

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 15 MAY 2019 AT 7 PM IN THE TOWN HALL, TALGARTH

PRESENT: Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor) (Mayor), Cllr P Lewis (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Pip Turner (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Z Argent, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr L Elston-Reeves, Cllr G Jones (arrived 7.30pm), Cllr J Lilly, Cllr A Lord, Cllr R Reid, Cllr C Voyle

APOLOGIES: Amy Argent – Youth Member.

Agreed to forward best wishes to Amy for her forthcoming AS exams.

FIRE ALARM PRACTICE – Prior to the commencement of the meeting, an unannounced Fire Alarm practice was arranged by Cllr A Bufton. Noted the other 11 Town Councillors present assembled outside the building. Noted the designated assembly point is outside the Co-operative Stores.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk

WELCOME: Cllr W Powell, Mayor, welcomed the full Town Council to the AGM which commenced at 7.10pm following the Fire Alarm practice.

19/82 TO DECLARE MATTERS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations of interest.

19/83 MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 9 May 2018, previously confirmed at Town Council meeting held on 13 June 2018, were circulated for ease of reference.

19/84 REPORT BY OUT-GOING MAYOR YEAR 2018/2019 – Cllr W Powell, out-going Mayor, circulated his annual report , in advance of the meeting, as follows:

“Having been elected as Chair of Talgarth Town Council in May 2018, it has been a considerable privilege to have worked alongside Town Councillors, past and present, and well-motivated individuals from across our community to develop and promote the town that I call home.

I reiterate my gratitude to everyone for their commitment and efforts throughout the past year. Within the Town Council, everyone contributes according to their experience, knowledge and talent, towards the betterment of Talgarth and its adjacent communities. Despite the challenges thrown up, and the turbulence that has been our lot, we have worked effectively together to achieve our shared objectives.

The past 12 months have been enjoyable and interesting, with numerous activities, events and engagements. Prominent amongst those special occasions was the opportunity, as Mayor, to join fellow School Governors and members of our wider community for the official opening of Ysgol y Mynydd Du, by Welsh Education Minister and local AM Kirsty Williams and Leader of Powys County Council, Cllr Rosemarie Harris, with other County Councillors, Brecon and Radnorshire MP Chris Davies and Joyce Watson, AM for Mid and West Wales amongst the guests.

In June, I was delighted to meet and greet participants in the 2018 Black Mountains Classic Tour and to distribute medals to those successfully completing the rally. In November, I was proud to lay the wreath on behalf of Talgarth Town Council as part of the local service of Remembrance, to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice. Shortly afterwards the newly reinstated Town Hall Basement was the venue for the splendid World War One Ball. Congratulations to everyone associated with that event and particular thanks to Cllr Richard Reid for his steadfast efforts in overseeing the building works, with support from Cllr Andrew Bufton.

We have also hosted three One Voice Wales meetings during the past year in the Town Hall, including a special session focussed on Road Safety and Speed Enforcement issues, with Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, Dafydd Llywelyn, several senior Police and Highways Officers. This followed an outreach event on speed issues that I organised with the commissioner at Ysgol Y Mynydd Du earlier on that day, Friday, 29th January. I hope that also served as a catalyst to reenergise the Community Speedwatch Scheme, in which Town Councillors and other volunteers have been participating.

Talgarth Town Council continues to lend support to many local events, helping to define Talgarth as a dynamic and welcoming destination, which contribute to the local economy in challenging times, including Talgarth Festival of the Black Mountains, Talgarth Walking Festival and Talgarth Lights Group events, to highlight just a few. All Town Councillors are elected to serve our community who represent the interests of the whole community, and both as Powys County Councillor, but also as Town Council Chair during the past 12 months, I am grateful for that collective service. This included the Town Council contribution to the consultation on the Mid Wales hospital Development Brief, which entailed a huge effort on the part of colleagues, most notably our Town Clerk. The Town Council did its utmost to act as a conduit for community opinion, whilst facilitating debate and remaining within the spirit and remit of its powers. Whilst the proposals were naturally contentious in a number of areas, the Town Council rightly fought for a 40 day extension to the period of consultation, and for an inclusive, independently chaired BBNPA consultation event, held in Talgarth. The more recent BBNPA Meeting, at which the Brief was approved, also gave opportunity for the Town Council and for a range of local voices to be heard.

During the year, the Town Council has been proactive in other strategic planning issues, including expressing community centric views on the future of PCC owned sites in our Town, These, principally the former school site, in its three distinct parcels of land, and the defunct Highways Yard, on its split site, occasioned considerable work back in January, when a suite of candidate site submissions were made by Talgarth Town Council to the BBNPA, as part of its upcoming LDP process. There will be a need for vigilance and proactive engagement with the wider community on the future of these sites, all in PCC ownership. A significant part of this will fall to Talgarth Town Council and other relevant groups. This will also feed into the next phase of the Talgarth Town Plan 2018 – 2020, where Talgarth & District Regeneration Group members have kindly taken a leading role hitherto.

The liaison meetings with GP Biotec have continued to assist the Town Council in acting on behalf of the wider community in monitoring the environmental situation together with NRW. It would be appropriate once again to thank those colleagues, past and present, for their tireless efforts in this regard, engaging with the operators, the wider community and other interested parties to ensure that processes are safe and appropriate regulation respected. Together with Hay on Wye, Bronllys and other adjacent Town/Community Councils Talgarth Town Council continues to be represented on the Bronllys Wellbeing Park CLT Ltd. The instigators are to be congratulated for their perseverance, in securing the Memorandum of Understanding with Powys teaching Health Board, which will be crucial to unlocking the potential of the project.

Powys County Council, in common with all other local authorities across Wales, have continued to devolve many services and assets to local communities. Talgarth Town Council have now taken over the toilets, Sports Pavilion and playing fields and are still in the process of taking the Talgarth Bowls Club asset, which has proved a time consuming and protracted process. I would like to thank the Town Clerk for her diligence in these matters, as well as fellow Town Councillors who have given selflessly of their time. This relates to both to the ongoing procedures for the Bowls Club, as well as the extensive works at the Sports Pavilion, following the water leak that occasioned considerable damage and inconvenience this spring. Thanks again to those who went well beyond the call of duty, with special mention to Cllr Richard Reid for his fastidious approach to supervising the work. Heartfelt thanks also go to all who are working to facilitate relations between Talgarth Town FC, the constituent members of TaDSCA and the Town Council

The departure of two experienced, long-serving Council Members, in Neil Bally and Jacqui Wilding, means that the Town Council misses their distinguished contribution but their legacy to our community, where they continue to make a contribution, is considerable. Their successors, Cllrs Louise Elston-Reeves and Chris Voyle, elected in a by election last December, have already made a significant impact in our Town Council work. We are also privileged to have the continued valuable input of Youth Councillor Amy Argent in our deliberations.

Again, I offer my genuine gratitude to all our community organisations, charities and the many individual volunteers for their commitment and tireless efforts to improve our community. From the TiRC and the Talgarth Luncheon Club, with their decades of service, through to the freshly constituted Grow for Talgarth/Talgarth in Bloom and the Talgarth Energy Cooperative and many more, they deserve our recognition and our thanks.

Although it has been a challenge at times, it has also been an immense privilege to serve Talgarth Town Council as Chair these past 12 months. While there are many areas that require fresh impetus and new direction, I have done my best to serve the greater good of our town during this period. My wife Ria has given me her support throughout the year, for which I am very grateful. I thank

Deputy Chairs Cllrs Pip Turner and Phil Lewis for their steadfast support and wise counsel. The determination and input of all the Town Council, together with the dedication and sheer hard work of our Town Clerk, Josephine Rumsey, has allowed us to achieve a great deal. I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has played their part. Diolch yn fawr!"

19/85 MAYOR FOR YEAR 2019/2020

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr C Voyle, all in favour that Cllr W Powell be nominated Mayor for the ensuing year 2019/2020.

Noted there were no other nominations.

Cllr W Powell accepted the position of Mayor for the ensuing year 2019/2020 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Section 83, Local Government Act 1972 of Mayor in the presence of the Clerk.

Cllr W Powell requested that, in the future, the Town Council undertakes its work by having regular group meeting for Planning, Premises, Finance, Burial Committee etc and reporting recommendations back to full Council.

Any groups that need an urgent decision, a special open meeting will be arranged.

Cllr A Lord proposed with a unanimous decision to thank Cllr William Powell for all his dedicated work undertaken during the last year as Mayor.

19/86 DEPUTY MAYOR FOR YEAR 2019/2020

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour, that both Cllr Pip Turner and Cllr P Lewis be nominated as Joint Deputy Mayor, for the ensuing year 2019/2020.

Noted there were no other nominations.

Cllr Pip Turner and Cllr P Lewis accepted the joint position of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year 2019/20.

19/87 MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising from these Minutes of 9 May 2018, which are not on the Agenda.

19/88 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Clerk reported that Sharn Drury was prepared to be appointed as Internal Auditor for the ensuing year 2019/2020, and her fee would remain at £15 per hour and she would internal audit quarterly as per Audit requirements since 1 Apr 2016.

Proposed by Cllr A Lord and seconded by Cllr A Bufton, all in favour, to appoint Sharn Drury, as Internal Auditor for the ensuing year 2019/2020 and to forward her a letter of appreciation for her excellent work.

19/89 ANNUAL REVIEW/ADOPTION OF TOWN COUNCIL DOCUMENTS - STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, RISK ASSESSMENT, ASSETS REGISTER & TOWN HALL FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – Draft documents circulated in advance:

Standing Orders Noted the Standing Orders remain un-changed since last year..

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Financial Regulations - Noted the Financial Regulations remain un-changed since last year.

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Town Council Risk Assessment – Noted this document remained un-changed since last year.

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Assets Register as at 31 March 2019 – Noted there were 3 additions – 2 additional items under Xmas Lights and 1 addition under property - Red Phone Box at Trefecca.
 Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Fire Risk Assessment (Town Hall) – Cllr A Bufton reported that this document had been amended following completion of the previous advisory works and the subsequent visit of the Fire Officer on 13 May 2019.
 Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, to adopt this document.

19/90 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON SUB-COMMITTEES/ORGANISATIONS FOR YEAR 2019/2020 – Noted Town Councillors agreed to remain as representatives of the Town Council on the various Sub-Committees and other groups for 2019/2020, as agreed in 2018/2019, plus the two new Town Councillors, Cllr L Elston-Reeves and Cllr C Voyle being added to the groups of their choice, as agreed.
 It was noted that the Town/Community Council representative on the Ysgol y Mynydd du Governors is now a member of Bronllys Community Council.

19/91 TOWN COUNCILLORS SIGNATORIES ON NAT WEST BANK A/C – Agreed to include Cllr W Powell, Mayor as a signatory, together with the other current 4 signatories: Cllr A Lord, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr R Reid and for Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk, to remain for transferring between accounts.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: