

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

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Mrs Tracey Price (Clerk)  
Garn Farm  
Chapel Lawn  
Bucknell  
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13<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

Dear Councillor

There will be a meeting of Presteigne and Norton Town Council on **WEDNESDAY 19th July, 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 SPEAKERS FROM DYFED-POWYS  
POLICE**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89616661909?pwd=RVB6Nk01U2JVVaDFIQzNMMnQwSDRtZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 1666 1909 Passcode: 515775

Dial by your location - 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbXpwWBTuX>

*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**

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**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 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 are a true and accurate record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes as such.

To approve that the Minutes of the Climate Crisis Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 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 21<sup>st</sup> June. Also to receive the Clerk's Report for July.

### 5. FINANCE

a) Donations: None

b) Payments: to approve the following payments –

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

c) To note the following receipts:-

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

d) To receive the budget update to the end of June, 2023.

e) Payment towards Presteigne Library Service. Clerk's Report 2a.

### 6. PLANNING

(a) To consider applications received:

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.

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 – None at issue of agenda.
- (c) Bute Energy/GreenGen Project: To receive any update.
- (d) Infrastructure (Wales) Bill 2023: To note information circulated.
- (e) Draft TPO, John Beddoes School Field, Presteigne.
- (f) Planning Enforcement Update.

## **7. HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

- a) Dark Skies/Lighting Update.
- b) Climate Crisis Update Including:-
  - Nature Reserve Project (Clerk's Report 4b) and review of situation re. ponds.
  - Report on Climate Stakeholder Group Meeting (PCC)(Cllr. Poster).
  - Meadow Area and Local Places for Nature Grant.
  - Climate Crisis Committee Recommendations as follows:-  
*To note update on progress of nature reserve project.*  
*To agree the evaluation report for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.*  
*To recommend the hedge management plan for adoption by Full Council.*  
*To confirm the attendance of Cllr. Poster at future Climate Crisis Stakeholder Group.*  
*To note the suggested budget for the Climate Crisis Fund in 2024/25 of £200 (subject to Committee review in October).*

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

- c) Street Cleaning Update. Clerk's Report 4a.
- d) Information on National 20mph Changes. As emailed 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- e) BT Kiosk, Station Road: To note that a request for cleaning and re-painting has been submitted and agreed. Clerk's Report 4c.
- f) Fold Farm DMMO Application Update.

## **8. NORTON**

- a) Norton Community Trust Update.

## **9. SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS**

- a) Public Conveniences: To agree estimated cost for urinal repair.
- b) Allotments: To note recent repairs to two of the three pumps.
- c) Meadows: To include –
  - Review of Management Plan, Eddie's Meadow.
  - Update on vandalism.
- d) Community Storage Update and Decision.
  - To note temporary arrangements for temporary storage of TC items.
  - To consider the proposal for new community storage and pop up refreshment area.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

- a) Update on current situation – Presteigne Memorial Hall.
- b) Complaint re. grass cutting (as emailed 28<sup>th</sup> June).
- c) Youth Matters Update (Cllr. Abecasis).
- d) Updated Standing Orders: To approve the updated standing orders.
- e) One Voice Wales Awards: To note the two awards received. Clerk's Report 5a.
- f) Annual Fireworks/Bonfire: Update Cllr. Williams. Clerk's Report 5b.
- g) Email from Jane Dodds MS re. dental services.
- h) Email from John Beddoes Campus re use of school field.

**11. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

**Enc.** *Clerk's Report July. Minutes of June Meeting. Minutes of Climate Crisis Committee. Budget Update to end of June. Various Background papers.*



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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2023**  
**HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND ALSO VIA**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCING**

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

Apologies: Cllr. R. Bamford (Deputy Mayor).      Absent: Cllr. J. Poster.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk. One member of the public.  
Mr. R. Gealy and Ms L. Evans representing Freedom Leisure/East Radnor Leisure Centre.

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.*

East Radnor Leisure Centre: Prior to the formal meeting Members heard from Mr. Gealy and Ms Evans on the current plans and usage at the Centre and on the previous and planned capital works which would total approximately £400,000 when complete. They explained that across the Powys centres energy costs had increased by £62,000 a month in the previous year and that this was obviously placing enormous pressure on budgets. Members asked what they could do to help secure the future of the centre and were asked to promote usage and encourage residents to take out memberships at the centre. Mr. Gealy explained there were problems recruiting staff although vacancies were well advertised. He added that media and publicity was dealt with centrally but accepted that this could be improved, particularly with regard to the website and he would look into this. The possibility of solar panels was discussed and Mr. Gealy agreed to ask if Cllr. Firth could access the building with a contractor so an accurate quote could be obtained.

Cllr. Baynham thanked Mr. Gealy and Ms. Evans for attending. She added that the County Council review of Leisure Centres was now underway and a public consultation would commence in the next few weeks. She asked that Members encourage residents to complete this.

**MIN 4208 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the annual and ordinary meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 were approved without amendment. The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

**MIN 4209 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

- (1) Sleeping Dragon Fund: The Clerk confirmed that the money had not as yet been drawn down.
- (2) Leominster/Countrywide Roundabout: Cllr. Baynham informed Members that Radnor Hills had now planted the roundabout and Members agreed that this was looking very good.
- (3) Norton Grass Cutting: Cllr. Edwards confirmed that the extra strip had now been done.
- (4) Grass Cutting, Station Road: Cllr. Owens reported that an extra strip also needed cutting here as visibility to the right was poor. Cllr. Baynham would arrange.
- (5) Information - New Defibrillator: Presteigne Youth Project now has a unit on the outside of its building. It will be maintained and checked by PYP.
- (6) Climate Crisis Committee: The Clerk confirmed that Jenny Mottershead had agreed to remain on the Committee as an outside representative.



## MIN 4210 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The letter of thanks from East Radnorshire Care was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Mrs T.A. Price	£1495.00
HM Revenue & Customs	£586.51
NEST Pensions (direct debit)	£139.37
Mrs T.A Price (expenses)	£67.85
T. Lloyd-John	£667.23
N. Close	£96.00
N. Close	£252.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£345.89
HSBC (Bank Charges) – Treasurer Acc)	£8.00
HSBC (Bank charges) – Meadow Acc)	£8.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

Nature Reserve Payments –

J. Stephens	£125.00
Ultimate One Ltd	£370.80
O. Rimington	£317.57
O. Rimington	£742.58
O. Rimington (refund Arrow Plant)	£105.60
R. Bamford (refund locks/cakes)	£155.93
Cultivating Learning & Nature CIC	£600.35
Artisan Print	£30.80
Weobley Ash Orchards	£26.40
Double Take	£930.00
Presteigne Building Supplies (inc £5.90 misc spend)	£514.10
Meta Translations	£50.32
Purrfect Cat Hire	£300.00
Presteigne Gates Ltd	£84.00
Julian Jones Ecology Services	£1975.00

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted:-

Tree Hub Hosting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Group of Sessions)	£500.00
Powys County Council (use of electric – Hfd Street)	£170.58
Heritage Lottery Grant Refund	£22,716.39
Heritage Lottery Grant Refund	£5,924.16

(4) External Audit and Notice of Elector's Rights: Members noted that the notice had now been received by Wales Audit Office and had been placed on the various notice boards and on the Council website.

## MIN 4211 PLANNING

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

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

23/0790/FUL Grid Reference: E:331309 N: 264092 Proposal: Erection of 2.4m high perimeter fencing with 2 gates together with installation of roof top anti-climb roller spikes to part of west facing area of building Site Address: Unit 5 & 6, Presteigne Industrial Estate, Presteigne. Resolved to support the application.

23/0789/FUL Grid Reference: E:331524 N: 263988 Proposal: Erection of 2.4m high perimeter fencing with 2 gates and erection of 2.4 m high new compound fencing together with installation of roof top anti-climb roller spikes to part north facing and to part west facing areas of building Site Address: Unit 1, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne. Resolved to support the application.

*Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.*

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decision was noted:-

20/0116/OUT Land at Broadaxe Farm, Presteigne: Consent with Section 106.

(3) RE: Environment Act 1995: Periodic Review of Mining Sites Application for Postponement of the Periodic Review for Gore Quarry, Walton, Presteigne, LD8 2PL: Resolved to request that the periodic review proceed as planned for 31st March 2024 and not be postponed for a further fifteen years.

(4) Bute Energy/GreenGen Project: Cllr. Edwards gave a brief update including a recent meeting with Bute Energy to discuss community benefits although nothing was agreed at this stage.



## **MIN 4212 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: The Clerk confirmed that the application had now been submitted.

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

- Nature Reserve: Cllr. Wilding reported that there were still some issues with a lack of water in the ponds and that possible solutions were being considered. The situation was being monitored. Cllr. Abecasis asked whether tree planting should be a certain minimum distance from boundary fences as he had received an enquiry from a resident. It was believed that there was no minimum but he was asked to speak to the resident and ask them to get in touch with the Clerk if there was any concern.
- Climate Conference: No report due to the absence of Cllr. Poster. Deferred to July.
- Items for next Committee Meeting: Members to notify the Clerk of any items within the next seven days.

(3) 20 MPH Limit: Members noted that the County Council are seeking to exempt the bypass from the new 20mph so it will remain 30mph in September. The changes in legislation will mean that it will have to add repeater signs within lit 30s (at the moment it is not able to install repeaters within 30 lit limits as the current legislation prevents it). It wouldn't be able to install repeaters within the lit 20 limits and will have to manage the complaints about speeding on all the other roads after the change.

(4) Fold Farm DMMO Application: Members noted the update received by James Evans MS – 'although officers have not yet reached the point of contacting Presteigne Town Council about this case, the team has recently been able to progress other Definitive Map and Commons Register casework that originated at around the same time as this Definitive Map Modification Order application at Fold Farm. A statutory evidential Commons Registration case was determined by Committee earlier this week and officers are also moving forward determination of a Village Green case. Over the last three months, due to a vacancy within the team, the Professional Lead has needed to ensure that end of financial year grant funding requirements are met. However, with the recruitment of a new officer to lead on grant funding for the team from June, this will release time to allow for other statutory work including this case.'

(5) Stakeholder Consultation - Forest Management carried out by Pryor & Rickett Silviculture Ltd (SA-FM/COC-001446). Cllr. Wilding to review.

(6) Thank you letter from Welsh Government re. the Presteigne Tree Hub: Noted.

(7) Consultation on the Local Housing Market Assessment for Powys: It was agreed that the Clerk respond as follows – The Town Council sees a real need in its area for affordable housing for local working people and feels this should be prioritised. Members also felt that shared ownership was an important option to be provided as part of such housing.

## **MIN 4213 NORTON**

(1) Community Trust Update: All progressing well and it was hoped to be open by the end of 2023.

(2) Reminder, Norton Show: 30<sup>th</sup> July.

## **MIN 4214 SITES AND BUILDINGS**

(1) Public Conveniences: The Clerk had received one quote so far with another expected. She outlined the details of the quote received and it was agreed that if the second quote was not received within a week that the work be awarded to this contractor. Should a further quote come in then she was authorised to proceed to appoint the contractor with the lowest quote.

(2) Allotments: Members noted the recent break in and stealing of tools and produce. The Clerk explained that the tenant had since found the tools in the river.

(3) Meadows:

- Littering and Vandalism – Members were concerned to hear that the vandalism and graffiti had been increasing in recent weeks. The Clerk reported that with the help of the High School four people had been identified and would be interviewed at the police station.
- Work by Community Payback Team: The Clerk would be meeting the team supervisor on site on 26<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that in addition to the strimming of some untidy areas she also ask if they would look at the Old Barn with a view to removing the graffiti and possibly repainting as needed.
- Use by Presteigne Pop Choir – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023: Noted.

(4) Boultonbrook Weir: Members noted that the willow was not growing as well as expected and it was agreed to monitor it for the time being.



(5) Community Storage Update: Agreed that this was now becoming pressing and that the current storage was in poor condition and in any event due for demolition in the fairly near future. Given that Cllr. Bamford was not present it was agreed that the Clerk ask for fully costed plans to consider at the July meeting, together with details of possible grant funds that could be applied to. A decision on the next steps would then be taken in July.

(6) Disabled Provision and Access, Wilson Terrace Play Area: Cllr. Van Huls explained that he had been approached as the site had relatively little provision for disabled children. It was noted that this is a County Council site although the Town Council had obtained a number of items of equipment for it in recent years. The Clerk explained that this had been explored in the past but that she had been told that, due to the necessary harnesses etc often required, installing such equipment was problematic in a public playground. Cllr. Van Huls agreed to ask for photographs of the equipment in Hereford so the Clerk could look into it and discuss with Cllr. Baynham and the relevant officer at the County Council.

#### **MIN 4215      CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

(1) Community Broadband Scheme Update: Members noted that Broadway Partners was now in administration and that for the present there was no alternative solution.

(2) Co-Responders Query – Update: Members were disappointed with the response received and it was agreed that Cllr. Owens liaise with the Clerk and draft a letter in response.

(3) Review of Leisure Centres: Members discussed the information provided by the Freedom Leisure staff. It was agreed that the Clerk write as follows:-

- to thank both Officers for attending and for the information provided;
- to say that an internet search for job vacancies had not found any and that this was disappointing given the recruitment issues the Centre said it was having;
- to stress the need for regular usage figures to be provided to the County Council and for the High School to supply accurate pupil figures rather than the number of sessions;
- to encourage input from the public on the types of classes, times and sessions needed;
- to offer to fund two additional promotional banners up to a maximum cost of £200 (as agreed February 2023).

The Clerk was also asked to write to the High School to stress the importance of supplying regular, accurate pupil figures to the Centre so these could be provided to the County Council to assist with the case for retaining the centre.

(4) Revitalising Mid Wales Project: Members noted the information supplied and confirmed support for the project.

(5) Nomination Form, Community Sub Committee of PCC Standards Committee: No one wished to be nominated.

#### **MIN 4216      COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr. Edwards:-

- Current social care recruitment drive.
- Borrow a Balance Bike Scheme in some libraries.
- Congratulations to Cllr. Baynham on being elected Chair of the County Council.
- Changes to road surface in Norton to prepare for the introduction of the change to 20mph in September.

Cllr. Baynham:-

- Balance Bike Scheme: She had been disappointed that Presteigne was not currently one of the receiving libraries and had spoken to Officers. She was now hopeful that a bike would be available in Presteigne.

#### **MIN 4217      URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

(1) PACDG Meetings: Cllr. Williams stated that he had been asked to inform Members that the group was low on numbers and in need of more people. He circulated an information leaflet in case any Member wished to join.

(2) Memorial Hall: Cllr. Wilding suggested that appointing a Town Council representative to sit on the Committee might be useful and two Members indicated that they would consider joining the Committee. The Clerk would write to the Hall Committee to see if it would welcome a representative from the Council. If so she would add the appointment to the July agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.



Expenditures	Final 2023/24	Spend to end of June 2023
<b>Council Administration Costs</b>		
Mayor's Allowance	1000	
Mayor's Expenses	500	66.66
Clerk's Salary PAYE inclusive. See note 1	28100	6969.08
Audit Fee (Internal and External)	800	88.00
Insurance (3 year agreement exp. 2/9/22)	1450	
Membership of SLCC	250	236.00
Stationery & Computer Sundries/Petty Cash inc computer repairs	750	223.30
Video Conferencing Licence (zoom)	100	119.90
One Voice Wales Annual fee	520	546.00
Training/Conference Fees for Clerk (reserve held)	0	
Travelling Expenses	200	45.90
Election Expenses (reserve held)	0	
Remuneration of Councillors/Cllr Expenses. See note 2	0	
Councillor Training	100	
Information Commissioner Data Registration	35	35.00
Website (funded via advertising income)	0	0
Bank Charges Treasurer Account	110	27.47
	<b>33,915.00</b>	<b>8,357.31</b>
<b>Donations and S137s</b>		
Air Ambulance (to be reviewed if Mid Wales Base removed)	300	
British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths)	60	
East Radnorshire Care	2000	2000
Memorial Hall	1000	1000
Mid Border Arts	1250	1250
Norton Community Trust	5000	5000
Norton Sports Committee (Fireworks)	200	
PACDG	250	250
Presteigne Festival	1250	1250
Presteigne Fireworks Display (Sheep Music) - £500 guarantee against loss	0	0
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup (not required 2023-24)	0	0
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250	250
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000	2000
Powys CAB	200	200
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	0	0
The Samaritans	250	250
Wardens Guardian Foundation (not required 2023-24)	0	0
Youth Project	1000	1000
Miscellaneous	500	
	<b>15,510.00</b>	<b>14,450.00</b>
<b>Ongoing Projects:</b>		
Anchorage Test for Xmas Lights	125	0
Toilet Blocks (2) (reserves to be used for balance)	12000	2128.86
street cleaning	0	
Funding twds Town Library Service (reserve held)	0	
Presteigne Christmas Lights.	1100	
Wildflowers/ Bulbs/Verges/Roundabouts (Corton roundabout only)	250	
Street Lighting/Dark Skies Project	0	
Climate Crisis Project Grants (unspent reserve held)	250	250
	<b>13,725.00</b>	<b>2,378.86</b>
<b>New Projects 2023-24</b>		
Coronation of King Charles III (£250 Norton, £250 Presteigne)	500	500
Additions to Christmas Lighting (poss lights for Christmas Trees)	500	
Mayor's Honours Board	0	0
Regular Updating of Website	100	
Speed Indicator Signs, Norton	0	0
New Street Cleaning Arrangements	1000	
	<b>2,100.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Went's Meadow Site inc MUGA etc, Eddie's Meadow</b>		
Weekly Inspections (inc defib checks)	1500	396.00
General Maintenance	2000	182.93
Dog Bags	1400	611.80
Grass Cutting/weed killing	3600	864.72
Professional Inspections (tree survey paid in 22/23)	925	0
MUGA / New Barn Reserve	2000	0
Allotments (funded via rental income)	0	0
Utilities	350	24.20

Misc.(to include bank charges)	300	47.40
	12,075.00	2,127.05
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>77,325.00</b>	<b>27,813.22</b>
less £4400 to be used twds toilet expenditure	-4400.00	
<b>Precept Demand therefore will be</b>	<b>72,925.00</b>	
<b>Monies Allocated to Specific Reserves</b>	2125.00	
plus actual spend from budget		
Total		
<b>Spending not within original budget</b>		
Nature Reserve (grant funded)		17,570.11
Tree Hub Costs		24.00
Misc works N. Close		77.90
Misc		
VAT Treasurer		2701.13
VAT Meadow		300.31
<b>Grand Total Actual Spend (as per accounts )</b>		<b>48,486.67</b>
Check Totals		
Treasurer	46,059.31	
Meadow	2427.36	
	<b>48,486.67</b>	



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

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**MINUTES FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023  
IN THE GREEN ROOM, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA  
VIDEO CONFERENCING**

**Present:** Cllrs. Poster (Chairman), Firth (Vice-Chairman) (via video link), Bamford and Gray.  
Outside Representative: Ms. K. Van Den Ende,

**Apologies:** None.

**In Attendance:** Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

**Absent:** Ms. J. Mottershead.

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

*Personal: None. Personal and Prejudicial: None*

**1/23. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2023/24**

Cllr. Poster was proposed by Cllr. Bamford, seconded by Cllr. Firth and elected unanimously.

**2/23. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2023/24**

Cllr. Firth was proposed by Cllr. Poster, seconded by Cllr. Bamford and elected unanimously.

**3/23. NATURE RESERVE PROJECT**

Cllr. Bamford provided an update on works at the new nature reserve as follows –

- Open Day: Held at the beginning of June and thought to have been very successful.
- Project Completion: The Heritage Lottery had extended the date for completion to the 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- Inclusion in National Forest Project: Cllr. Bamford explained that this needed to be looked into in order to apply for inclusion if possible. Ms. Van Den Ende agreed to look into this.
- Ponds: Cllr. Bamford reported that these were not holding water well but that there was some money set aside for remedial work if needed in the Autumn. Possible solutions were discussed with the Committee being against the use of any plastic type liner.
- Watering of Trees: Agreed that a more formal rota needed to be set up. Cllr. Wilding to be asked if he could move the water container to a more accessible spot.
- Mower Training: Carried out by Mr. Hitchcock of the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and recommendations made on the required safety checks etc. Additional safety equipment to be purchased.
- Mower Attachments: One part to be collected from supplier as soon as convenient.
- Evaluation Report: Agreed unchanged. To be sent to Heritage Lottery as soon as agreed by Town Council.
- Walnut Tree: Not thriving and it had been noted on receipt that the roots had been over-trimmed. Agreed to notify supplier of issue and review in due course.
- Trees: Labels being produced and would be put in place once received.
- Site Visit: Secondary School had been on site earlier in the day.
- Project Monitoring: Group to be set up to carry out ongoing monitoring.

Site visit to look at possible meadow areas on Council land to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Date to be confirmed.

**4/23. HEDGE MANAGEMENT**

Members had received a copy of the report of Ms Van Den Ende and Ms Mottershead relating to biodiversity and management of hedges on Council land.



The Committee was pleased to recommend the report to the Full Council subject to –  
Clarification of the period mid Winter to early Spring – Months to be stated, November to February.

Amendment to wording of the first paragraph of the detailed proposal 'trimmed on a 2, or ideally 3 year rotation (depending on rate of growth)'.

Cllr. Bamford stated that there would also be a need to inform the public on the reasoning for the proposed new management if agreed. To be done via posters/leaflets and a budget to be applied for from the Climate Crisis Fund in due course.

Ms. Van Den Ende asked about the situation with the new development at Broadaxe and the Clerk agreed to supply a link to the outline planning permission documents.

#### **5/23. CLIMATE CRISIS STAKEHOLDER GROUP:**

Cllr. Poster reported on the inaugural meeting and highlighted the following –

- Future meetings to continue to offer an online option.
- Meetings to be held monthly.

Cllr. Poster confirmed he was willing to continue to attend and to report to the Committee or Full Council as appropriate.

He informed the Committee that the Tree Group had written to Julie James MS regarding the need to secure the safety of mature trees as well as planting new ones via the My Tree Our Forest programme.

#### **6/23. CLIMATE CRISIS GRANTS: UPDATE.**

One grant of £250 issued since the last committee meeting. Agreed to suggest a further budget of £200 for 2024/25 and to also consider requesting a budget for this Committee in future years. To be further considered at the next meeting if this fitted with the budget time scales.

#### **7/23. URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION**

(1) Weed-Killing along edge of Nature Reserve: Cllr. Poster raised this as a concern and said that it appeared that a householder had used weed killer to clear an area outside his boundary. It was agreed to try to speak to the householder or approach the resident's representative to ask that weed killer not be used but to state that cutting/strimming of an area up to one metre from the fence would be permitted.

(2) River Lugg Water Quality Monitoring: Cllr. Gray raised this as having been a concern locally recently. Ms. Van Den Ende confirmed that regular phosphate monitoring was carried out but no general analysis of the water under that programme. Cllr. Gray would investigate the source of the recent rumours.

(3) Concerns over Positioning of Trees: The Clerk advised that Cllr. Abecasis had raised this briefly at the end of the last Full Council meeting and had been asked to get more specific details if there was still a concern.

#### **8/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

#### **Summary of Full Council Decisions Required –**

*To note the update on progress of nature reserve project.*

*To agree the evaluation report for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.*

*To recommend the hedge management plan for adoption by Full Council.*

*To confirm the attendance of Cllr. Poster at future Climate Crisis Stakeholder Group.*

*To note the suggested budget for the Climate Crisis Fund in 2024/25 of £200 (subject to committee review in October).*

The meeting closed at 7.28 pm.



# **PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

**JULY 2023**

### **1. INFORMATION –**

a) Annual Return/External Audit: The papers have now been submitted to the Wales Audit Office.

### **2. FINANCE**

a) Library Service Funding: After a number of years of not claiming any money towards the service PCC is now indicating it wishes to invoice. We contributed £1073 in 2018/19 and the same in 2019-20. A reserve balance of £6854 is held to meet future requests. PCC have asked if they may back date and invoice to cover the missing years (note that part of the time the service was closed due to covid anyway). If all the intervening years were now requested then a further four years including the current year would total £4292. There would be potential implications for our S137 spend which has a maximum limit each year if this was to happen.

### **3. SITES AND BUILDINGS –**

a) Community Storage: I have now been asked to start clearing out the former sixth form building. Groups with items in the building will be notified. We will need to find a temporary home for the tables and gazebos which are all that belong to the TC.

### **4. HHE –**

a) Street Cleaning: This has now been re-started with the previous cleaner. As previously discussed the cleaner will provide focussed cleaning before/during events and including clearing up from the Autumn leaf fall. In addition he has been asked to provide a small amount of hours weekly from now until the late Autumn. He has been provided with a hi-vis jacket. Invoices will be submitted for payment monthly.

b) Heritage Lottery Grant: The majority of the expenditure has now been reclaimed and either received or due in shortly. The project has been granted an extension until 31<sup>st</sup> October.

c) BT Kiosk: Having noticed that the Kiosk is in a poor state I submitted a request to BT for it to be cleaned and re-painted. BT have reviewed the pictures supplied and agreed to clean/repair and the painting will be done over the Summer of 2024.

### **5. CORRESPONDENCE –**

a) One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Awards: The Council entered two categories in 2020, shortly before covid struck. I have now been notified that the Council was commended in both the categories entered – Best Website and Best Community Engagement (for the new barn project).

b) Annual Fireworks Display: Sheep Music have now confirmed that they will not be holding an event in 2023 but are willing to do so in 2024. Cllr. Williams will provide more information at the meeting.