Cyngor Tref Llanandras a Norton
PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2026
HELD AT EAST RADNORSHIRE DAY CENTRE, SCOTTLETON STREET, PRESTEIGNE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Apologies: Cllrs. M. Price.
Absent: Cllr. D. Edwards

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.

Prior to the start of the formal meeting Members heard from a resident living adjacent to Broadheath Common on the current situation regarding the application for a first registration of the land with Land Registry. He explained what had happened so far and advised the meeting that the Land Registry had now referred the application to a tribunal for examination. He added that the tribunal would spend some time seeking and collating evidence and would probably meet in around six months. Members had no questions and Cllr. Ross thanked the resident for attending to update the Council.

MIN 4666 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September, 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 4667 UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS
(1) No Ball Games Sign, Lugg View: Still not removed. Clerk had chased.
(2) Sign, Maes Corton: Still not in place. Clerk would chase.
(3) S106 Planning Monies for use towards Pump Track: Clerk would find out when the money was likely to be available and when the amount would be confirmed.
(4) Voice of the Woodlands Event: Not now taking place.
(5) Street Cleaning: The Clerk was still waiting for details of areas to cover in Norton from Cllr. Edwards. Agreed that insufficient leaves had fallen for these to be cleared as yet.
(6) Tree Works, Nature Reserve: Now complete.
(7) Hedge Management: Noted that as part of the review in September it was agreed to schedule hedge laying of the allotment car park hedge as soon as possible and the right-hand hedge at Eddie's Meadow for 2027.
(8) Overgrown Hedge, Clatterbrune: Cllr. A. Ramsay had spoken to the property owner who had agreed to trim back the hedge. Cllr. Ross would check to see if it had been done.
(9) Former Reservoir Signs: These had been ordered and paid for.
(10) Fallen Tree, Clatterbrook: Still not removed. Clerk had chased but would do so again.
(11) Information on Free Car Parking in Talgarth and new Welcome Signs at Talgarth and Knighton: Information had been circulated. No further action at present but noted for a possible future grant funded project.
(12) New Printer: New printer purchased and two unsealed toner cartridges had been returned and refunded to the sum of £207.48.

(13) Review of Senedd Constituencies: Clarification - the review will not consider the number of Senedd Members but will be looking at the names of, and the areas included in each of the sixteen constituencies.

MIN 4668 FINANCE

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

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£75.00
Norton Community Trust (fireworks/bonfire)	£400.00
Sheep Music (fireworks/bonfire)	£500.00

(2) Payments: The following payments were approved –

Highground Maintenance Ltd	£495.78 MEADOW ACC
Mrs T. Price	£1716.16
HM Revenue & Customs	£767.63
NEST	£160.58
T. Lloyd-John	£735.23
N. Close	£92.00
N. Close	£80.00 MEADOW ACC
EDF Energy	£33.26
EDF Energy	£16.33 MEADOW ACC
Printerland	£390.04
East Radnorshire Care (Pride in Place Grant)	£2821.40
Presteigne Youth Project (Pride in Place Grant)	£9960.00
SLCC Enterprises (conference Cllr. Ross)	£90.00
Parish Council Websites (BWP Creative)	£403.20
British Gas Lite	£17.57
Presteigne Memorial Hall (hire)	£97.20
Presteigne Building Supplies	£49.98 MEADOW ACC
T.A. Price (refund postage/stamps)	£22.21
Signworx (reservoir signs)	£270.00
PHS Group	£18.84
Alan Preece (allotment clearing)	£50.00 MEADOW ACC
T. Owens (refund silver cups valuation)	£159.12

(3) Budget Update to end of September, 2026: Noted. The Clerk answered questions in particular on the spend on audit fees and the pump track budget.

(4) Receipts: The following receipt was noted –

Powys County Council – Pride in Place	£2821.40

(5) Conclusion of 2025-26 Audit: Members noted that the audit was complete with no issues raised. A comment had been made on holding a community consultation. The Clerk advised that this was not a statutory requirement and was a decision for Members. Members felt there was ongoing engagement with the community and did not feel a full community consultation was needed at present.

(6) Draft Annual Remuneration Report: Noted. Resolved no comments be made.

(7) Review of Internal Auditor and Internal Audit Arrangements for 2026-27: Members approved the re-appointment of Mr. Stephens as internal auditor and confirmed the audit documents as supplied.

MIN 4669 PLANNING

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

P/26/1065/TRE. **Proposal:** To remove a Sycamore tree within a conservation area. **Location:** 27 HEREFORD STREET, PRESTEIGNE, LD8 2AT. Resolved no objections be raised.

P/26/0654/LBC **Proposal**: Take down bricks for re-use on top portion of chimney stack to enable stone plinth to be lifted and reset on a lead dampcourse **Location**: Gamekeepers Lodge, Norton, Presteigne, LD8 2EH. Resolved no objections be raised.

(2) Planning Decisions: None this month.

(3) TPO Submissions: No progress. Cllr. Baynham was still waiting for a meeting with the relevant officer.

(4) Latest documentation submitted to PEDW for proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park: Members considered comments, bearing in mind that these needed to be on the new documentation. It was noted that the developer had not dealt with the concerns raised about the potential effect on

Presteigne International Dark Sky Community and it was agreed that the Clerk respond to the most recent consultation pointing this out and asking for the effect to be fully and properly considered.
e) Update re. planning on former Kaye's Site: The Clerk had requested an update and had been informed that discussions were still taking place with Environmental Health over how the contamination should be dealt with but that the Agent was hopeful that progress was being made.

MIN 4670 HIGHWAYS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

(1) Dark Skies Project Update: Cllr. Harking-Bowen had provided a written report as follows –
Retail and Industrial Lighting Assessment: Andrew Bissell of Ridge Lighting Consultancy had been appointed to undertaken a retail and industrial lighting assessment of the town on behalf of the Town Council. This had been scheduled for the 11th November 2026. Specialist light detection equipment will be used to determine the extent of light pollution from various premises.
Potential Town Twinning with Naseby in New Zealand: No update this month.
(2) Climate and Environment Update: The following matters were discussed -

- Plastic Free Communities: Cllr. Baynham reported that a group had been set up some years ago but she was the only person remaining involved. She asked if any Members would be willing to take the project forward. After some discussion it was agreed that given improvements in recycling, some concerns that in some cases plastic free was not a better option and with food packaging controlled nationally there was no longer the same need for the group.
- Proposal from River Truth: Members were interested in this proposal and it was felt it would be useful to at least accept the offer of a trial period until March with ongoing funding for the project being looked at for funding at the budget setting meeting in January. The Clerk would contact the provider to discuss details and also to ask about discharge points upstream of Presteigne such as Llangunllo. She was also asked if national average figures were available to include for comparison purposes. It was suggested that a link to the river water monitoring figures on Wyevis - https://www.wyesalmon.com/wye-viz/ was added to the Council website as well as the link to the new river truth page.
- Community Based Energy Grant Fund: Cllr. J. Ramsay had attended the webinar to learn more about this and he reported on the details. £40,000 was available to apply for a feasibility study into a community energy project but with a very short closing date of 12th November. There was also another stream of funding with up to £25,000 available to look int community energy possibilities for the area. Information to be sent to Cllrs. Ross and Kirkby to investigate further.

(3) Fold Farm DMMO Application: Members noted that information on the new objections had still not been received. The Clerk had spoken to the Portfolio Holder that afternoon and she had promised to follow it up. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr. J. Forsey to again raise concerns about the length of time that the matter was taking. It was also agreed that she again ask for the views of the Officer on the further objections.
(4) High Street Grant Update: All but one of the businesses had agreed to go ahead. Cllr. Owens agreed to ask the remaining business if it still wished to be part of the full application.
(5) Locations for Bulb Planting: Agreed to split between Norton, the Day Centre ground and by the Sleeping Dragon. Clerk to consult with the relevant parties.

MIN 4671 NORTON

(1) Welsh Water ad Sewage Odours, Mynd Lane: The company was working on the problem which was improving.
(2) Wreath for Remembrance Sunday: Cllr. Owens would take for Cllr. Edwards to lay on the day.
(3) Parking at bottom of Hares Green: Multiple vehicles were regularly parked here and at the junction of Meeting House Lane. This was felt to be a safety issue. Clerk to report to police.
(4) Speeding: Still a problem through the village.

MIN 4672 SITES AND BUILDINGS

(1) Public Conveniences: Members noted that the painter had still not been on site and it was felt that, given possible changes to the layout of the toilets were being considered, this should not be chased for the time being.
(2) Allotments: The following matters were noted –

- Plot 5 – re-let.
- Plot 20 – cleared by tenant.

- Plot 18 – notice served and plot would be strimmed and re-let once the notice period had elapsed. To be re-let on the same terms as Plot 5 if possible.

(3) Meadows: The following matters were discussed –

- Use by Sheep Music for Bonfire/Fireworks Display 7th November: Agreed.
- Pump Track: The now agreed Local Development Certificate had still not been received and Cllr. Baynham was chasing. The planning application had passed the last date for the further information to be considered but had not yet been returned. The Clerk was asked to place a formal stop on the cheque. Cllr. Kirkby reported that he had been made aware of a tranche of grant funding from Sport Wales that the County Council could apply for on behalf of the Town Council without the County Council having to own the freehold of the site. Closing dates were very close though being 2nd November for EOI applications and 4th November for full applications. The Awards for All lottery application was still being processed and no decision had been made as yet.

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

- Tree Surgery work done and ash bough cut into sections.
- Container now had shelves fitted and was proving very useful.
- Ponds – all the remaining bentonite had been used to fill cracks.
- Tree Group Newsletter – would be provided for inclusion on the website and for circulation to all Members.

MIN 4673 CORRESPONDENCE/GENERAL ITEMS

(1) Little Art Gallery Kiosk Project: Electrical certificate was scheduled for the end of the week. Cllr. Ross hoped to assess the kiosk for repairs and new panels etc needed and would cost these and report back to Council in due course.

(2) Pride in Place Grant Application: Cllr. Baynham reported that work was progressing well at the Day Centre. The Clerk advised that work at the Youth Project building was also progressing well with no unforeseen problems having been encountered so far. The Clerk advised that two claims were currently with the County Council awaiting payment, the second claim for East Radnorshire Care and a first claim for the Youth Project.

(3) Tourist Information Walking Tour Proposal: Members had received the summary information on this and it was agreed that it was worth exploring further. It was felt that a Working Group would be best placed to work with the company to produce the best audio tour possible, particularly given there were a number of old style leaflets that could be used to obtain information. The Clerk was asked to make more enquiries to get information on proposed stops etc. and to report back to a future meeting.

Members discussed obtaining a grant, possibly from the Transforming Towns Grant Scheme, to obtain new town welcome signs, a new town leaflet and if possible funding for the digital audio walking tour. The Clerk would look into possibilities and report back to a future meeting.

(4) Request from Presteigne Primary School to have student work published on the website: Agreed subject to the necessary permissions being given by the school and to the work not identifying a particular child.

(5) Reply from County Council on Full Fibre Broadband Provision: Noted.

(6) Welsh Government – Vision for Culture and Sport in Wales, Call for Evidence: Agreed that the Clerk submit comments on the need for ring fenced funding for local Leisure Centres and on the situation where Sport Wales would accept grant applications from County Councils but not Town and Community Councils.

(7) Consultation on possible closure of Gladestry Primary School: Members discussed this in detail and it was agreed that the Clerk respond with two main concerns – the effect closure would have on John Beddoes Campus with pupils displaced from Gladestry School choosing secondary education near to their new primary e.g. Lady Hawkins School in Kington and Gweryfed and the fact that there was no financial gain in closing the school due to increased costs for transport etc.

(8) Update re. land registry application for Broadheath Common: No further action needed at present.

(9) Small Christmas Trees for 2026: Agreen to purchase these as in 2025. The renewal of the battery-operated lights was also discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Preece look into replacing these with sets with timers. They would report to the next meeting on approx. cost. The budget set for trees/lights was £200. Cllr. J. Ramsay reminded the Clerk to purchase lights in a warm white colour.

MIN 4674 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Baynham had reported the following: –

- Her appointment as sport representative for Radnorshire on the Powys Committee with the intention of pressing forward projects for a Pump Track and for an astroturf pitch in Presteigne.
- Appearance of dip in road at King's Court – Highways Department investigating.
- Questions submitted to Education for figures on year six pupil numbers at January 2026 and year seven numbers at John Beddoes Campus in September 2026. Also on the number of students presently travelling to Lady Hawkins School from Presteigne at present.

MIN 4675 URGENT BUSINESS INFORMATION

(1) People's Emergency Briefing Film showing In Presteigne: Well attended. As a follow up from this several meet and greet cafes were to be held. Cllr. Ross confirmed that the costs of the film screening he had agreed would be met from his Mayor's expenses.

(2) Link to Welsh Government Petition: Cllr. Harling-Bowen advised that there was a petition online asking UK Government to show the Emergency Briefing on national television. The Clerk would circulate a link so those who wished to could sign.

(3) Cllr. Baynham advised that Powys County Council were arranging a showing of the emergency briefing for Members. Cllr. Ross suggested this would be a good idea for staff too.

The meeting closed at 9.36 p.m.

DRAFT