

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18TH JANUARY 2017
AT THE SHIREHALL, BROAD STREET, PRESTEIGNE

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

Apologies: Cllr. G. Banks.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk; one member 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 and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016.

Personal: None.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. Marchant, employee of Library Service re. future provision of library service

MIN 3238 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 21st December 2016 and 11th January 2017 were approved without amendment and duly signed by the Chairman.

MIN 3239 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Resignation of Cllr. Smith: A formal written resignation had now been received and the Clerk would write to Mr. Smith to thank him for his years of service on the Council.
- (2) War Memorial Grant: The Clerk had not as yet completed the maintenance plan but the grant monies had been received and work was due to start in the next few weeks weather permitting.
- (3) Carnival: Cllr. Kirkby reported that more volunteers had come forward and the event was planned for 15th July.
- (4) Hedge-Trimming: The hedges on Went's and Eddie's Meadow had now been cut. Members noted their thanks to Cllr. Wilding for arranging this.
- (5) Pavements, Station Road: These had still not been done. The Clerk would chase this again and remind Cllr. Banks that he was also going to ask for this to be done.
- (6) Missing Footpath Registration, Near Old Mill: Cllr. Kirkby had not yet submitted the information to the County Council but stated he now had an additional map taken from Presteigne Past and Present which showed the footpath clearly.
- (7) Freedom of Information Request: The Clerk had submitted an enquiry to the Information Commissioner asking if the grounds for the refusal of the request to the County Council (to release the legal opinion on library spending) was justified.
- (8) Dropped Kerbs, Warden Road: Cllr. Kirkby had met with George Lloyd and discussed the suggestion. Mr. Lloyd had taken photographs and would add it to the list of works but had indicated that as there was a suitable crossing relatively nearby it would be a low priority.
- (9) Parking Notices for High Street: The flyers produced jointly by the Chamber of Trade and the Town Council were now being used. One vehicle continued to be a regular problem and Cllr. Tennant-Eyles agreed to speak to the owner.
- (10) PACDG Garden Plot: The volunteers were unable to proceed until a formal licence had been issued by the County Council.
- (11) Repairs to Lugg Bridge: Cllr. Kirkby had reminded Mr. Lloyd at the recent site meeting.
- (12) Newton and Killhorse Lanes, Norton: Still not cleaned. The Clerk would chase.

(13) Footpath, Clatterbrune: Members noted with disappointment that although it had noted request the County Council would not be taking imminent action to the path as it was currently working on other communities as priority.

(14) Memorial for Nicola Humphreys: Cllr. Kirkby explained that his proposal was to replace and restore the small roundabout at the bottom of St. David's Street, re-siting the existing bench elsewhere (the remaining relative had been contacted and raised no objection), removing the existing soil and replacing, planting of a new tree and siting of a new bench. He had met with George Lloyd who had indicated that a licence would be required from the County. Contact would also need to be made with the utility companies to check where the services ran. The Clerk was asked to request that the County proceed to draw up the licence.

(15) Meeting with PCSO Anna Bowen: Members noted the summary of the meeting contained in the Clerk's report. Brief details from the meeting were -

- new PCSO, Gareth Morris, currently training in Llandrindod and will be working in our area with Anna from May/April
- current staffing - PC Fraser Scott, Anna as PCSO and PC Marie Powell (part time). PS Andy Barden is still working in Newtown but living in Presteigne
- area covered by Presteigne Officers covers from Gladestry to Penybont, Felindre, Llanbister and Llanbadarn
- the availability of the community messaging system was highlighted
- the main purpose was to discuss the possibility of making the Neighbouring Policing Report more detailed and more recent (the example of Dorstone was mentioned with fortnightly reports, Dyfed-Powys are two monthly). Anna explained that the report was initially produced as a cross border communication with West Mercia and that her Inspector was currently not in favour of including more detail. Time was also limited for carrying out this work. She would however take the Dorstone example back and report on the comments raised to the Inspector.

MIN 3240 FINANCE

(1) Donations: No precepted donations. It was resolved not to give a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved:

Mrs T. Price	£1107.19 (inc allotment hours)	
HMRC	£379.44	
(income tax and employees and employers NI due on above)		
NEST (pension contributions) via direct debit	£19.71	
Clearview Cleaning Services Ltd	£405.76	
J. Tennant-Eyles (Mayor's Allowance)	£500.00	
Highground Maintenance (grass cutting)	£263.28	MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£50.00	MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£12.50	
McCartneys (land valuation fee)	£150.00	

(3) Bank Transfer: The transfer of £25,000 from the Treasurer Account to the Money Manager Account was approved.

(4) Receipts: The following receipt was noted -

Powys County Council (War Memorial Grant)	£1908.00
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MIN 3241 PLANNING

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

P/2017/0006, Grid Ref: 331487.95/264330.68 for LBC damp proofing and installation of wood burner at 7 Hereford Street, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised.

P/2017/0046, Grid Ref: 330138.48/268821.18 for Replacement of dwelling with new passivhaus dwelling at The Woodhouse, Norton, Presteigne: Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Decisions: The following decisions were noted.

P/2016/1027 The Workhouse, Industrial Estate, Presteigne: Conditional Consent.

P/2016/1042 Westholme, Knighton Road, Presteigne: Conditional Consent.

P/2016/1070 Plot adj The Laurels, Green End, Presteigne: Refused.

MIN 3242 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) PACDG Update: Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that work on the consultation was almost complete and that it would be carried out in February together with open days at the Old School and a presentation evening at the Memorial Hall. He asked for volunteers to assist with delivery. Cllrs. Preece, Marchant, Baynham, Kirkby, Wilding and Matthews agreed to assist. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles further advised that the estimated cost would be between £400-£500 and the agreement for the Town Council to fund 50% of the costs (up to £250 maximum) was confirmed.

Members were reminded of the forthcoming Skills for Participation Course on 4th March from 1am to 4pm and which was being funded by the lottery grant obtained by the Group. Places were available should any Member be interested in attending.

(2) Car Park Permits, Further Response from Cllr. Brunt: Members noted the further reply from Cllr. Brunt indicating that resident's permits were to be considered and that consultation with Town and Community Councils would take place as matters progressed. Members were disappointed though that the reply still did not directly address the sale of lower cost permits to regular shoppers, workers etc. It was noted that when the consultation took place the need to extend the scheme to include such categories would be stressed by the Town Council. The Clerk was asked to reply to Cllr. Brunt indicating support for the proposals and asking that for the Shoppers Car Park the proposed tickets be extended to include regular users such as shoppers, workers, business owners etc pointing out that this would raise additional revenue.

(3) Definitive Map Modification Order Fold Farm: Members noted that application had passed the validation checks and was eighth on the list for processing.

(4) Reporting of Highway Items for repair.

- Request for Improvement to 'dropped kerb' Royal British Legion. The Clerk reported receiving a request from a local resident who was concerned that the present arrangement was insufficient and unsafe. She was asked to pass the request to the County Council.
- Use of Underpass by Cyclists: Concern had been expressed by more than one user of the underpass as cyclists were not dismounting before entering the underpass. This was particularly concerning given the use by young children on their way to the Primary School/Playgroup. The Clerk was asked to raise these concerns with the County Council.
- Bench, Station Road: The Clerk reported that with the permission of the County Council the bench had been removed for further examination. A substantial amount of welding was needed and an estimate had been obtained of £100 for the work. In addition approximate labour costs to paint would be around £50 and materials £25. As there was a possibility of the bench in St. David's Street being available as a replacement either in Station Road or Norton it was agreed not to carry out any repairs to the Station Road bench at present. Mr. Close would be asked to look at the bench in St. David's Street and provide an estimate of cost to renovate.

MIN 3243 NORTON

(1) Norton Notice Board Repairs: An estimate had been obtained for £200 plus materials. The Clerk was asked to arrange the repairs.

(2) Replacement Bench: Cllr. Price confirmed that there were concrete footings in place. Cllr. Baynham reported that the bench at Home Farm Lane had been purchased from Turners in Kington and had cost around £400. The Clerk would advise the resident who was considering donating a bench of the likely costs. The Town Council might consider part funding the purchase.

MIN 3244 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences:

Draft Rateable Value, Hereford Street Public Conveniences. Valuation Office Reply: Members noted that the procedure for challenging the valuation was quite detailed and would require a formal valuation. Given the low increase in rateable value it was agreed not to proceed any further with the challenge.

Painting of Wilson Terrace Toilets: The Clerk confirmed that this would commence in early Spring as soon as weather permitted.

(2) Allotments:

- A number of plots had been vacated and were in the process of being re-let.
- There was now no one on the waiting list.
- Additional Land, Plot 36: The Clerk had written to the tenant asking if they wished to retain the separate piece of land but as yet had received no reply.

(3) Meadows:

- Fields in Trust Designation: It was agreed that legal advice to be sought on the implications of registration with FIT and on alternative methods of protecting the land.
- Cutting of Long Grass, Lower Went's Meadow: This had been roughly cut back. Cllr. Kirkby would arrange for it to be further strimmed.
- Visual Tree Inspection: Mr. Close had completed this.
- Tarmac Work by Harpers: Cllr. Kirkby would follow this up.

MIN 3245 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Working with Young People/Youth Representation: Cllr. Marchant reported that The Primary School was very keen to go ahead and that a first meeting was to be held on 24th January. The Secondary School had also indicated that it had a number of pupils interested in becoming part of a Youth Council. Cllr. Marchant would arrange to meet with these pupils to discuss matters further.

(2) Payment of Business Rates on Public Toilets, Reply from Kirsty Williams AM: It was noted that the charging of business rates on public toilets was under review by Welsh Government.

(3) Letter from Dragonfry Mobile Catering: Members had all received a copy of the letter from the caterer plus the letter sent by the Chamber of Trade. A further email had been received by the Clerk indicating that the caterer was satisfied with the Chamber of Trade's response. No further action was required.

(4) Powys Electoral Review 2017, Presentation by Boundary Commission: Noted. Cllr. Wilding would try to attend.

(5) Powys County Council Confirmation of grant for business rates on public toilets: Noted.

(6) Letter from Rockbridge Residents Association: The installation of a defibrillator at Rockbridge Park was noted.

MIN 3246 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

Arrangements for February Surgery: Cllrs. Tennant-Eyles and Owens would attend.

MIN 3247 DEVOLVEMENT OF SERVICES

(1) Old School Building/Drill Hall EOI Update: The EOI for the Old School was complete and would be sent in the next few days. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles reported that the costs for the Drill Hall had been amended in the light of more information from Community Support and was now expected to cost approximately £2 per Band D property to run. Again the EOI would be completed in the next few days.

(2) Assembly Rooms Update: Deferred to confidential session at the end of the meeting.

(3) Presteigne Cemetery Update:

- Borrowing Approval: The Clerk was still awaiting a letter from the County Council. This was needed to accompany the borrowing application. Once received the application would be submitted.
- Council Solicitor: It was agreed that Cllrs. Wilding and Kirkby would approach Vaughan Davies Solicitors for a quote to carry out the land purchase. It was also agreed that advice be sought on the Fields in Trust issue.
- Seller's Solicitor: The Clerk would obtain details of the seller's legal representation.
- Burial Board Administration and Records: The Clerk was in the process of arranging a meeting with the County Council Environmental Health section to discuss the present Burial Board arrangements.
- Pear Technology: Cllrs. Kirkby and Baynham had met with a representative of the company and considered the possibility of transferring the existing maps onto digital versions should be pursued once the present arrangements at the County Council were known.

MIN 3248 INFORMATION

The following items were noted for information:

MIN 3249 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Warden: Members noted no mention of the squirrel problem on the Warden. It was agreed that the Clerk ask the County Council to deal with the matter and that the Town Council supported the control of numbers on the area.

(2) Clothes Bank, Recycling Centre: Cllr. Robinson reported that the Clothes bank was constantly full and that clothing was being spoilt by rain etc. Cllr. Tennant-Eyles agreed to investigate.

(3) Local Development Plan Focussed Changes: Members noted the timetable for the hearings.

Resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business because of the confidential nature of the following items.

The Clerk left the room for the duration of the next two items.

MIN 3250 ANNUAL APPRAISAL

Cllr. Tennant-Eyles confirmed that the annual appraisal of the Clerk's work had been carried out and summarised the comments made. Resolved that the annual appraisal be received and placed on file.

Cllr. Marchant left the room for the duration of the following item.

MIN 3251 ASSEMBLY ROOMS/LIBRARY SERVICE

There was an extensive discussion on the proposals for the future of the library service. Three options were considered all of which could be achieved within the amount precepted for the project. Cllr. Kirkby was asked to continue with negotiations.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.