

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2026 HELD AT THE NORTON COMMUNITY HUB, NORTON, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllrs. C. Ross, (Mayor), C. Kirkby MBE, D. Edwards, T. Owens, F. Preece, B. Baynham, A. Ramsay, M. Price. L. Poulson-Haynes, L. Harling-Bowen, F.H. Fleming.

Apologies: Cllrs. J. Ramsay (Deputy Mayor), 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: None.

Personal and Prejudicial: None,

MIN 4631 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the annual and ordinary meetings held on 18th May, 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

The Minutes of the Sites and Buildings Committee meeting held on 11th May, 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4622 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Town of Culture: The Clerk reported that a decision was not now expected until the end of July. Cllr. A. Ramsay advised that the group had been asked to design and supply a postcard as a part of the application process.
- (2) Re-Surfacing of Roads: Cllr. Kirkby asked if the list had been supplied and the Clerk said that no it had not as yet. Cllr. Edwards would be meeting with Highways later in the week and agreed to request a list of roads down for resurfacing work in the area.
- (3) Gel Dispenser: Now removed. Thanks to Cllr. Ross for doing this.
- (4) Giant Picnic Bench: Cllr. Ross had repaired the bench and Members again noted their thanks.
- (5) External Audit: Papers submitted.
- (6) Nature Reserve Trees: Now roped off and awaiting the work now planned for late August/September.
- (7) New Trees in Cemetery: Cllr. Kirkby had been back to check these.
- (8) Access to Meadow: Members noted that permission had been granted for a property owner in Wilson Terrace to access their property from the Meadow for a short period in order to do some works to their garden.

MIN 4633 FINANCE

- (1) Donations: The letter of thanks from Wales Air Ambulance was noted.

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

PHS Group	£5.40
PHS Group	£3.32
JRB Enterprises	£1321.20 MEADOW ACC
Ropes Direct	£85.62 MEADOW ACC
Post Office (refund T. Price – postage LDC)	£5.60 MEADOW ACC
Presteigne Building Supplies	£60.93 MEADOW ACC
Purrfect Cat Hire	£180.00 MEADOW ACC
British Gas Lite	£17.71
Mrs T. Price	£1665.84

HM Revenue & Customs	£735.81
NEST	£155.40
T. Lloyd-John	£765.23
N. Close	£76.00
N. Close	£120.00 MEADOW ACC
EDF Energy	£36.42
EDF Energy	£17.99 MEADOW ACC
Mole Valley Farmers (refund R. Rimington)	£66.00 MEADOW ACC
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£495.78 MEADOW ACC
T. Price (postage Wales Audit Office)	£5.60
C. Kirkby (postage to Clerk - LDC)	£5.30 MEADOW ACCOUNT
RB Landscaping (work to oak posts)	£420.00 MEADOW ACCOUNT

NB Pump track project budget of £300.00 to be transferred from Treasure account to Meadow account.

(3) Receipts: The following receipts were noted: -

Allotment Rent £60.00

Allotment Plot Deposits £60.00

(4) Change to HM Revenue & Customs Approved Mileage Rate from 45p per mile to 55p per mile: Agreed to increase the current rate for mileage travel to 55p.

(5) Email from resident re. ongoing Budget Setting: Members noted the comments on the budget setting and it was agreed that they would be considered in January 2027 when setting the next budget. With regards to the comments on the proposed pump track these would be considered under the Meadows section of the agenda.

MIN 4634 PLANNING

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

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

Application Reference: P/26/0237/HH

Proposal: Proposed Rear Extension

Location: 4 KINGS COURT, PRESTEIGNE, LD8 2AJ.

Resolved no objections be raised but to request that any external lighting be dark sky compliant.

Application Reference: P/26/0175/LBC

Proposal: Conversion of the ground floor portion of the old Lloyds Bank to two new dwelling flats (residential)

Location: LLOYDS TSB BANK PLC, HIGH STREET, PRESTEIGNE, LD8 2AU.

Resolved to repeat the comments made on the full planning application in May, namely - no objections be raised but any external lighting to be dark sky compliant. It was also noted that there seemed to be no toilet facility in the office section.

Cllr. Edwards returned to the room.

Members commented that the new planning website was difficult to use and the Cllr. Baynham added that there had been no decision lists in recent weeks due to problems with the site. The Clerk added that the notification system was also harder to work with. The Clerk was asked to write to planning services to ask for an update on progress with integrating the two sites and resolving any issues and adding her views on the process as a Clerk.

(2) Planning Decisions: None this month.

(3) TPO Submissions - Update by Cllr. Baynham: Nothing to report at present.

(4) Update re. Nant Mithil Energy Park Ltd - New Information submitted by Bute Energy: Cllr.

Harling-Bowen reported that CPRW were looking at the proposed lighting. There were no comments on the further information provided.

(5) Planning and Open Space Play Provision – Request for Suggestions: The Clerk reported that despite attempts via email and telephone she had been unable to get any more information from the Officer. It was therefore agreed to defer the matter until the July meeting. Members thought that work to the MUGA or Skateboard area as well as the proposed pump track were possibilities for funding.

MIN 4635 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: Cllr. Harling-Bowen reported on the recent Working Group meeting which was held together with the Dark Skies Community Support Group –

- The dark skies delivery plan, which was submitted and agreed when Presteigne & Norton applied for International Dark Sky Community status in 2023, was discussed. The delivery plan was an action plan that covers ten years of community status, up to 2033. The group(s) had concluded that they did not have either the capacity or the expertise to take this plan forward and would need help from a lighting professional if they were to achieve their goals.
- The group(s) discussed fundraising and how this could be financed, as a lighting professional would be unlikely to give their services on a pro bono basis.
- At a subsequent discussion with the Town Clerk, it was suggested that an application could be made to Council for funds to be vired from the dark skies budget to pay for an assessment of the towns' retail and industrial lighting, by a lighting professional. This would determine if there were any issues, and if so, how they could be rectified. The Town Council could then write to the businesses in Presteigne asking them to consider their lighting, and suggest ways in which they can reduce light pollution. Any issues identified in the assessment can be followed up. Cllr. Harling-Bowen explained that estimated costs were around £500 to £600. It was noted that there was £600 in the current budget and also an allocated reserve held. Cllr. Kirkby proposed that Cllr. Harling-Bowen be allowed to commission work up to a cost of £600 but following a discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Harling-Bowen should seek quotes and report back to the July meeting.

(2) Climate and Environment Update: Cllr. J. Ramsay had supplied a written report covering the following matters –

- Climate & Environment Working Group to meet in early July to consider, amongst other topics, an update draft of the 2026-2028 Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Site Visit Report from One Voice Wales (visit) on 23.01.2026) covering the Nature Reserve, Eddie's Meadow and Went's Meadow. The Officer was impressed by what he found. For example, referring to the nature reserve, the report states "I commend the council and the Tree Group for undertaking such a large project – on top of the other sites we will discuss in this report – and for achieving so much in such a short period of time." The report includes both general and specific advice on management of the three areas. These could be considered in the Biodiversity Action Plan, Hedge Management Review and revised plans for Eddie's Meadow. The Clerk would circulate to all Members.

(3) Update re. Fold Farm DMMO Application: The Clerk had been in touch with both the Officer and the Portfolio Holder. There had been no reply from the Officer in relation to supplying the documents objecting to the making of the Order. The Portfolio Holder had replied and had confirmed she would be speaking to the Head of Service and the Officer to try to secure time and resources to press forward with the work needed. She had undertaken to providing a further update later that week. The Clerk would also ask the Portfolio Holder if she could arrange for supply of the objection documents to the Town Council to be expedited.

(4) High Street Grant Update: After some considerable effort this was finally submitted on 25th May. All applications are currently on hold while the newly elected Senedd Members settle in but the County Council is hopeful for a decision on additional/future funding soon. Six premises were included in the application.

(5) Update re. Street Cleaning: Cllr. Ross and the Clerk had met with the new contractor and agreed some works in the town centre and including some clearing work around the newly adopted kiosk. This initial phase of work would be assessed before any further work was commissioned.

(6) Update re. fallen tree, Clatterbrook: The Clerk confirmed that the Rights of Way team had now asked the Drainage section to visit the site. Cllr. Baynham also reported on a tree with ash dieback behind the Paddocks. She was trying to confirm who had responsibility so that action could be taken.

(7) Update on Applications to add lost rights of way in Radnor: Members noted the information as per the email previously circulated.

(8) Street name sign for Maes Corton: Clerk and Cllr. Poulson-Haynes had previously discussed this and reported. However as the site was not adopted it was still a developer matter. Clerk would report again and ask that the developer be asked to supply a sign.

Noted also one of the Orchard Close signs was missing. Clerk would report.

No Entry signs at the end of Broadaxe Lane were now non illuminated versions.

(9) Removal of the 'No Ball Games' sign on Lugg View: Originally requested some time ago. Clerk to request again.

(10) Consideration of removal of the Twinned with Ligne France Sign(s): This item had been requested by Cllr. J. Ramsay. Cllr. Kirkby reported that the Twinning Association had stalled around covid time and it had not proved possible to revive enough interest to hold any events/activities. However Ligne continued to be active in France. The twinning agreement was still valid. After some discussion it was felt that the twinning agreement should continue and that there might be the opportunity to revive the Association in the future. The suggestion that the signs be removed was therefore refused.

(11) Grass Cutting, Station Road: A complaint had been received that this had been missed but following chasing by Cllr. Baynham and the Clerk, the work had now been completed.

MIN 4636 NORTON

(1) Best Kept Village Sign: Cllr. Edwards reported that this had been cleaned but did need some repair work and painting.

(2) Community Hub Meeting: Following a meeting attended by the Church and Caring For God's acre a new management plan was being produced for the Churchyard.

(3) History of Norton Exhibition: This had been well attended.

(4) Norton Name Sign: A resident had complained that this was too old and should be replaced. Members agreed that the current sign should remain.

(5) Norton Show: To take place on 26th July. Volunteers always needed and would be welcomed.

MIN 4637 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: No update this month.

(2) Allotments: The following matters were discussed –

- All plots let.
- All rent paid.
- Strimming work by Community Payback team chased.
- Possible Composting area: Cllr. Ross was meeting representatives of the Association on site to assist with considering the site, permit issues etc. He would report back with a formal request if the Association wished to proceed and depending on time scales the matter might be considered in more detail by the Sites and Buildings Committee.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Hedge Management Review Update: Report to be made to the July meeting.
- Comment on social media about overgrown paths: Clerk to ask the resident which were the main areas of concern. Cllr. Price had walked the site and the issue seemed to be more weed related than a problem with hedges. The kissing gate into the site from the allotment car park was overgrown and needed cutting back. Following a discussion with the resident the Clerk was authorised to arrange any strimming needed.

(4) Nature Reserve: Cllr. J. Ramsay had provided a written report as follows –

- Trees at risk have been roped off, with signs and the grass path re-routed around the enclosure.
- Open Day was held on Saturday 7th June. In the morning volunteers conducted a BioBlitz, capturing multiple insects and identifying these and unusual plants with the aid of an ecological expert, Tim Kaye. This exercise resulted in several extensions to the reserve's species list, including the beautiful Emperor Dragonfly. In the afternoon the reserve hosted the public with trails for children, a talk and demonstrations by the ecologist, and tea and cakes. Thank you to the Council for the loan of gazebos.
- Purchase of a Storage Container: Members considered the three quotes and confirmed that a one journey container be purchased from Eggerton Containers. Clerk to arrange.

(5) Matters from Sites and Buildings Committee:

Allotments: The following items were discussed and decisions made as needed -

Agree to check and if needed alter pump hose (Northern pump): Minor work completed to address this problem.

Agree to check gate on small bridge is fixed shut and remove plastic barrier: Checked and barrier removed.

Purchase of sign for main allotment gate: Members felt not necessary at this time.

Nature Reserve: The following items were recommended –

Quotes for Storage Container to be updated: See under Nature Reserve above.

Meadows: The following items were recommended -

Redundant gatepost Skateboard Park: Agreed to accept the offer of Mr. Graham to remove and fill in hole.

Loose Slates, Little Hut: Agreed to accept the offer of Mr. R. Rimington to secure these. Cllr. Kirkby thought these might have been done. Clerk would check.

Pump track: Update had been provided at May meeting and agreed that an application for a lawful development order be made in due course. This had now been submitted.

Hedge Management Review: Cllrs. Price and J. Ramsay to meet on site to discuss the review and report back to Council at the July meeting at the latest.

Letters of thanks for help on Work Day: The Clerk had sent these.

Eddie's Meadow - Review of the Management of the Site: Agreed not to form a working group.

Ongoing management to be discussed by Sites and Buildings Committee at the autumn meeting.

(6) Pump Track: Cllr. Kirkby confirmed that the lottery application had been submitted and the application for a Lawful Development certificate sent to the County Council. The lottery had requested some additional information which he had supplied. Thanks noted to Cllr. J. Ramsay for help with providing some of that information. A decision from the lottery was expected by 14th August. He added that the Clerk had drafted a safeguarding policy and it was agreed that Council would consider adopting this at the July meeting.

The comments of a resident on the proposed track were noted. Members appreciated that the track would be used by visitors to Presteigne as well as by residents but felt this was a good thing and was a part of being an area centre for facilities such as shops, library, leisure centre. Ongoing maintenance costs would of course be factored into future budgets but it should be noted that the area currently needed maintenance in any event. The consultation forms provided included a section for comments and the public could support or not as they wished. Over five hundred signatures had been obtained in support with just a few raising questions or concerns and these had been addressed. The Clerk would respond.

MIN 4638 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Leisure Centre Update: No update but the matter was due to be put to the County Council Scrutiny Committee on 17th June and would be debated at Cabinet following this. Cllr. Baynham had submitted a formal question to the Portfolio Holder and she would send details to the Clerk to circulate.

(2) Revival of Chamber of Trade: Cllr. Harling-Bowen proposed that the Town Council try to facilitate the revival of a Chamber of Trade for Presteigne and Norton and immediate surrounding areas. This was discussed at some length and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Harling-Bowen draft an open letter for delivery to local businesses to see if there was any interest. The intention was for businesses to take the suggestion forward if there was interest, not for the Town Council to run the organisation, but the Council would consider setting up a working group to get such a group up and running.

(3) Adoption of Telephone Kiosk: Cllr. Ross had met with the lady who was to be running the project and discussed first steps. An initial working group meeting was due to be held soon and the kiosk would be cleaned and quotes obtained for any work needed. The current light in the kiosk was felt to be adequate for now. The Clerk advised that she had sought three quotes and it was agreed that Mr. Vaughan be asked to carry out an inspection and provide the necessary certificate.

(4) Pride in Place Grant Application Decision and Update. The grant application had been successful with a grant of £83,000 being awarded and the two organisations were now seeking the formal quotes for the works. The Clerk and Cllr. Baynham had had an initial meeting with the project officers at the County Council.

(5) One Voice Wales Civility and Respect Pledge: There was a query raising over the section on training and following a discussion it was agreed not to sign the pledge at present.

(6) Community Resilience/Community Risk Register: Cllr. Baynham would review before the next meeting and report to Members then.

MIN 4639 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

- Greenfield Road Surface: Had been patched but was scheduled for re-surfacing over the Summer.
- Knighton Road Junction also to be resurfaced.
- County currently had no white lining machine so one would need to be hired in as needed.
- Ongoing problems with parking at the Primary School.
- Loose slabs etc, High Street Pavement. Members asked to report online.

Cllr. Edwards reported –

- Potholes at Caefelyn: A meeting with Officers had been arranged.
- Sewage smells, Mynd Road: Welsh Water to be contacted.
- White lining needed in several areas.
- Bollards at the top of Hare's Green in need of replacing.
- Blocked Drains, Hare's Green: Reported.

The issue with people living in vehicles at the by pass car park was raised and Cllr. Baynham would chase the relevant officer.

Clerk to circulate the link to report road/pavement issues to all Members.

MIN 4640 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Youth Council: Cllr. Ross asked if he could investigate the setting up of a Youth Council and this was agreed. He would bring a formal proposal to Council in due course. The Clerk would look out some information for reference.

(2) Town Carnival on 11th July.

(3) White Lining: Needed at the Knighton Road Junction.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.