

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2026
HELD AT EAST RADNORSHIRE DAY CENTRE, SCOTTLETON STREET, PRESTEIGNE
AND ALSO VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

Present: Cllrs. D. Edwards, (Mayor), C. Ross (Deputy Mayor), B. Baynham, T. Owens, W.L. Poulson-Haynes, N. Rogers, M. Price, A. Ramsay, L. Harling-Bowen, J. Ramsay.

Apologies: Cllrs. F. Preece, C. Kirkby MBE, F.H. Fleming.

In Attendance: Mrs T. Price, Town Clerk.

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.

MIN 4574 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January, 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4575 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

(1) New Email Addresses: Cllr. Ross had raised concerns over the length of the new email addresses and the Clerk asked for the view of other Councillors. Following a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact the website provider and ask that the instead of 'presteigneandnortontowncouncil' the abbreviation of 'pntc' be used. The Clerk would ask for this change to be made and then continue setting up emails as planned.

(2) Budget Setting Meeting: Cllr. Baynham expressed disappointment at some of the budget setting process, particularly the decisions relating to grant applications. She believed that these should be considered in detail and not granted without full discussion. She wished to point out that the Council existed to provide services/activities etc for the town and was not primarily a grant awarding body.

(3) Clerk's Report January: Members noted the Clerk's report and Cllr. Owens commented that he was against mandatory training for Members and he hoped that before Welsh Government made such a requirement law a full consultation would be held. He added that he believed that members of the public should be encouraged to stand for Councils and that compulsory training would deter applicants.

MIN 4576 FINANCE

(1) Donations: No donations this month. Agreed that the Clerk add a possible donation to the Fire Fighters Charity to the February agenda.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Lyreco	£39.84 (toilet rolls)
EDF Energy (H'fd Street)	£78.38
EDF Energy (Meadow)	£16.88 MEADOW ACC
Welsh Water	£29.28 MEADOW ACC
Highline Electrical	£360.00

(3) Purchase of Defibrillator Pads: The Clerk reported that the payment for pads listed in the 19th January Minutes had gone through but that the pads were out of stock. As a result she had spoken to the manufacturer who had advised that there was a better pad for use with the Zoll AED plus units. These were more expensive (approximately £150 plus VAT a set as opposed £60 plus VAT a set) but lasted for five years rather than the two years for the usual pads. In addition the more expensive pads provided better

feedback for users on the accuracy of chest compressions etc. It was agreed that the Clerk change to the better more expensive pads when purchasing in future.

(4) Receipts: The following receipt was noted:

Powys County Council (refund Brilliant Basics Grant) £45.15

MIN 4577 PLANNING

(1) Application: 25/1822/OUT Grid Reference: E:331229 N: 264684 Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved bar access) for residential development of up to 11 dwellings (with 3 affordable), including alterations to the curtilage of Bell House Site Address: Taylors Development Site, Scottleton Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BG. Cllr. Edwards advised that the Clerk had obtained an extension of the time allowed to comment on this application and it was agreed to defer the application and discuss at the February meeting.

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

25/1740/TRE 52 Hereford Street, Presteigne – Approval 8th December.

25/1055/REM Plot 4, Broadaxe Business Park, Presteigne – Refused 11th December.

25/1409/LBC 3 Fold Farm, Presteigne – Approval 15th December.

25/1408/HH 3 Fold Farm, Presteigne – Approval 15th December.

25/1489/HH I Warden Terrace, Presteigne – Approval 15th December.

25/1124/FUL Plots 25 and 26 Jack's View, Norton – Approval 24th December.

(3) TPO requests Update/Further Reply from County Council: The Clerk reported that she had again been back to the Planning Officer asking that the decision to refuse all the applications be re-visited but had been told that the decision had been made and could not be changed at this time. Cllr. J. Ramsay reported that the Tree Group was currently looking at trees suitable for TPOs and was willing to work with the Council to apply for future TPOs. He would report further at the February meeting.

MIN 4578 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project: The Clerk advised that the specific part had now been obtained for the Broad Street light and would be installed very shortly.

Cllr. Harling-Bowen reported on the following –

- Presteigne and Norton Dark Sky Support Group: The Group had its first meeting in December 2025 and had been set up to help promote the Dark Sky Community. Should Members or residents like to join the group they should contact Cllr. Harling-Bowen. The Group had set up a team help take light pollution readings in Presteigne and Norton. Communication was via a WhatsApp Group and training was now taking place.
- A dark sky website as well as a brochure, was being designed in partnership with Discover Parks. The brochure will be brought to the February Council meeting for discussion.
- Welsh Dark Skies Week: Welsh Dark Skies week will run from the 13th to the 22nd February. To mark the start of Dark Skies week, Cllr. Harling-Bowen would be giving a free talk titled “Saturn and its Moons” in partnership with Marches Astronomy Group at the Banc in Knighton at 19.30 on the 13th February. Further events will hopefully take place in Presteigne during Dark Skies week. These would be advertised when confirmed.
- Radnorshire Mammals Group: An article on Presteigne Dark Skies and Coed Llanandras nature reserve was included in the Radnorshire Mammals Group January newsletter.

(2) Climate and Environment Matters: Cllr. J. Ramsay reported that he had not as yet made any progress on the updating of the biodiversity report and action plan but hoped to bring these to the February agenda.

(3) Fold Farm DMMO Application: Nothing to report.

(4) Car Parking: Cllr. Baynham reported that she had discussed the possibility of asset transfers with the County Officer and the Portfolio Holder and the answer had been a definite no. Referring to the budget allocation for car parking 2026/27 she reminded Members of the cost per day to ‘buy’ free parking on the two charged for car parks. Members discussed the options for the free days with the first Saturday in each month being the primary option and if possible, to just apply for free parking on the High Street site. The Clerk was asked to agenda an item on the next agenda for a firm decision to be made on the allocation of days etc. Cllr. Baynham would check to see if this would be granted for just one of the two charged for car parks.

(5) Update re. Presteigne Cemetery: The Clerk confirmed that the County Council had now agreed to allow the planting of trees to replace the Scot's Pines and that Cllr. Kirkby had started to look at sourcing the

trees and had asked for a budget of £100. It was agreed to provide this budget, to be taken from the Climate Crisis Grant Fund.

(6) Opportunity for Biodiversity Grants from One Voice Wales: Cllr. J. Ramsay reported on the site meeting held with the One Voice Wales Biodiversity Officer for North Wales, attended by himself, Cllr. Edwards, the Clerk and one of the volunteers. All the Council sites had been visited and the Officer had been impressed with the work already being done. A number of small grant opportunities had been identified including habitat boxes, infill plants for hedging, citizen science kits, bulbs etc. The Officer would be supplying more details and Cllr. J. Ramsay was currently liaising with the volunteers to produce a list of items they would like to receive. Items such as infill hedging were also available for Went's Meadow. It was also possible that a hedge laying session could be organised. The Officer was also going to try to find a grant fund which could be used to apply for funding for the reserve storage container.

(7) Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Consultation (cross border strategy to alleviate flooding): Agreed to respond as follows – the Council was pleased to see nature-based solutions being used.

(8) High Street Grant Update: Cllr. Ross apologised that he had not actually delivered the letters and this explained the lack of response. The Clerk advised that time scales were tight but might still work given it was expected that fewer premises would be wishing to take part this time. It was agreed that the letters be re-done with a closing date of 14th February. Cllr. Ross would deliver the letters during the coming weekend.

(9) Reply from Environment Agency re. monitoring of River Lugg: Members noted the reply indicating that monitoring would be requested for 2028.

MIN 4578 NORTON

(1) Norton Ward Councillors: Cllr. Edwards reported that a number of residents had mentioned to her that they were unaware of the Councillors for their Ward or had the opportunity to meet them, particularly as there had been a number of changes since the last election. She asked that Norton Councillors attend a future coffee morning in Norton to introduce themselves. This was agreed and Cllr. Edwards would arrange a date in the near future.

(2) Parking at Junction of Meeting House Lane: Cllr. Edwards confirmed that this had been reported to the police. The Clerk was also asked to report the problem.

(3) Speeding through Village: Cllr. Edwards reported that this continued to be a problem.

MIN 4579 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The Clerk reported the following –

Still pressing the appointed contractor for the Hereford Street site to be repainted.

Leak in Disabled Toilet had been fixed fairly cheaply.

Problem with alarm in disabled toilet: Electrician to check in the next few days.

Cllr. J. Ramsay reminded Members that in the future the Council would need to consider refurbishment to provide gender neutral toilets.

(2) Allotments: There were still plot vacancies.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

Update – Brilliant Basics Grant (paths): The Clerk advised that the extra work had not yet started and she was concerned that the deadline might not be met. Both the volunteer helping with the project and the contractor had been reminded of the deadline. She added that no extension was possible and if not done then the grant money currently unspent would be lost.

Request from Fitness Instructor for Portable Sauna Sessions by River Bank: After due consideration it was decided to refuse the request given concerns over pollution, risk of fire from the heat (the proposed sauna was wood fired) and the SSSI status of the river bank.

Complaint re. molehills: The Clerk had sent a reply outlining the measures the Council was currently taking to reduce the mole population and issues with the molehills. Members had nothing to add and pointed out the site was a field and not intended to be completely smooth.

(4) Nature Reserve Matters: Cllr. J. Ramsay had nothing major to report and stated that the volunteers would be meeting soon to discuss a work plan for the Spring. The Clerk confirmed that the tree work contractor had now confirmed and she was asked to notify Cllr. J. Ramsay once she had a definite date.

MIN 4580 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

- (1) Leisure Services Review: Members had all received a copy of the email reply to the various questions raised some months ago. Cllr. Baynham reported that she had a meeting scheduled with the Portfolio Holder and agreed to report back to the February meeting.
- (2) Adoption of Telephone Kiosk – Update: The Clerk reported that the paint kit had been received and the signed agreement had been returned to BT. She had also asked an electrician for a quote to provide the initial electrical certificate.
- (3) Complaint about flooding at Coombe Corner: Members noted the complaint which was for a flooding issue in Herefordshire. It was agreed that the Clerk report the concerns of the Council and add that a blocked drain at the location was thought to be worsening the problem. While discussing Herefordshire Members noted that a number of the roads just over the border into Herefordshire were in a very poor state and the Clerk was asked to report the Council's concerns to Cllr. Roger Phillips and Cllr. Carole Gandy as appropriate.
- (4) Cross Border Health Care: Letter from Llandrindod Wells Town Council: Support for Llandrindod Wells Town Council was confirmed. Cllr. Edwards agreed to be the nominated representative.
- (5) Nomination for Buckingham Palace Garden Parties 2026: Two Members put their names forward and it was agreed to decide the name to be put forward by chance. Cllr. Owens was successful and the Clerk would submit his name and contact details. She was also asked to check for future reference whether the nomination could be for a member of the public.
- (6) UK Town of Culture Competition: Cllr. A. Ramsay asked for Council support for an expression of interest to be made for Presteigne. He would then contact various groups in the town so that an application could be put together. Members agreed to pledge support for a bid.
- (7) Presteigne Community Conversations Meeting Report: Cllr. Edwards had attended the recent meeting at which only four people had been present. She reported that PAVO had a £2000 grant available and that those at the meeting had agreed to focus on youth/young persons groups. The Young Farmers Club was looking to arrange a 'race for life' type event to raise funds for youth projects. Cllr. Edwards would attend the next meeting and would report further as discussions progressed.
- (8) PPSB Resilient Powys Event: Noted. Cllr. J. Ramsay was attending and Cllr. Harling-Bowen would be there giving a talk on dark skies.

MIN 4581 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham reported the following:

- A number of potholes filled.
- Salt bins recently refilled.
- Tour de France in Powys in July 2027.
- Pound Lane Request for Change in Traffic Direction: She had discussed this yet again with the Highways Officer and been told it could not happen. She would let the resident know and the Clerk would also write a letter to confirm.

Cllr. Edwards reported the following:

A large number of highway issues following the recent storm.

Problems with bin collections.

Cabinet putting forward a 4.9% Council Tax increase for 2026-27.

£1.7 million levelling up fund becoming available for Powys Towns, including Presteigne. More details to follow.

Six day Enduro Event in Powys in 2027.

MIN 4582 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

- (1) One Voice Wales AGM: Cllr. Ross had attended this event and gave a short report, in particular on the motions put forward and successfully carried. One Voice Wales would now progress them.
- (2) National Grid Work following recent storm: Cllr. Owens asked that praise be noted for the work of National Grid following the recent storm.
- (3) Faded White Lines near King's Court, leading onto By Pass: Cllr. Baynham would report.
- (4) Work on Budget: Cllr. J. Ramsay asked that thanks be noted to the Clerk for her work producing the various draft budget documents.
- (5) Item for February Agenda: Cllr. Baynham asked that a possible consultation on the provision of dog bags be included on the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.22 p.m.