

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH APRIL 2015**  
**AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE**

**Present:** Cllrs. C. Kirkby MBE (Mayor), J. Tennant-Eyles ( Deputy Mayor), G. Banks, Ms B. Baynham, Ms. H. Marchant, J. Matthews, H. Owens, Ms. F. Preece, P. Robinson, B. Price, P. Smith, J Wilding.

**Apologies:** Cllr.Ms. N. Humphreys.

**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. B. Price, Committee Member Norton Sports: re. adopted kiosk, Norton*

*Cllr. G. Banks, Cabinet member of Powys County Council: re any County Council Matter including all planning business, on street parking review, transfer of public conveniences, Radnorshire Committee Meeting.*

*Personal and Prejudicial:*

*Cllr. H. Owens, neighbour and relation of applicant: re. planning application appeal P/2013/0671*

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting Members heard from PS Kelvin Briggs who attended the meeting to provide a full explanation of the recent visit to the Presteigne newsagents and answer Members' questions.

Then followed two representations from the public. These were -

Ms. W. Toomey re Planning Application Appeal P/2013/0671.

Through the Chairman Cllr. Wilding asked whether it was suggested that application P/2013/0671 was affected in any way by the current investigation by the planning department. Ms. Toomey stated that as far as she was aware it was not. The applicant was present and able to confirm that the application had been dealt with by a different officer.

Ms S. Bond re consultation on discharge of conditions, Reeves Hill Wind Turbine Application.

Due to the presence of a large number of the public it was agreed that the planning items would be moved to the beginning of the Agenda.

**MIN 2951 PLANNING**

**(1) Planning Applications:**

P/2014/0225, erection of one wind turbine, Hendregenny, Whitton, Additional Information: Resolved no comment be made.

**(2) Investigation at Powys Planning Department:** The investigation was still in the hands of the police and there was nothing further to report.

**(3) Notice of Planning Appeal, Application P/2013/0671 Upper Heath Farm:** Cllr. Owens left the room for the duration of this item. Cllr. Kirkby reminded Members of the current situation on the application and the later application for the same site. Members were advised that the earlier comments made by the Council would be sent by Powys County Council to the planning inspectorate. Cllr. Ms Baynham expressed concern at some of the comments made in the speech, stressing the importance of farming for the local area. *Resolved that the main concerns raised in the speech made by Cllr. Tennant-Eyles to the planning committee on the later application be sent to the planning inspectorate. The amended document to be circulated to Members via email.*

Cllr. Owens returned to the room at the conclusion of the item.

**(4) Discharge of Conditions Consultation, 4 wind turbines, Reeves Hill, Reeves lane, Nr Knighton:** *Resolved that a letter be written to Herefordshire Council asking that the conditions be dealt with properly and fully enforced. Particular mention to be made of the need for a Clerk of Works for Ecology to be appointed.*

## **MIN 2952      MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 18th March, 2015 were approved without amendment. The Mayor then duly signed the Minutes

## **MIN 2953      CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE**

**(1) Clerk's Report:** The Clerk's report was noted.

**(2) Allocation of Allotment Plot to Stapleton Residents:** Cllr. Kirkby reported that the new plot holders had expressed their thanks to the Council.

**(3) Dead Tree, Killhorse Lane:** The Clerk reported that the County Council had agreed to attend to the tree.

**(4) Community Health Council:** Mr. Adams, Chief Executive of the CHC had replied asking for more information on the cross border issues.

**(5) Boundary Fence, Industrial Estate:** Cllr. Kirkby reported that Labtech had confirmed responsibility for the fence and had agreed to repair it. Mangar had also tidied the fence adjacent to its site.

**(6) Incident with Unruly Dog:** Cllr. Kirkby reported that there had been a further incident in the High Street.

**(7) Welsh Government White Paper, Reforming Local Government:** One Voice Wales had arranged a meeting with a representative of Welsh Government on 17th April. The Clerk would attend.

**(8) Opening of new Unit, St. Michael's Hospice:** Cllr. Kirkby confirmed he attended.

**(9) Visit to Ligne:** Cllr. Kirkby provided a short report on his recent visit with Cllr. Humphreys to Ligne.

**(10) Removal of Hedge, Industrial Estate:** Cllr. Ms. Baynham agreed to provide the contact details so that a letter could be sent asking for the reinstatement of the hedge as soon as works were complete.

**(11) Access for Mobility Scooters:** Cllr. Kirkby stated that he was due to meet the resident on 16th April.

#### **MIN 2954 FINANCE**

**(1) Donations:**

Mid Border Arts	£500.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup	£500.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Youth Project	£1200.00 (precepted)
Presteigne Primary School (twds crossing patrol)	£403.75 (precepted)

**(2) Payments: to approve any payments –**

Mrs T. Price	£840.52	
HMRC	£201.19	
(income tax/employees and employers NI due on above)		
Mrs T. Price (expenses)	£99.50	
One Voice Wales (membership)	£372.00	
SLCC (membership)	£149.00	
Viking Direct (stamps/paper/ink)	£145.05	
Zurich Municipal (insurance Hereford Street Toilets)	£53.00	
Powys County Council (grass cutting 2014)	£1963.50	MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies	£7.12	MEADOW ACCOUNT
A. Jones	£28.00	MEADOW ACCOUNT
Locsafe (new locks Hereford Street toilet)	£71.40	

**(3) Receipts:** Allotment Rental £375.00

**(4) Annual Accounts and Statement of Internal Controls:** Members received and agreed the annual accounts for 2014/15 and the statement of internal controls.

**(5) VAT Return 2014/15 –** Members noted that this had been completed.

**(6) Tax Office Employers Return –** Members noted that this had been completed.

#### **MIN 2955 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

**(1) Tennis Courts:** It was noted that the posts still needed moving on the tennis court and the removable posts were still to be installed on the MUGA court. The painting and line marking was also awaited and a pile of soil etc remained and needed removing. Members expressed concern that the courts were being used whilst not complete and asked that the Clerk contact the County Council to ensure that its insurance cover would not be invalidated due to the incomplete state of the site. Cllr. Banks was asked to chase for the work to be completed.

The Clerk reported that possible grant funding for events had been identified but that as the County Council had not been able to give any completion date it was unlikely that any funding could be obtained in time for activities this summer. It was agreed that grant applications be deferred and considered further in the Autumn with a view to holding events at Easter 2016. A formal opening would still be held.

**(2) Presteigne Cemetery Possible Expansion:** Cllr. Kirkby reported that no real progress had been made in discussions with the County Council. The reply to the Clerk's FOI request had not covered the main questions on the bequest to the Cemetery and it was agreed that the Clerk write again to ask that this information be supplied. Cllr. Banks, as the local County Council Member, was asked to press the case for an extension to the cemetery. Cllr. Banks stated that this was not possible due to his position as a Cabinet Member. It was therefore *resolved that -*

*the Clerk write to Gabbs Solicitors asking for details of the bequest;*

*Cllrs. Kirkby and Wilding would ask for a meeting with the landowner;*

*the Clerk to write to Knighton Town Council asking for their view on Presteigne residents using its cemetery for burials;*

*Cllr. Kirkby would try to meet Cllr. Powell, the relevant portfolio holder;*

*pre-planning advice would be obtained from Herefordshire Council.*

It was also noted that the County Council had refused to amend the wording of the burial charges document but had replied on the position regarding non Powys residents.

**(3) Community Led Plan:** Possible dates had been circulated and it was agreed that a first meeting would be held on 28th April at 6.30pm.

**(4) Transfer of Public Conveniences:** Cllr. Kirkby reported that the handover from the County Council had not gone smoothly with a number of problems and issues arising. Some, but not all, of these had now been resolved. The Clerk had written to the County Council indicating that the costs for the additional work would be recharged to it once all was complete. Members approved the signing of the grant payment agreement.

**(5) On Street Parking Review:** Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had attended the Radnorshire Committee meeting and that despite officer opposition it had been agreed that the Town Council proposal for the spaces opposite the Farmers Arms would be included for consultation. Cllr. Banks had not attended the meeting of the Committee. Cllr Tennant-Eyles put forward a proposal that the two spaces in Hereford Street be moved to the other side of the road as another solution which should be put forward in the consultation.

**(6) PCC Radnorshire Committee Meeting:** The two projects receiving financial support from the Town Council (Norton traffic signage improvements and a new footway alongside the secondary school field) had been accepted onto the Powys Capital Programme and it was expected that these would be completed in the 2015/16 financial year.

**(7) Sixth Form Building, John Beddoes Campus:** The Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting to discuss the proposed demolition.

**(8) Allotment Garden Request for Tool Box:** Agreed.

**(9) Reporting of Highway Items for Repair:** The Clerk was asked to report -  
a damaged bollard near the former post office  
a damaged road sign near to the former HSBC bank  
blocked drains in Hereford Street and St. David's Street (previously reported)

## **MIN 2956      NORTON**

**(1) Adopted Kiosk:** Four comments had been received, two were frivolous, one supported the use for a defibrillator and one was against the use as a book exchange. It was agreed that the kiosk could be used for more than one purpose and use for a book exchange (run by Norton Civic Society) and for positioning of a defibrillator (administered by Norton Sports Committee) were both agreed. The Clerk confirmed that she was also using the box for the posting of some Council notices.

**(2) Norton Traffic Scheme:** See Min 2955 (6) above. Expected to happen before the summer.

## **MIN 2957      WENT'S MEADOW AND EDDIE'S MEADOW**

**(1) ROSPA Inspection:** This was expected to take place very soon and Cllr. Kirkby had asked to meet the inspector on site.

**(2) Annual Tree Inspection:** Cllr. Wilding had met Mr. Close on site to look at the two trees and neither were in need of immediate attention. Both would be checked further at the next inspection. A large bough had fallen in Went's Meadow. Cllr. Wilding had cut this up and removed it.

Broken branches in the orchard area had been removed.

**(3) Litter Picker:** Approval was given for the purchase of an extra long litter picker at a cost of £30 to £40.

#### **MIN 2958      YOUTH MATTERS**

More volunteers were still needed.

#### **MIN 2959      CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS**

**(1) One Voice Wales Motions for AGM:** None submitted.

**(2) Email from member of the public re. March Meeting and Clerk's Reply:** Noted.

**(3) Letter re Powys Planning Portal:** The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council stating that the posting of comments online was a very useful service and that it was hoped that this could be reinstated soon.

**(4) Mid Wales Housing Consultation Launch: 'Shared Ownership with a Safety Net':** Noted.

**(5) Welsh Government Consultation on Exemptions to Council Tax:** Cllr. Wilding agreed to complete this on behalf of the Town Council.

**(6) Letter from PCC Chief Executive re community delivery:** Members noted the letter. A reply had also been received agreeing to a meeting with the Chief Executive and Cllr. Powell. It was agreed that Cllrs. Kirkby and Tennant-Eyles, together with the Clerk, would attend.

**(7) Mortimer History Trail:** The updated contact details were noted.

**(8) Poetry in Presteigne:** It was agreed that a donation of £50 be offered to the new festival. To be applied for nearer the date of the event.

#### **MIN 2960      TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES**

Matters raised at the April Surgery were -  
cleaning of Ava Maria Lane needed: Clerk to report.  
location of key to Norton Notice Board: Cllr. Price had replied.

Cllrs. Smith and Ms. Preece agreed to attend the May Surgery.

#### **MIN 2961      INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items for information were noted.

#### **MIN 2962      URGENT INFORMATION**

**Question Time:** Transition Presteigne had organised an event for 29th April.

**Former Play Area, Memorial Hall:** Works to tarmac the area for car parking were now proceeding.

**450th Anniversary of John Beddoes Bequest:** Event at School on 9th May.

**Litter Pick, Norton:** Members noted the recent litter pick organised by Norton Civic Society and asked that their thanks and appreciation be passed on to those who took part.

The Meeting closed at 10.00 pm.