

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH DECEMBER 2017
AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

Present: Cllrs. J. Wilding (Mayor), C. Kirkby MBE, (Deputy Mayor), Ms B. Baynham, T. Owens, D. Edwards, S. Dixon, P. Linnett, R. Bennett, C. Ruby, F. Preece. R. Bamford, N. Rogers, L. Veary.

Apologies: None.

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: None.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. Baynham, close relation of one of contractors re. awarding of toilet cleaning contract.

MIN 3393 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 15th November, 2017 were approved without amendment. The Chairman then duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3394 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Drill Hall: The decision to withdraw the Expression of Interest had been sent to the County Council and no further action was required.
- (2) Swing, Wilson Terrace: Still not in place.
- (3) Pavements, Norton and Broad Street, Presteigne: Still not cleaned/abraded. Cllr. Baynham to chase.
- (4) High Street: The cleaning had been carried out prior to the Christmas fair and it was felt that a very good job had been done. The Clerk was asked to write thanking the County Council.
- (5) Meeting with Highways Portfolio Holder, Liam Fitzpatrick: Now confirmed for 22nd January.
- (6) Western Power Tree Trimmings: These had still not been chipped as agreed. The Clerk would chase again.
- (7) Planning Enforcement Issue, Norton: The Clerk confirmed that a request for a review of the circumstances had been submitted. She would contact the Officer to see how matters were progressing.
- (8) Station Road Telephone Kiosk: Following the request to BT the kiosk had now been painted.

MIN 3395 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The requests from the Ambulance Service Charity, Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod and Relate Cymru were all refused. However the Clerk was asked to contact Relate Cymru for details of its work locally.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved – 9

Mrs T. Price	£1254.60
HM Revenue and Customs	£459.56
NEST (direct debit)	£28.80
Clearview Cleaning Services Ltd	£425.93
Screwfix (taps)	£19.99
Cannon Hygiene Ltd	£16.85
Kington Building Supplies Ltd	£31.2995
R. Rimington (refund brick skateboard park)	£31.60 MEADOW ACCOUNT
R. Price (hedge trimming)	£165.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Highground Maintenance Ltd (grass cutting)	£ 268.55 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Mr. N. Close	£50.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

Mr. N. Close	£75.00
Presteigne Building Supplies	£61.31
Powys County Council (wayleave)	£10.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

(3) New Projects for 2018-19: New projects submitted were –

- Christmas Lights, Presteigne (Cllr. Baynham)
- Community Barn Proposal, 10% - maximum £4000 (Cllr. Kirkby)
- New Notice Board, Norton (Cllr. Ruby)
- Storage Container, Norton (Cllrs. Edwards/Wilding)
- Presteigne Youth Project Reinstatement of Annual Grant (Cllrs. Bennett/Bamford)
- Shopper's Car Park, part payment to County Council, (Cllr. Wilding).
- Grant Application to Natural Resources Wales Match Funding (Cllr. Kirkby).

These items would be included for discussion when setting the budget in January.

(4) Organisation Accounts: These were still being circulated.

(5) Cost of May 2017 Elections: The cost of the elections was noted as follows –

Norton Ward	£294.94
Presteigne Town Ward	£2099.00
Total	£2393.94

(6) Sites and Buildings Committee Recommendation: It was agreed to accept the recommendation for the amounts precepted for the Old School, Drill Hall and cemetery land purchase, totalling £9500 be transferred into general reserves pending the overall review of reserves and budget setting in January.

(7) Bank Balances: The bank balances at 13th December were noted as –

Treasurer	£25183.35	Meadow	£10802.84
Allotments	£1600.16	Money Manager	£3736.72
Warden Reserve	£2962.33		

MIN 3396 PLANNING

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

P/2017/1373 Grid Ref: 331270.43/264150.72 for Full: Proposed open fronted storage building at Seconds & Co Unit 5 The Morgan Building Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

TREE/2017/0051, TREE: Works to various trees in a TPO area at Tarn Hows, Norton Manor Park, Norton, Presteigne. Resolved to object to the application on the grounds that the problems are caused by the replacement of small units with larger ones that are therefore nearer to the existing trees. The Clerk was asked to remind the County Council of the comments made on a previous application at Norton Manor, TREE/2017/0020 - *Resolved to object to the above application for the following reasons - over time trees have been continually removed from the site thus removing the screening of the properties generally, the Council feels that the problem with this site (and others in the past) is that units have been replaced with considerably larger ones which are then of course closer to the surrounding trees, the Council requests that the site owners carry out a full tree survey of the site to identify the wider picture and so that an overall replacement planting scheme and organised removal can be planned rather than the individual piecemeal approach currently employed.* Council representatives willing to attend a site meeting to discuss a best way forward if this could be arranged.

TREE/2017/0054, TREE: Notification of proposed works to trees in a Conservation Area at Land at rear of 12 Hereford Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

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

P/2017/1197, 12 Hereford Street, Presteigne: Lawful Development Certificate Granted.

(3) Local Development Plan: Further Renewable Hearing Session 10th January: Noted.

(4) Planning Application for Poultry Unit, Stonewall Hill (Herefordshire): Members considered that there was no direct impact upon Presteigne and Norton. There was concern at possible lorry movements and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Herefordshire Council asking that vehicle movements (including those used for waste disposal) should not come through Presteigne or Norton but should be routed towards Knighton as described in the application.

MIN 3397 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) PACDG Update: Members had all received a copy of the email from PACDG on street cleaning but had no comment and no action was proposed.

(2) Cycle Route Update: Work was progressing and was expected to be completed on time. The Project Officer was investigating the possibility of replacing the bench outside the Primary School.

(3) Proposed Powys Council Housing: Cllr. Wilding suggested that the Town Council propose the old car park by the Doctor's surgery as a site for the new council housing planned by the County Council and this was agreed.

(4) Introduction of Speed Limit, Rockbridge: The reply from Mr. Caine at the County Council was read to the meeting and was as follows - *Speed limits should be set having regard to the guidance on setting local speed limits produced by the Welsh Government. By following the guidance we achieve to create implementing consistent standards across Wales which leads to drivers understanding the reasons for changes in speed limit and thus respect them where they are imposed. The B4356 in question is a rural road, with little or no frontage development, where it is appropriate for the national speed limit to be applied. On approach to Rockbridge there are warning signs or pedestrians in the road.* Given this he was unable to support consideration of lowering the speed limit. The Clerk would reply to the resident who raised the initial query.

(5) Reporting of Highway Items for repair:

Overhanging branch: footpath between industrial estates: Cllr. Bamford had reported this and very prompt action had been taken.

Snow: Members were very concerned at the lack of attention to both roads and pavements in Presteigne and Norton. Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council would be briefing its Members in January and she would report on this at a future meeting. In the meantime it was agreed to request two additional salt bins – St. David's Street/Church Street, Presteigne and Caefelyn, Norton. Members were also asked to consider other possible locations. Clarification would also be sought on the liability of private individuals clearing pavements etc.

Stocking Lane, Norton: Blocked gully needing clearing. The Clerk would report.

MIN 3398 NORTON

Nothing to report.

MIN 3399 SITES AND BUILDINGS MATTERS

(1) Public Conveniences:

Members considered the recommendations of the Committee and confirmed the decisions as follows - Cllr. Baynham left the room for the duration of the next item.

- cleaning contract for 2018/19 be awarded to T. Lloyd-John

Cllr. Baynham returned to the room.

- twice yearly cleaning of uniwash units to be carried out by Mr. Close. The first service had now been completed.
- draft budget of £10,000 for 2018/19 (but with the recommendation that the £1000 to re-open the cemetery toilet be considered when setting the budget.

In addition, the reply from Cllr. Fitzpatrick refusing to reinstate the toilet grant was noted.

(2) Allotments:

Members considered the recommendations of the Committee and confirmed the decisions as follows -

- Request for permission to plant miniature fruit trees be refused.
- Repairs to post and rail fence to be arranged.
- Cllr. Linnett had inspected the alder tree and it was agreed that the plot holder be allowed to remove the lower branches.
- No change to regular planned maintenance.
- Increase in annual plot rental from £27 to £28 w.e.f March 2018. The Clerk would contact all tenants to advise them of the change.

In addition the request by the PNAA for materials to install rabbit proof fencing, at a cost of £172 plus VAT was agreed.

(3) Meadows:

Members considered the recommendations of the Committee and confirmed the decisions as follows -

- Grass cutting/weed killing contract be awarded to High Ground.
- Maintenance plan be approved as detailed.
- Skateboard Pyramid: Messrs Graham and Rimington to source and install additional small steel plate to reduce amount of change in level.
- Other general ROSPA recommendations to be carried out as soon as weather permitted.
- To provisionally support the Community Building Proposal and agree to take ownership of the building subject to - a maximum Town Council contribution of

£4000, the obtaining of the necessary funding, no substantial objections from the public and planning permission being obtained. Consultation was on going and a final decision would be made at the January meeting.

- Draft budget recommendation totalling £8600.

Other Meadow Matters – Outdoor Gym Equipment still ongoing.
Picnic Benches ordered and exact location to be agreed.

(4) Wilson Terrace Play Area:

A further grant application to Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme had been short listed and the voting would take place in January and February.

It was agreed that in future the Sites and Buildings Committee would meet twice yearly.

MIN 3400 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Review of Town and Community Council Sector in Wales: Cllr. Wilding and the Clerk had attended the One Voice Wales consultation event in Howey. The Review panel would be holding consultation events early in 2018 and it was agreed to defer making any comment for the time being and to send a representative to the most local event once details were known.

(2) Public consultation on the proposal for a Major Trauma Network for South and West Wales and South Powys: Cllr. Baynham to review. Defer to January meeting.

(3) Plans for Powys Schools Consultation: Noted.

(4) Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum Letter: Noted.

(5) Police & Crime Commissioner Newsletter: Noted.

(6) Police Precept Consultation: It was agreed to support a 2% increase providing there was a corresponding increase in neighbourhood policing.

(7) Request for refurbishment of bench outside Primary School: The Clerk had approached the safe routes project officer to see if the project would replace. Cllr. Baynham might also be able to fund a replacement. Members would look at the bench over the coming month and the matter would be considered again in January.

(8) Warden Guardian Foundation Newsletter: Noted.

MIN 3401 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

Due to illness there had unfortunately been no December Surgery. No January Surgery.
Next Surgery February.

MIN 3402 DEVOLVEMENT OF SERVICES

(1) Cemetery Land: The Clerk had asked that a contract be sent to the County Council.

(2) Update on Judge's Lodgings: Deferred to January.

MIN 3403 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Items of note this month were –

- Grave digging now done by County Council Staff.
- Dragon, Kington Roundabout: The creator was considering a permanent replacement. It was agreed that the Town Council supported this in principle although there were some concerns about the security of a bronze structure.
- County Council Budget situation expected to worsen in 2018-19.

MIN 3404 DATE OF PRECEPT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the precept meeting on 17th January and defer the ordinary meeting one week to the 24th January.

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 it was resolved to exclude the Public and Press due to the confidential nature of the following item.

The Town Clerk left the room for the duration of the discussion and decisions on the Staffing Committee items.

MIN 3405 STAFFING COMMITTEE

Members considered the recommendations of the Committee and confirmed the decisions as follows -

- The statutory increase in pension contributions was noted.
- The expected increase in the national pay scales was noted with the confirmed figures to be presented to Council as soon as available.
- A training budget of £350 for 2018-19 was agreed.
- Annual Appraisal of Clerk confirmed with the note that it was felt a five year plan was not appropriate currently due to the ongoing changes at the County Council.
- Attendance at the Practitioner's Conference by the Clerk was confirmed.
- A budget of £21,750 for salary costs in 2018-19 was agreed.
- No employment of other staff at this point.

MIN 3406 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

None.

The Meeting closed at 9.01 pm.