report.
- (5) Possible Fly Tipping, Discoed: Cllr. Edwards to check and report if needed.
- (6) Possible Coronation Event: Cllr. Edwards asked that anyone interested in helping with an event please get in touch with her.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

2022-23- Project Balances at 31st March 2023		
Meadows	26,671.18	Own Account, as bank balance.
allotment monies	-	£3744.71 - now held in Meadow Account, £306.44 to pay April
Warden/Eddie's Meadow Reserve Fund	1021.08	Own Account, as bank balance
Remuneration of Councillors	1800.00	
Councillor Training	552.50	
Wildflower Mix / Bulbs	256.16	
Website	1364.00	
Christmas Lights Anchorage Testing	323.80	
Renewal of Christmas lights	1177.95	
Toilets (both blocks)	17041.38	
Norton community general fund	354.07	
Election Fund	6859.92	
Norton Lights	350.00	
Clerk's Training	435.50	
Library and Devolved Services	6854.00	not invoiced since pre covid
Xmas Lights Annual Costs	392.30	
Norton Community Trust Project	0.00	
Capital Receipt (can only be spent on capital items)	30,770.10	From cemetery land As bank balance
Dark Skies/Street Lighting NEW	1,142.24	Inc Welsh Water grant
Climate Crisis Grants	1333.77	
Footpath Maintenance	100.00	Allocated reserve created Jan 2022, remove?
Tree Hub Monies	350.00	New - add to climate crisis grant fund? £500 to come April
	99,149.95	
(Including 2022-23 precept amounts)		
<i>Governance and accountability for local Councils in Wales - A Practitioners Guide recommends that free reserves of 3 to 12 months expenditure are held by local Councils</i>		
Bank Balances at 31st March 2023		
26,671.18	Meadow	
9,466.62	Treasurer	
33,396.95	General Reserve	
1021.08	Warden Reserve	
30,770.10	Capital Account	NB balance includes interest paid on account
0.00	less cheques to clear	
23558.00	plus Nature Reserve Grant due in	
124883.93	Projected Year End Balance	
Ear marked Reserves	99149.95	
Total Minimum Level Free Reserves	21,236	2022/23 budget £84,944
Total Maximum Level Free Reserves	84,944	
120385.95	Minimum Total Balance rec'd Practitioners Guide (min. free reserve + allocated reserves)	
184093.95	Maximum Total Balance recommended - max free reserve plus allocated reserves	

PRECEPT 2022-23 FINAL			
Expenditures	Final 2022-23	To 31st March 2023	
Council Administration Costs			
Mayor's Allowance	1000	1000	
Mayor's Expenses	500	21.00	
Clerk's Salary PAYE inclusive. See note 1	25760	26,749.68	
Audit Fee (Internal and External)	750	354.00	NB £255 relates to 21-22
Insurance (3 year agreement exp. 2/9/22)	1400	1363.76	
Membership of SLCC	245	234	
Stationery & Computer Sundries/Petty Cash	650	688.82	
Video Conferencing Licence (zoom)	120	83.93	
Computer Service/Repairs	150	0	
One Voice Wales Annual fee	490	498.00	
Training/Conference Fees for Clerk	280	0.00	
Travelling Expenses	200	93.67	
Election Expenses	5500	1046.14	
Remuneration of Councillors/Cllr Expenses. See note 2	0	0	
Councillor Training. See note 3	350	62.50	
Information Commissioner Data Registration	35	35	
Website (funded largely via advertising income)	0	0	
Bank Charges Treasurer Account	100	93	
	37,530.00	32,323.50	
Donations & S137s -			
Air Ambulance	300	300	
British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths)	60	60	
East Radnorshire Care	2000	2000	
Knighton & District Leg Club	100	0	
Memorial Hall	1250	1250	
Mid Border Arts	1250	1250	
Norton Community Trust	5000	5000	
Norton Sports Committee (Fireworks)	200	200	
PACDG	250	250	
1st Presteigne Guides	0	0	
Presteigne Festival	1250	1250	
Presteigne Fireworks Display (Sheep Music)	500	500	
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250	250	
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000	2000	
Powys CAB	200	200	
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	250	250	
The Samaritans	250	250	
Wardens Guardian Foundation	250	250	
Youth Project	1000	1000	
Presteigne & Norton Floral Art Society - NEW	200	200	
Miscellaneous	500	200	(£100 - Liminal Space), £100 Hope House
	17,060.00	16,660.00	
Ongoing Projects:			
Anchorage Test for Xmas Lights	125	0	
Toilet Blocks (2)	10500	9669.09	
PACDG (street cleaning)	250	250	
Funding twds Town Library Service (reserve held)	1073	0	
Presteigne Christmas Lights.	1200	1011.00	
Wildflowers/ Bulbs/Verges/Roundabouts (390 for roundabouts)	450	390	
Street Lighting/Dark Skies Project	0	0	

PRECEPT 2022-23 FINAL			
Climate Crisis Project Grants	500	338.78	Tree swatches, rattle plants, tree hub costs
	14,098.00	11,658.87	
Went's Meadow Site inc MUGA etc, Eddie's Meadow			
Weekly Inspections (inc defib checks)	1300	1165.50	
General Maintenance	2500	3033.90	
Dog Bags	1000	1271.25	Extra spend agreed
Grass Cutting/weed killing See note 5.	3600	3436.95	
Professional Inspections	500	899	
MUGA / New Barn Reserve	2000	0	
Allotments (funded via rental income - see below)	0	0	
Utilities	250	215.96	
Misc.(to include bank charges)	300	88.00	
	11,450.00	10,110.56	
New Projects 2022-23			
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (Norton & Presteigne)	800.00	683.74	Complete
IT Equipment (hybrid meetings)	300.00	300.00	See also below.
Painting of Town Fingerposts/Tourist Map posts	750.00	0	
Works to Boultribrooke Weir	2,638.00	2638.00	£2449 & £722.50 (some shown below)
Mowing/mulching of car park field - 1 cut	318.00	0	Did not go ahead
	4,806.00	3,621.74	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	84,944.00	74,374.67	
Monies Allocated to Specific Reserves		2125	
plus actual spend from budget			
Total		76,499.67	
Spending not within original budget			
Green Waste Bin		40.00	
Nature Reserve Project (lottery Funded)		210,357.88	
Hire of Old School, Tree Hub (grant received)		150.00	
Dark Skies - Heritage Lanterns (funded by Welsh Water and Gofundme)		2,395.00	
Website Works and hosting (funded via ad revenue)		336.00	
Mayor's donations from 2021-22		250.00	
Weir work balance taken from Welsh Water Monies		533.50	
Street Cleaning (from allocated reserve)		250.00	
Climate Crisis grant from reserve (Energy survey)		250.00	
Allotments (funded via income)		380.46	
Mayor's Allowance 2021-22 from unspent balance that year		104.92	
BSL Signs - Playground - agreed 21-22 from free reserves		53.90	
Misc maintenance items (39.36, 68.52)		107.88	
IT Equipment for Hybrid Meetings (£3892 grant funded)		4565.00	
Christmas Lights 2021-22 budget		600.00	
Donation to PCC re roundabout, Play Area		1000.00	
		221374.54	
VAT Treasurer		6281.90	
VAT Meadow		1660.49	
Grand Total Actual Spend (as per accounts)		303,691.60	

PRECEPT 2022-23 FINAL			
Check Totals			
Treasurer	291,540.09		
Meadow	12151.51		
	303691.60		