

Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JULY 2026
HELD AT THE EAST RADNORSHIRE DAY CENTRE, SCOTTLETON STREET,
PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: Cllrs. F. Preece, D. Edwards.

Absent: Cllr. 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 4641 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the annual and ordinary meetings held on 15th June, 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4642 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (1) Town of Culture. Bid unsuccessful but congratulations noted to the volunteer team that had produced the bid. It was noted that the survey conducted would provide useful evidence to support future grant applications (and indeed had already supported the grant application for a pump track). Thanks to be sent to the Group.
- (2) New Trees, Presteigne Cemetery: Cllr. Kirkby had been to water these. Of the six planted one had died.
- (3) Fallen Tree, Clatterbrook: The Clerk was not aware that the drainage team had yet visited. Cllr. Kirkby reported that there was a further tree down, upstream from the tree previously reported.
- (4) Possible Ash Dieback affected Tree, The Paddocks: Cllr. Baynham had met with a County Council Officer on site who had not felt the tree was currently in need of removing. Ownership of the tree was unclear at present.
- (5) Lugg View 'No Ball Games' Sign: The Clerk had requested removal of the sign and chased the matter up a week ago.
- (6) Works to Clear Kissing Gate: Cllr. J. Ramsay reported that this had not been done although the Clerk thought it had been cleared. Cllr. Ramsay confirmed that a group of volunteers had agreed to clear the gateway.
- (7) Little Hut, Meadow: Slates still needed fixing.
- (8) Community Resilience Register: Cllr. Baynham reported that this was seeking information on what Town Councillors knew about the Register and she had now completed it.
- (9) Vehicles on By Pass Car Park: Cllr. Baynham was awaiting further information from County Council Officers on this matter.
- (10) White Lining: Cllr. Baynham reported that the County Council now had a machine and staff were receiving training.
- (11) Clerk's Report Items: Items 1-6 were noted namely –
Planning Application Website and access problems.
Road Re-Surfacing: Site visit held for Greenfield Lane, Corton Roundabout and Norton junction from Presteigne. Cllr. Baynham reported that the schedule was as follows –
Knighton Road Junction: 17th to 21st August.
Greenfield Road: 24th to 28th August
Corton Roundabout: 1st to 4th September.

Work was planned to happen during the night.

Civility and Respect Pledge: Following the question raised at the last meeting regarding training the Clerk had confirmed with One Voice Wales that the section on training referred to the Council's training policy – something it was required to have by law. Members were reminded that if they had questions about any agenda item to get in touch straight away – meeting papers are sent out well before the meeting and this gives Councillors the chance to carry out research/ask questions etc. This helps business at meetings reach informed decisions.

The Warden: Wooden signs had been screwed to trees, with names on. These have now been removed.

Town Council Publicity: Information on the various ways the Council publicises its work – facebook (842 followers), website, Council newsletter posted on noticeboards locally and also copies placed in town library. Council newsletter also goes to PACDG for their general newsletter periodically. It was noted that a monthly article was also sent to the Parish Magazine.

MIN 4643 FINANCE

(1) Donations: The letter of thanks from East Radnor Care was noted.

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

British Gas Lite	£17.00
Mrs T. Price	£1666.04
HM Revenue & Customs	£735.61
NEST	£155.40
T. Lloyd-John	£735.23
N. Close	£108.00
N. Close	£140.00 MEADOW ACC
EDF Energy	£48.34
EDF Energy	£30.25 MEADOW ACC
Highground Maintenance Ltd	£495.78 MEADOW ACC
JJW Ltd (oak posts)	£360.00 MEADOW ACC
Powys County Council (planning fee – pump track)	£74.00 MEADOW ACC
T. Price (refund postage)	£3.60
Lyreco (office supplies)	£45.48
T and O Building Services	£300.00
Presteigne Building Supplies	£93.22 MEADOW ACC
Mark Eggerton (storage container Reserve)	£3000.00

The Clerk reported that the Audit Wales invoice for 2024-25 was currently being queried as it was not far from three times the amount of the previous full audit.

(3) Ethical Banking: Cllr. J. Ramsay had asked that this be further deferred and this was agreed.

(4) Budget Update to end of June, 2026: Noted. Members noted the update for the first quarter of the financial year.

(5) Mayor's Allowance 2026-27: Agreed to vire the current Mayor's Annual Allowance to Mayor's Expenses at the request of the current Mayor, Curtis Ross.

(6) Review of Council Investment Policy: Cllr. J. Ramsay had asked that this be further deferred and this was agreed.

MIN 4644 PLANNING

(1) Planning applications: The following application was considered –

P/26/0484/FUL Proposal: External and internal alterations to building to include creation of exterior balcony, changing roof from gable style to single pitched sloping roof, upgrading of cladding, addition of lean-to shed and changes to fenestration. Creation of three areas on existing commercial ground floor and open plan living space on existing residential first floor Location: DOMESTIC AT, 2 ARTISAN ROW, PRESTEIGNE, LD8 2BQ. Resolved no objections be raised subject to any external lighting being dark sky compliant.

(2) Planning Decisions: None this month.

(3) TPO Submissions: Cllr. Baynham reported that she had yet to hear from the Officer. It was noted that the Tree Group was still willing to work on submitting more detailed applications and Cllr. Baynham was asked to continue pressing for a meeting with the Planning Officer.

(4) Planning and Open Space Play Provision – Request for Suggestions: Cllr. Kirkby proposed money towards the proposed pump track and also towards an item of play equipment to be sited on Went's Meadow. The exact item to be determined once the precise amount available was known. It

was agreed to request £6000 approximately towards the proposed pump track and £5000 towards play equipment, utilising the maximum amount available. Cllr. Kirkby suggested a climbing wall as one option for consideration although Cllr. Owens raised concerns over insurance costs. Agreed that the exact item be considered at a future date.

MIN 4645 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: Cllr. Harling-Bowen reported the following – Retail and Industrial Lighting Assessment: Cllr Harling-Bowen had contacted two lighting professionals. One was not able to undertake the work due to their current workload. The other had been interested in supplying a cost estimate, but had not supplied it as yet. Cllr Harling-Bowen would chase up and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Visit by President of DarkSky International: On the 2nd July 2026 Cllr Harling-Bowen had a visit from Nayalini Brito-Davies, the President of DarkSky International. The President was very impressed with the way that the Town Council were developing its dark sky community, especially the work undertaken by the dark skies working group and associated support group.

Possible 'DarkSky Twinning: During the visit the President mentioned a possible twinning with Presteigne and Norton with New Zealand's first International Dark Sky Community, a small town called Naseby, situated in the Central Otago region of South Island. The commitment would not be excessive, but would enable for example, both communities to hold joint events via Zoom during say, Welsh Dark Skies week. Other cultural events and activities would also be possible. It was agreed that Cllr. Harling-Bowen would look into this further.

(2) Climate and Environment Update:

- Growing Food Locally Email: Agreed to respond advising of the town allotments and the Presteigne Community Garden. Also to point out that there were other initiatives nearby and to suggest that Knighton Town Council be contacted for information on these.
- Biodiversity Grant for Bulbs: This application had been successful and the bulbs would be delivered in the Autumn.
- Cllr. J. Ramsay then reported on the following matters –
 - Mowley Valley Visit on 3rd July: Fifteen people in total had attended. The Clerk was asked to write and thank the organisers for arranging the visit.
 - Climate and Environment Working Group: A meeting had been held on 29th June but just two people had attended. The group was intending to look at management of Council sites generally and Eddie's Meadow in particular. It had also raised concerns about the use of glyphosate by the County Council. Cllr. Poulson-Haynes asked what viable alternatives there were but Cllr. Ramsay did not at present have any suggestions. The Clerk advised that in the past she had spoken to the Town Council contractor on this issue and he had offered burning of weeds but had added that he believed this was just as bad for the environment. The Clerk was asked to request the County Council policy on the use of glyphosate.
 - The biological Status of River Lugg had also been discussed and Cllr. Ramsay reported on recent reports of an incident with E. coli in Hay on Wye and asked if water checks should be carried out on the River Lugg given the use of the 'beach' area by many residents. It was agreed that this might be looked at in future. Cllr. Kirkby reminded Members that the chemical content of the Lugg further down stream was an issue also. Cllr. Ramsay would find out more information on the Hay-on-Wye incident.

(3) Fold Farm DMMO Application: The County Council had now agreed to supply copies of the objections documentation it had received to the Town Council but hadn't as yet. The Officer planned to work on the case during week beginning 20th July.

(4) High Street Grant Update: The Clerk had chased this up but the County Council was still awaiting a response from Welsh Government.

(5) Update re. Street Cleaning: Cllr. Ross felt the contractor had done a good job on the work so far. It was agreed that a further £250 of work be requested with Broad Street to Canon's Lane being the next area to be done, that the pavings at the Knighton Road junction be left until after the re-surfacing works and that work in Norton be carried out to utilise the second half of the next portion of budget. The Clerk would liaise with Cllrs. Owens and Edwards over what areas were to be done and then arrange for both areas to be done by mid August.

(6) Email from David Chadwick MP re. cross border health care: Noted.

(7) Update re. Maes Corton Name Sign: The Clerk reported that the sign was now at the Builth Wells Highways Depot awaiting collection by the developer.

The use of a what3words address for inclusion on name signs was mentioned but not taken forward.

(8) Complaint re. overgrown hedge and narrowed pavement – Greenfield Road: This had been submitted to the County Council as a resident's complaint. Cllr. A. Ramsay would speak to the house owner to see if they would cut it back. If not then the Clerk would follow up with a letter. Members noted there were other overgrown hedges namely the hedge alongside the secondary school playing field and a property in Clatterbrune. Clerk to write to the address in Clatterbrune and to also email the school to ask for hedge trimming to be done.

(9) Email from resident re. Japanese knotweed infestation: Members noted that the Clerk had informed the environmental protection section at the County Council.

MIN 4646 NORTON

(1) Norton Show: 26th July.

(2) Caring for God's Acre work in Norton Churchyard: Nothing further to report.

(3) Current Road Closure – Knighton to Norton: Noted.

MIN 4647 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: Members noted that following a 'water saving' visit by Welsh Water a new urinal sensor had been provided for the Wilson Terrace site free of charge but Welsh Water would not access the roof space to fit it. Members agreed that the Clerk arrange and authorise the work subject to a maximum budget of £150.

(2) Allotments: The following matters were discussed –

- Allotment Association given permission to install a communal compost bin and to apply for the necessary waste exemption certificate. Bin to be presentable, not unsightly and to be kept tidy.
- Strimming/Digging of Plot 5: Agreed that this be done, approximately two days work in total. There was a discussion around re-letting plots that had become overgrown and the Clerk reminded Council that the decision to dig over such plots had been made at a meeting around twelve months previously despite the budget to do so being very limited. Previously she had, wherever possible, tried to get such plots dug by the new tenant with the first year's rent then being free of charge.
- Report of 'abandoned' plot: The Clerk had spoken to the tenant who had arranged for the weeds to be cut down and was proposing to cover the plot temporarily.
- Other Untidy Plots: Two other plots had been identified and the Clerk had been in touch with both via email. One had replied and had started work on their plot. There had been no response from the other as yet. Members would visit the site as part of the Town Walk in August and consider the condition of all plots then.
- Complaints from Allotment Association: The Clerk outlined several concerns raised by the Allotment Association –

Broken pumps: These had been repaired before the email had been received.

Untidy Plot: Tenants of untidy plots had been contacted and asked to take urgent action.

See above. Members discussed raising the level of deposit in future but acknowledged that this could reduce affordability for those on low incomes and could be seen as penalising the good tenants. To be considered if the problem continued.

Overgrown Paths: The Clerk acknowledged that this was an issue due to the Community Payback team officer changing and no visits being made so far this year. A visit was now booked for mid August.

Visibility when exiting the Allotment Car Park: This had been strimmed recently but the Community Payback team would do all the areas around the car park and allotments when they visited.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Hedge Management Review Update: Cllr. J. Ramsay had produced a written report following a site meeting conducted by himself and Cllr. Price and which had been circulated to Members to comment. Cllr. Price pointed out that a member of the public had also attended and this was acknowledged by Cllr. Ramsay. There was a detailed discussion over the proposal with Cllr. Price stating that two years was a better interval and that three was too long. He added that ground conditions were an issue when looking at cutting hedges later in the year. The section on volunteers being trained to carry out hedge laying was felt by some to not be sensible given the level of skill required and the amount of hedge involved. Cllr. Baynham asked if the need to lay hedges was

caused by the proposal to leave them for three years and Cllr. Price felt this to be so although Cllr. J. Ramsay did not agree this was entirely the case. The cutting of the roadside hedge was also discussed in some detail. This had, as in previous years, been cut prior to the Carnival and when the hedge was causing also problems for residents using the pavement (a problem that arose most years). The Clerk reminded Members that the previous policy had included a clause to say the Town Council reserved the right to alter the schedule as necessary and that she felt this should be included to cover the need for operational changes. It was agreed to include looking at the hedges on the August walk before discussing further.

- Strimming around new access paths: Cllr. Price had looked around with Cllr. Preece and advised that the new path from the allotment car park did need cutting back around the sides. The Clerk would arrange with the Council's regular strimming contractor.
- Pump Track Project: Lottery decision still expected by the end of August. Local Development Certificate submitted and under consideration.
- Work by Community Payback Team: Due on site in mid August. This would be the first visit of the year as a new supervising officer was in post.
- Update on work to property adjacent to meadow: Work complete.
- Meadow Use Request – Play Radnor: Tuesdays – 21st and 28th July, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August 2026. 9.30am to 12.30pm: Agreed.
- Meadow Use Request Pop Choir 16th July. 6.30pm to 10pm: Confirmed as in previous years.
- Meadow Use Request Forest School 26th August: Agreed.
- Ligne Garden Bench: Now repaired and back on site. Volunteer to be thanked.

(4) Nature Reserve: Cllr. J. Ramsay reported as follows –

- Cedar Tree now roped off. Clerk to chase tree surgeon to check tree and also to ask if a recently fallen branch from an ash tree could be cut into lengths when the main works were done later in the year.
- Ponds: Drying up but still retaining low water levels.
- Further information sign received from the National Forest for Wales.
- Storage Container: To be delivered on 28th July.
- Dog Attack on Geese/Goslings 14th July: This had caused great concern in the community particularly as dogs were not permitted on the site. The suspected dog owner had been spoken to and had apologised however it was felt that the community should be reminded of the ban on dogs via the Council Newsletter, Community Newsletter and Parish Magazine.

MIN 4648 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Leisure Centres: Cllr. Baynham reported that Centres were expected to be secure until 2030 with investment to improve their sustainability planned. She agreed to circulate the cabinet report to the Clerk for forwarding to all Members.

(2) Little Art Gallery Kiosk Project: No progress as yet.

(3) Pride in Place Grant Application: Both projects were considered.

- Presteigne Youth Project: Agreed to authorise the awarding of the contract to Onny Developments. The project manager had contacted a number of contractors who had either declined to quote or where not available within the necessary time scales. One Sell2Wales quote had been received. It was noted that the work would cost in excess of the grant award but that the balance would be met by the Youth Project. There was just one contractor for this project.
- East Radnor Care Building: Cllr. Baynham provided a list of the works provided and the quotes obtained so far. It was agreed that due to the fact that a number of contractors were being used and so amounts were relatively small that Cllr. Baynham would liaise with the Clerk to confirm the successful contractor. Clerk would liaise with Cllr. Ross as needed.

(4) Community Resilience/Community Risk Register - Request for Town Council Comments: See Minute 4642 above.

(5) Draft Safeguarding Policy: Agreed not to proceed at present as a policy had not been required for the Lottery Application and was not generally needed for the Council's current activities.

(5) Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC) Survey: Agreed that the Clerk submit the following comments –

- That numbers of Community Councillors were currently completely appropriate and necessary to ensure full representation by this tier of local government, the one closest to the people.

- To oppose to any amalgamation of Community Councils feeling this would reduce local representation.

The Clerk would also complete the full survey and Members were encouraged to do so also.

(6) Dementia Friendly Communities: The Clerk had obtained various pieces of information which had been sent to all Members. It was agreed that the information be forwarded to East Radnor Care to ask for its views and whether it felt this full Dementia Friendly Status could be achieved in the town. It was noted that much work had already been done some time ago but on an informal basis only.

(7) Chamber of Trade: Update: Letters had been delivered and information put on various Council pages online. Just one reply so far. Closing date 31st July.

(8) Community Consultation: The Clerk reminded Members that this had been discussed in February. Agreed to defer for the time being and Cllrs. Ross and Baynham plus the Clerk to liaise on potential questions.

MIN 4649 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham reported the following –

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- Leisure Centre Information: Links to the documents would be circulated.
- Consultation on Closure of Gladestry School. Cllr. Baynham had spoken on this to Cabinet highlighting the lack of investment in the East Radnor Catchment and expressing disappointment that the opportunity to submit proposals for the whole catchment had not been taken. Cabinet had agreed to start the consultation process in the Autumn. Again she would circulate the link to the report via the Clerk.

No report from Cllr. Edwards as she was not present and had sent apologies.

MIN 4650 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) Selection of Nathan Weale to Wales under 25s Bowling Squad: Letter of congratulations to be sent.

(2) Selection of Henry Lewis to Wales Commonwealth Games (Gymnastics): Letter of congratulations to be sent.

(3) People's Emergency Briefing Film: Clerk to respond giving the names of the Councillors hoping to attend.

(4) Land Registry Documents re. Broadheath Common: Members agreed they could not comment on the ownership but were concerned that any registration should include and preserve the following rights –

- Broadheath Common was registered as having common land rights of grazing, and these should therefore be legally protected.
- It is also registered as a Village Green number VG.10 by Powys County Council.
- The protected status guarantees that local residents can use the open space for recreational activities and sports, and it has historically served as a venue for annual trotting races.
- The existing rights of way across the site should be recorded and retained.

In addition the Town Council understood that the commoners only received the documentation recently giving them very little time to research and respond properly. Members asked that the Clerk request the closing date for these responses be extended from the current date of 3rd August to allow time for considered responses.

(5) Presteigne Carnival: Members asked that congratulations be sent to the Presteigne Carnival Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.