

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL 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, A. Ramsay, F. Preece, C. Kirkby MBE, L. Harling-Bowen, J. Ramsay, M. Price.

Apologies: Cllrs. F.H. Fleming, W.L. Poulson-Haynes, N. Rogers.

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:

Cllr. F. Preece, Trustee Radnor and Presteigne Scouts, re. meeting with Scouts Representative, Presteigne.

Personal and Prejudicial:

Cllr. L. Harling-Bowen, neighbour of applicant, fellow member of Dark Sky Support Group, re. Planning application 26/0464/TRE.

Cllr. C. Kirkby, friend of applicant, re. Planning application 26/0464/TRE.

Cllr. F. Preece, related to letter writer re. request for two-way traffic, Pound Lane.

Cllr. A. Ramsay, applicant, re. Planning application 26/0464/TRE.

Cllr. J. Ramsay, related to applicant, re. Planning application 26/0464/TRE.

MIN 4603 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March, 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4604 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND CLERKS REPORT

(1) Pollarding of Trees: Cllr. Kirkby reported that this had been done although some in Station Road needed a return visit as, due to their size, the full work had not been able to be done. The Clerk would remind the Officer this was needed. She was also asked to request details of the ongoing cycle for inspection and work on these trees.

(2) Brilliant Basics Paths: The Clerk advised that a very complimentary email had been received from a person with mobility issues. She had let the contractor and Mr. Graham know. It was noted that the handrail by the Old Mill had not yet been done. The Clerk would chase the County Council.

(3) Powys County Council Statutory Notice regarding proposals affecting Ysgol Calon Cymru and Builth Wells C.P. School: No reply had been received to the query raised in March. The Clerk would chase.

(4) Pride in Place Grant Application: This had been submitted and a decision was awaited.

(5) Gritting: Cllr. Baynham had been going to look into this. The Clerk would ask if she had any information.

(6) Clerk's Report: Noted and would be discussed at the appropriate point on the agenda other than the following –

- Facebook information – Given the need for publicity on the free parking the Clerk had supplied the current figures for views etc. For the parking post there were 15 shares within 24 hours and there were 2609 views to the TC page the day of the post. The Council page currently has 816 followers. At the moment this seemed to be an effective, free and quick tool for reaching the public.
- Community Payback Team: Recent work noted. Clerk would remind the team to sweep the MUGA and tennis court regularly.

MIN 4605 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The following donations were approved as precepted –

Air Ambulance	250.00
East Radnorshire Care	2000.00
Memorial Hall	1500.00
Mid Border Arts	2000.00
(Presteigne and) Norton Community Trust (Norton Community Hub Trust)	2000.00
PACDG	300.00
Presteigne Festival	1500.00
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000.00
Powys CAB	250.00
The Samaritans	250.00
Youth Project	1200.00
Presteigne YFC	750.00
Knighton & Presteigne Leg Club	200.00

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Artisan Print (car park poster)	£9.72
SLCC (membership)	£316.00
One Voice Wales (membership)	£641.00
Microsoft (storage)	£19.99
British Gas Lite	£16.67
Amazon Uk (Replacement RADAR Lock)	£114.89
NEST (pension payment)	£155.40
Mrs T.A. Price	£1666.04
HM Revenue & Customs	£735.61
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£469.96 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Meadow)	£16.99 MEADOW ACCOUNT
EDF Energy (Hereford Street Toilets)	£70.30
T. Lloyd-John	£498.49
Lyreco (toilet rolls)	£81.60
Zoom (annual licence)	£167.88
Defib Warehouse (replacement batteries)	£182.40
N. Close	£88.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
N. Close	£184.00
HSBC (Bank charges)	£2.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Presteigne Building Supplies (allotments)	£26.44 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Artisan Print	£20.22 MEADOW ACCOUNT
Pump International Ltd	£70.39 MEADOW ACCOUNT
S. Williams and Son	£160.00
L. Stephens (internal audit)	£112.50

(3) Receipts:

Allotment Rent	£298.00 (2025-26 Accounts)
Allotment Rent	£30.00 (2026-27 Accounts)
Allotment Plot Deposits	£60.00 (2026-27 Accounts)

(4) Approval of Annual Accounts 2025-26: Approved as circulated.

(5) Completion of end of year VAT return, HMRC information and Councillor Remuneration Payments Return: Noted.

(6) Budget Update/Review of Allocated Reserves to end of March, 2026: Noted. Cllr. Ross raised a query on the cost for the two toilet blocks and the Clerk explained that it had been agreed to use £5000 from the allocated toilet reserve to cover part of the 2025-26 expenses. The spend was still over that planned but less than it appeared, due mainly to increased utility costs.

Cllr. Baynham joined the meeting at this point.

(7) Allocation of Mayor's Expenses 2025-26: The following allocations were confirmed -

- £600 Clock Fund Norton.

- £200 Best Kept Village Sign.
- Balance to the Norton Community Hub for children's functions and educational activities.

(8) Renewal of Money Market Bond: Agreed to renew the Money Market Bond for a further 12 month period. In response to a query from Cllr. J. Ramsay it was agreed to review the Council Investment Policy at the May meeting. Cllr. J. Ramsay also suggested that banking arrangements be reviewed to ensure they were with an ethical institution and he was asked to research possibilities.

MIN 4606 PLANNING

Cllr. Edwards left the room at this point due to her position on the County Council Planning Committee. Cllr. Ross took the Chair.

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

26/0334/FUL Grid Reference: E:331656 N: 264598 Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling (former dwelling demolished) and new structural external support to gable of adjacent listed building (Tan House) and all associated works Site Address: The Old Laundry, Broad Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AG. Resolved to fully support the application but to suggest swift boxes be installed if possible and for any external lighting to be dark sky compliant.

26/0335/LBC Grid Reference: E:331656 N: 264598 Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling (former dwelling demolished) and new structural external support to gable of adjacent listed building (Tan House) Site Address: The Old Laundry, Broad Street, Presteigne, LD8 2AG. Resolved to fully support the application but to suggest swift boxes be installed if possible and for any external lighting to be dark sky compliant.

26/0302/CAC Grid Reference: E:331205 N: 264652 Proposal: Demolition of a blockwork retaining wall and raised ground fill Site Address: 4 Scottleton Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BG. Resolved no objections be raised.

26/0301/LBC Grid Reference: E:331205 N: 264652 Proposal: Internal and external works to include repair of masonry and demolition of retaining wall Site Address: 4 Scottleton Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BG. Resolved no objections be raised.

26/0338/LBC Grid Reference: E:331126 N: 264822 Proposal: Installation of solar panels on roof of garage /workshop Site Address: The Old Mill, Mill Lane, Presteigne, LD8 2ES. Resolved no objections be raised.

26/0337/HH Grid Reference: E:331126 N: 264822 Proposal: Installation of solar panels on roof of garage/workshop Site Address: The Old Mill, Mill Lane, Presteigne, LD8 2ES. Resolved no objections be raised.

Cllrs. A. Ramsay, J. Ramsay, Harling-Bowen and Kirkby left the room at this point, having all declared a prejudicial interest in the following item.

26/0464/TRE. Grid Ref: E: 331486 N: 264545. Proposal: Felling of Lawson Cypress tree in Conservation Area. Location: Church Close, Cannon's Lane, Presteigne LD8 2HE. Resolved no objections be raised but to ask that the tree be replaced with a variety more suitable for the location.

Cllrs. A. Ramsay, J. Ramsay, Harling-Bowen and Kirkby returned to the room.

Cllr. Edwards returned to the room and re-took the Chair.

(2) Planning Decisions: None this month.

(3) TPO Submissions: No update. Cllr. Baynham had yet to meet with the Officer but would do so as soon as possible.

(4) Update re. Nant Mithil Energy Park Ltd: Noted that the suspension period had been extended until 29th June.

MIN 4607 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project: Cllr. Harling-Bowen reported the following –

- Sawdays: Following an introduction by the Mayor, Cllr. Harling-Bowen was contacted by Canopy and Stars. Cllr. Harling-Bowen was then interviewed on the 25 March for a

magazine article. The article will not be used for promotional purposes and a draft will be circulated to the Town Council before publication.

- Chatterbrook Presteigne WI: Cllr. Harling-Bowen gave a talk on Dark Skies to Chatterbrook WI on the 9 April 2026.
- Clun Town Council: Cllr. Harling-Bowen was invited to give a talk on dark sky lighting to Clun Town Council on the 14 April. The talk was at a public meeting which was well attended by between 30-40 people. Clun Town Council was in the unusual position of being responsible for the maintenance, management and replacement of the streetlights that are in Clun and Chapel Lawn. They were considering replacing them with dark sky compliant lights.
- Bat Conservation Trust: Cllr. Harling-Bowen will be giving a talk on “dark skies and wildlife” via Zoom to Bat Conservation Trust staff and volunteers on the 22 April 2026.

(2) Climate and Environment Matters:

- Update: Cllr. J. Ramsay raised a concern over the mowing of the Corton roundabout and Cllr. Baynham explained that there had been some confusion over which areas to mow or not mow with the sponsor but this had now been sorted out. The Clerk reminded Members that the roundabouts were under the control of the County Council but that Cllr. Baynham liaised with the Town Council over ongoing maintenance.
- Letter from Welsh Government on the Nature Recovery Plan for Wales: This was noted. The previous objectives had been replaced with six aims and would need to be borne in mind for the future.
- Invitation to Mowley Valley Project Friday 03 July: Noted. Members would advise at the next meeting if they planned to attend.
- National Emergency Briefing: Noted. Cllr. J. Ramsay reported on this item and advised that the film produced as part of the briefing was being shown in Knighton and he suggested it would be good to also have a showing in Presteigne. Members agreed to support a showing (no financial contribution required). Should financial support be needed then Cllr. J. Ramsay would formally submit a request to the Council.

(3) Fold Farm DMMO Application Update: Members noted the most recent reply from the County Council indicating that due to lack of time and resources it was not possible to proceed with preparing the documentation for PEDW at present. Cllr. Kirkby was concerned not only at the time being taken but also at the process being followed and outlined to Members the advice on procedure he had received by the Ramblers. He had drafted a reply to send to PEDW which he read to the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk raise the query with PEDW on behalf of the Council.

(4) Car Parking - Free Days Update: Both Cllr. Edwards and Cllr. Kirkby felt there had been an increased use of the car park on the first free Saturday. It was noted that the signs on the machine placed by the County Council were small and difficult to spot and it was agreed to obtain an A3 laminated notice to display.

(5) High Street Grant Update: The Clerk reported that at present she did not have sufficient claims to proceed with an application despite reminders to those initially interested. It was agreed that a further attempt be made to get businesses interested in applying and the matter be placed on hold for the time being.

(6) Reply from Welsh Water: This had been sent in response to a query over the treatment of phosphates at the sewage plant and was as follows – *‘See our current and most recent response to 26/0229/FUL, which hopefully should appear on the Council’s website soon. As for the response to 25/0420/FUL, I can only assume our objection was a snapshot in time given the WwTW was non-compliant with its final effluent standards, namely flow passed forward (FPF) performance, with no known scheme to rectify at the time. It appears the FPF performance of Presteigne WwTW has now recovered since the turn of the year which can explain why our response now offers no objection, subject to recommended condition and advisory notes.’* The current response could be viewed on the County Council planning website under the application reference.

(7) Update re. Highways Site meeting and reply on condition of local roads from Portfolio Holder: Members noted the reply from the Portfolio Holder stating that Presteigne and Norton had not been forgotten and outlined the current and recent budgets and the process for road condition assessments. Cllr. Edwards then reported on the site meeting held with the County Council and attended by herself and the Clerk. Items discussed included –

- County Council to provide Town Council with a list of roads down for re-surfacing in the current financial year but hoped to include the Knighton Road turn, Greenfield Road and the Kington roundabout.
- Various huge potholes around Norton to be done this week. Other Norton defects to be looked at asap.
- Ford at Stocken Lane being done. Road surface to be looked at.
- Coombe bridge to be looked at as well (the Powys length of surface).
- Junction to bypass car park the road part to be done. The problem pothole that led to the accident that was filled was done as someone was on their way home hence only the one done but agreed that the workman should have asked the highways inspector to look at that junction as a whole and this didn't happen.
- All other things on the list mentioned and will be looked at.
- Gully sucker to be arranged – Cllr. Baynham stated the Hereford Street was in need of doing.
- Asked that the Town Council be kept informed of what is going on and/or due to happen
- Welsh Water to do work up Mynd lane – Agreed that the Clerk write to the County Council supporting a request ask the company to re-surface it rather than just patching.

(8) Letter from Welshpool Town Council re. car parks and parking in Powys: Agreed that the Clerk respond to Welshpool Town Council agreeing with its view that there should be more options available for hire etc of County Council car parks and indicating a willingness to be part of a joint approach to the County Council over other possible options.

(9) Ongoing use of by-pass car park: Matter under review by the County Council.

(10) Reply re. Pound Lane: Members noted the Officer reply in response to the further query regarding safety and two way traffic. Cllr. Baynham reported that new no entry signs were being ordered and the reverse of one of these would also indicate two-way traffic ahead. Members supported the inclusion of a two-way traffic sign. A further letter had also been received from the resident who had raised the request to reverse the way of the traffic. Members confirmed that there was nothing further that could be done by the Town Council as Powys County Council was the decision making authority and the Clerk was asked to reply to this effect.

(11) Use of £1000 Street Cleaning Budget Allocation: Members discussed the best use of this budget area given a contractor had come forward willing to work on behalf of the Town Council. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange for ten hours work towards the end of June, to be carried out in the centre of town – High Street, Broad Street and Station Road. This would allow an initial assessment of the new contractor, the amount of work completed and the standard of that work.

MIN 4608 NORTON

Nothing to report this month.

MIN 4609 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: The Clerk reported the following –
Wilson Terrace Block now open.

New RADAR Lock installed at Wilson Terrace.

Recent blockage of urinal at Hereford Street block repaired.

(2) Allotments: The following matters were discussed –

- Plots now all let.
- One rental payment overdue.
- Application for allotment – applicant from outside PNTC area: Agreed to review if a number of plots fell vacant but no change to the rules at present.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Removal of Gel Dispenser, Outdoor Gym: Agreed this be removed and placed in storage.
- Report on Meeting with Scout Group Leader: Cllr. Edwards reported on a very positive meeting with a representative from the Scout Group. The planned works had been discussed and possible solutions for the need for extra storage looked at. The Group would consider some further alternatives for consideration by the Council.
- Repairs needed to Giant Picnic Bench: Mr. Close was going to look at this in the coming weeks.
- Reminder re. work day – 25th April: Noted.

- Items for next Sites and Buildings Committee: Members were asked to submit any items to the Clerk as soon as possible. Meeting scheduled for 11th May.
- Wildflower Area: Agreed that the area could be roped off.
- Hedge Management: Cllr. J. Ramsay reminded Members that this would be due again in June/July.
- Hedge Trimming: Cllr. Price believed the present contractor was retiring and a new one would need to be found. He would check and let the Clerk know.
- Mowing of paths in Lower Went's Meadow: Still not moved to nearer the hedge-line. Clerk would speak to the contractor.

(4) Nature Reserve Matters: Cllr. J. Ramsay reported the following –

- Upper Pond holding water well.
- Lower Pond not as good although still functioning well as a wetland area. Additional bentonite clay could be added in due course if needed.
- Canada Geese had returned.
- Wetland plants received via the One Voice Wales Biodiversity Grant.
- Wildflower seed also received. Would be planted in the Autumn.
- All current volunteer tasks were in hand.
- Container – site identified. Clerk to chase the OVW Biodiversity Officer re. any possible grants.
- Tree Surgery delayed due to the wet ground conditions. Clerk would arrange for late Summer/early Autumn. Cllr. J. Ramsay would arrange for an exclusion zone around the affected trees for over the intervening months.
- Bioblitz arranged for 7th June.
- Species monitoring going well.
- Trees cut in Nature Reserve without permission: Cllr. J. Ramsay reported that several trees had been cut down in height by an adjacent property owner. The Clerk was asked to write to the resident asking that permission be sought in future.

MIN 4610 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Leisure Services Review: None.

(2) Adoption of Telephone Kiosk: The Clerk reported that she had chased this and had now been promised that the work to remove the telephone service would be expedited.

(3) Update re UK Town of Culture Competition: Application submitted and the thanks of the application group were noted. It was agreed that a joint press release would be beneficial and give publicity to the application. The Clerk stated that she had asked for information from the group so this could be done but of course this had not been a priority until the application was submitted. Cllr. A. Ramsay would speak to the group and get this sorted. It was noted that the County Council had refused to be the accountable body and therefore the application had been submitted, as discussed at the March meeting, with the Town Council in this role.

(4) Cross Border Health Joint Meeting Report: Cllr. Edwards had attended this meeting, organised by Llandrindod Wells Town Council. A large proportion of Powys had been represented. A meeting was being organised to pose health related questions to the candidates for the Senedd elections in May.

MIN 4611 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham reported the following: Most matters already discussed. Noted that the Hedge at the bottom of Broadaxe Lane by the Secondary School had now been cleared. This had been raised at Town Council some time ago and the owner had then promised to get it dealt with.

Cllr. Edwards had nothing further to add.

MIN 4612 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Congratulations noted to Dilwyn Price who had been chosen to receive a gift of Maundy Money at this year's Royal Maundy Service, which took place in St Asaph's Cathedral.

(2) Norton Churchyard: Cllr. Harling-Bowen reported that a letter had been sent to the Bishop relating to the mowing of the Churchyard.

The meeting closed at 9.11 p.m.