

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM,  
WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2019, IN THE TOWN HALL, TALGARTH**

**PRESENT:** Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor), Mayor (In the Chair), Cllr P Lewis (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Z Argent, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr L Elston-Reeves, Cllr G Jones, Cllr J Lilly, Cllr A Lord, Cllr R Reid, Cllr C Voyle, Ms Amy Argent – Youth Member

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Pip Turner (Deputy Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Josephine Rumsey - Town Clerk

**19/25 VISIT BY JED NEEDS RE TALGARTH & DISTRICT ENERGY COOPERATIVE –**

Cllr W Powell, Mayor, welcomed Jed Needs, Chairman of the Talgarth Woodland Group. Jed, who had previously circulated a preamble for the proposed Energy Cooperative, explained the aim of the project, to establish a decentralised energy hub in Talgarth and district. - the hub to consist of several types of renewable technologies embedded into the community. Solar PV, Biomass, Battery Storage, Electric Vehicle Charging points and Low Head Hydro are all being considered, these to be installed on existing businesses and establishments. Working cooperatively, they will produce a source of renewable energy, which will then be fed into the Energy Local Model.

Jed agreed to forward a copy of his power-point presentation for Town Councillors and he is hopeful that one or two Town Councillors will have an interest in joining the board.

Noted Jed is giving a presentation to the Talgarth & District Regeneration Group, at a public meeting in the Town Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**19/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** There were no Declarations of Interest.

**19/27 PLANNING APPLICATION & PLANNING ISSUES –**

**BBNPA 18/16905/LBC - Address: College Farm, Trefecca, Powys LD3 0PW**

1. Removal of poorly constructed pillar on pedestrian gateway at the front of the house. Remove unsafe section of wall. Repair of remaining wall.

2. Reinstate top section of chimney stack on south elevation of house rebuild to original height. Will require removal of slates, damaged slates will be replaced and existing re-used where possible.

3. Reinstate two ground floor gothic windows at front elevation. Repair one ground floor gothic window on rear elevation.

4. Reinstate two first floor gothic windows on front elevation. (Replacement of two poorly made first floor sash windows with original gothic style windows)"

**Town Council comments –** Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour, to support this Planning Application.

**BBNPA LDP2 Meeting -** Update received from Helen Lucocq, BBNPA confirming that the BBNPA has commenced work on its replacement Local Development Plan (LDP2) in Sept 2019. This means that the Authority is currently in the process of gathering evidence to inform how development should proceed in the area for the next 15 years, including considering how much development is necessary and broad locations for new development. The BBNPA invited one representative from the Town Council to attend a meeting to be held at the BBNPA HQ in Brecon on 28th Feb 4:30-7:30pm. The objectives of the meeting are two-fold:

1. Provide an overview of the LDP process and how the Town council can get involved in its production.

2. Provide an opportunity for the Town Council to input into the development of the Preferred Strategy for the area (the high level strategic policy document which sets the level and general location of future growth).

- 19/28 MINUTES:** Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 - Previously circulated, Cllr W Powell, Mayor, sought adoption.  
Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour, that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 be signed as a correct record.
- 18/29 TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTS – INTERNAL AUDIT - 01 10 2018 – 31 12 2018 -**  
Received and on circulation Bank Reconciliation – Previously received Bank Reconciliations - 01 04 2018 – 30 06 2018, 01 07 2018 – 30 09 2018– all successfully internally audited by Internal Auditor Sharn Drury.
- 18/30 TOWN CLERK’S ANNUAL REVIEW due 1 Feb 2019 -** Proposed by Cllr W Powell and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, that the Town Clerk has performed satisfactorily again this year. Noted Town Clerk’s Contract is currently 20 hours per week - SP27- hourly rate of £12.815 from 1 Apr 2018 as per the 2016-2018 NALC National Salary Award. Received new NALC National Salary Award 2019 2020 - noted Clerk’s hourly rate will increase to £13.155per hour from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.  
Cllr W Powell, Mayor signed up the Schedule 2018-2019 to accompany the Town Clerk’s Contract and thanked the Town Clerk her for her continued dedicated service.
- 19/31 TOWN COUNCIL – CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT –**  
Noted the meeting proposed for 30<sup>th</sup> Jan had been cancelled due inclement weather.  
Agreed to Cllr W Powell’s suggestion for a Communications Group to be formed.  
**Amy Argent, Youth Member** – Noted Clerk had previously circulated Amy’s current job description which is to be renewed annually at the AGM.  
Clerk circulated OVW advice regarding additions to Amy’s job description.  
Amy Argent, Youth Member, gave a brief update about her attendance, the previous weekend, when she visited the Senedd, National Assembly for Wales and, for personal reasons, attended talks as part of the LGBT History Weekend.
- 19/32 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED –**  
**Public Works Loan Board - Town Council loan** – Balance outstanding £42,544.92 at 8th March 2019 - Principal due £4,055.48 Interest due £450.98 – Total payment due £4,506.46  
**PCC – Town Council Election 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018** – Invoice from PCC received for cost of Election £2,031 received. **Agreed** to payment of this invoice.  
**PCC** – Noted, Clerk had re-circulated to Town Councillors, a copy of the general dispensations granted by the PCC Standards Community Sub-Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017.  
**Powys County Council – Library Consultation** – Received a letter dated 2 Feb from Cllr Rachel Powell, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture, outlining the budget challenges facing the library service. Noted the consultation is form 4th Feb – 28th Apr and a drop-in session was held at Talgarth Library on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb – 1pm – 3pm, attended by Cllr W Powell and Cllr M Dodds, on behalf of the Town Council.  
Noted Cllr W Powell felt that he meeting was as positive as it could be and that the savings of £9,300 required by PCC, as part of the overall targeted savings of £200, 000 from the Library Service, are required in the financial year 2019 - 2020.  
Clearly, no financial undertakings were made and Cllr Dodds and Cllr Powell both emphasised the importance of the Library in Talgarth but also the range of pressures currently experienced by Talgarth Town Council.

**Welsh Water works** – Concerns regarding the current works were reported by Mrs Starling, local resident, to County Councillor W Powell and copied to the Town Council.

**19/33 POWYS COUNTY COUNCILLOR** - Cllr W Powell reported his monthly update:

- **Council Tax**- Cllr W Powell reported that there have been many reports and counter reports as to proposed budget cuts across many PCC service areas, combined with an estimated 9.5% rise in Council Tax.  
This was a dynamic situation, with changes and reassessments coming forward on a frequent basis. There was to be a key meeting on 21st Feb and the final meeting to set the Council Tax for 2019/20 was to take place on 7th Mar. Cllr Powell said that his Group, the Welsh Liberal Democrat/Green Group, was working up a set of alternative proposals, based on increased capitalization of assets, a lower Council Tax rise of circa 7% and removal of the threat to branch libraries. He was not sure if they would have the chance to win the day as the Independents and Conservatives had the majority, unless others chose to rebel.

- **Libraries Consultation** – It was noted that Cllr W Powell and Cllr Malcolm Dodds had attended the recent Library Consultation meeting on 4th Feb and that FYI Talgarth was present and had posted a comprehensive story on the site:  
<https://talgarth.fyinetwork.co.uk/search%20talgarth%20library.49994-Talgarth-Library-under-threat-as-Powys-County-Council-look-for-further-budget-cuts-of-200000>

Cllr Powell was due an update from the Portfolio Holder Cllr Rachel Powell and Head of Leisure and Recreation Stuart Mackintosh in the following 24 hours or so, as well as seeing Sam Toone, to share key points from the 4th Feb meeting. Anything of note that would arise in either conversation would form part of an oral update to the Town Council. Cllr Powell said there should be more clarity on the Library by 7th Mar – to discuss at next meeting

- **Former Mid Wales Hospital Consultation Brief** – Noted Cllr W Powell has been in touch with the Strategy and Policy Team, given the passage of time since the Mid Wales Hospital Consultation and the significant energy and application committed by colleagues to the process. He was informed that the Authority will probably be considering its response at an NPA meeting in April. Cllr Powell emphasised that Talgarth Town Council must be kept fully appraised on developments.
- **BBNPA LDP Candidate Site process** – Cllr W Powell reported that the next stage comes in May, with an assessment of the viability of the sites submitted . Cllr Powell emphasized that it will be necessary for Talgarth Town Council to engage with PCC over this process, given the town Council’s capacity limitations – and also, crucially, given the fact that PCC is the owner of all the sites for which they had made submissions.
- **TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT 2019/2020** – Cllr W Powell reported that clearly the combined effect of the likely PCC Council Tax rise with the raised Dyfed-Powys Police Precept will account for a major hike in the demands made of all residents. In this context, Cllr Powell reiterated that he hoped that Talgarth residents would appreciate the restraint and prudence shown by the Town Council in freezing precept levels at 2018/19 levels, as agreed earlier in the year.

**19/34 PCC HIGHWAYS-**

**A479 Tretower Drainage Repair and Upgrade Notice of Works** – Update received from PCC, confirming that construction is due to start at the middle/end of Apr.

19/35 **TALGARTH ISSUES –**

**BLACK MOUNTAINS COLLEGE PROPOSAL** – Received the Quarterly News bulletin.  
**OLD POST OFFICE, TALGARTH** – Concerns received from a local resident, Virginia Brown, at the state of the property, which she had referred to PCC and a response received confirming that the Authority had applied appropriate pressure in an attempt to secure completion.

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES** - Noted Malcolm Holt, Business Development Manager, Healthmatic had asked for an update on the quotation they had recently supplied.

**‘GROW FOR TALGARTH’** – Noted a meeting was held the previous evening, 12 Feb 7pm at the Usk & Wye Offices attended by Cllr M Dodds and Cllr C Voyle.

Cllr M Dodds reported that the Allotments Group are being associated with the ‘Grow for Talgarth’ group.

**BUS TIMETABLE-** **Agreed** to seek clarification on the roll out of electronic bus timetables and whether one was scheduled for Talgarth Bus Stop.

**TALGARTH SPEEDWATCH SCHEME** – Noted PCSO Helen Scott had arranged some further training the previous weekend – attended by Cllr P Lewis and Cllr R Reid with more training to follow at 3pm Thurs 14 Feb.

PCSO Helen Scott forwarded approx. costs of £400 to purchase our own Community Speed Watch Kit. **Agreed** we order our own Community Speed Watch Kit as soon as possible.

**Speeding from Rugby Club Roundabout to Talgarth town** – Noted a Llangorse resident, Jim Price, had contacted both Cllr W Powell and the Clerk, expressing concerns about speeding in this location, which had been reported to PCSO Helen Scott for attention.

**Bronllys Road closure** - Noted that PCSO Helen Scott had passed on the reported concerns of motor cyclists using the footpath during this Bronllys road closure, onto the RPU.

**WELSH WATER – BRONLLYS ROAD WORKS** - Update received from Welsh Water confirming that the Bronllys Road will re-open on 15 Feb.

**BOWLING CLUB** - Noted Steve Butcher PCC has arranged to meet reps of the Town Council and the Bowling Club on Fri 22 Feb to check out that all outstanding works have been completed and to bring all certificates etc for work which PCC has undertaken, so that the Transfer of the Bowling Club to the Town Council can take place before the end of the financial year and the £10,000 grant be paid to the Town Council.

Received Agenda for Bowling Club meeting 7pm Mon 18 Feb and draft Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. Noted Cllr Dodds and Cllr Reid attended the meeting.

**KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS –**

**Pavilion - Water Leak** – Noted a water leak, from the attic of the Pavilion, had been discovered by a member of the Senior Football Club on 7th Feb and reported to the Town Council. Zurich Insurance were informed and a claim form received for completion with a request for 2 urgent estimates for the repair. Noted there is a £250 excess on the policy and that the cause of the leak repair is not covered by the insurance.

Estimates were expected to be received within 2 days from

Smith Builders and Sheppards Builders which will be circulated to Town Councillors.

Noted these prices will not include electrical repairs as these cannot be costed until the leak has been attended to.

Noted the Assessor will only accept the lowest Tender for payment.

Town Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the lowest tender so that work could commence the following week on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Cllr W Powell, Mayor, thanked Cllr R Reid for all his work involved in getting to this stage of the claim.

**TADSCA meeting** - Received letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> Feb from Peter Weavers, Secretary TADSCA with some concerns and suggested dates for a meeting of reps TADSCA, Town Council and Football Club. **Agreed** to accept 7.30pm 6<sup>th</sup> March in the Committee Room, Town Hall due to the Pavilion currently being out of use.

**19/36 HEALTH ISSUES-**

**Bronllys Well Being Park CLT** – Received Newsletter January 2019 from Lydia Powell and a request for a Town Councillor to serve as official representative on their Board. She reported that having the official support from our three key Town and Local Councils has been crucial and they are making slow but steady progress.

Date of their next public meeting is on the 18th Feb at 7pm at the Royston Hall, Bronllys. Noted Cllr M Dodds, as Town Council representative is unable to attend due to another commitment.

Noted that the AGM is to be on 15th Apr at the Concert Hall, Bronllys Hospital.

**Powys Community Health Council (CHC) - Survey on GP Out-of-Hours services** – Noted that the survey was launched on 22nd Jan and is aimed at anyone who has used the Out-Of-Hours service in the past 6 months. The CHC will use the results to identify where the service is working well and where improvements are needed.

**19/37 TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS** – Cllr M Dodds asked to move Standing Orders at 9pm from 2 hours to 2.15 hours for this meeting.

**19/38 TOWN HALL & MARKET HALL**

**Town Hall -**

**PRS/PPL** – 1/3/19 – 1/3/2020 – Fees £50.50 + VAT for each – total £121.00.

**Legionella Testing** – Proposed by Cllr W Powell and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour to purchase our own testing equipment at an approx. cost of £60.

**V W Cleaning Services** – **Agreed** to Jan invoice - Gates Open/Close £74.39, Town Hall cleaning £151.20=- £225.59.

**Market Hall -**

**PCC Council Tax** - Update received from PCC stating that a response had been received from the Valuation Office Agency confirming that the current rating assessment on the Town Hall includes the Market Hall.

**Panic Bolt on Gate adjacent The Mill** – Noted the panic bolt has been broken and Cllr R Reid had replaced it with the spare one we had.

**19/39 GROUP UPDATES –**

**ONE VOICE WALES ( OVW) – Membership of One Voice Wales 2019-20** – Received details on the benefits of membership. **Agreed** to renew subscription from 1 April 2019.

**Brecon and Radnor Quarterly Meeting - 7pm 18th Jan 2019** – Received Agenda 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, Minutes, 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 and National Executive minutes 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018.

**Welsh Audit Office - Community & Town Councils – Governance, Financial**

**Management and Internal Audit dated 6 Feb 2019** – OVW circulated the Presentation from the Wales Audit Office, which was given to the Larger Councils Committee. Noted this with interest, in particular regarding ‘Reserves’ which we discussed at our Precept meeting...

**TALGARTH INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTRE (TIRC)** – Cllr Z Argent reported that the TIRC is currently making a grant application for funding, in readiness for when the Lease on Tower shop ends with PCC in Aug 19 and awaiting outcome of current planning application on the building.

**YS GOL Y MYNYDD DU –**

**Additional Community School Governor** – Confirmation received that a representative from Bronllys Community Council has been appointed to this vacancy on the governing body for a period of 4 years after which it will again be filled by a Talgarth Town Councillor.

**FESTIVAL GROUP** – Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 18 and 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 19 received for information.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS GROUP** – Noted that the shelving from BigDug had been ordered - Total cost is £418.80 inclusive of VAT – cost to be set aside the Xmas Lights budget.

**TALGARTH & DISTRICT REGENERATION GROUP** – Noted the next meeting of the TDRG will be held at 7pm Thurs 19 Feb in the Town Hall Committee Room.

**WALKERS ARE WELCOME GROUP**– Received draft minutes of the WAW meeting 15th Jan – on circulation. Next meeting Tues 5th Mar 2019 at 7.00pm  
Noted the 2019 WAW Festival Programme 2019 is on circulation.

**19/40 BURIAL GROUND - TENDER – ST GWENDOLINE’S CHURCHYARD –**  
**Out of Season works** - Cllr A Bufton reported that the work had been completed.  
**Agreed** to pay Highground Ltd the Tender sum of £776.38 + £153.28 VAT = £919.66.  
**Burial Committee – Agreed** to hold a meeting on site when the evenings are lighter.

**19/41 CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH**

**PCC –** Archive letter – Jan.

**BBNPA -** Brecon Beacons Tourism - Noted Press Release – A New Theatre Director starts at Theatr Brycheinion and update.

**BBNPA -** Agenda for Planning, Access and Rights of Way, Tues, 12th Feb – 10am

**BBNPA - Audit and Scrutiny Committee – Mon 25 Feb 1.30pm** at Brecon HQ and will be preceded by the Audit Workshop at 10.00am

**WALES AUDIT OFFICE – Jan 2019 Newsletter – Financial Management and Governance – Town and Community Councils 2017-18** – Document on circulation.

**DEPT FOR COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT - The Good Councillor’s Guide to Finance and Transparency 2017** – Document on circulation.

**PAVO members e-briefing February 2019**

**Requests for Financial Assistance** – Received from:

1. Llangollen Music Festival
2. Wales Air Ambulance

**Agreed** to be considered at March meeting with other requests received during the year.

**19/42 AMOUNTS RECEIVED**

Hall Hire – Perthyn – Inv 18/71	£84.00
Hall Hire – BBNPA - 26/9/18	£77.00
Hall Hire – Usk & Wye Foundation 24/1/19	£18.00
Hall Hire – PCC – 20/11/18	£20.00
Hall Hire – Black Mountains Friends Group – 8/2/19	£6.00

**19/43 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

J Rumsey, Clerk – Feb Salary £1,110.63, Less Tax £222.20 = £888.63,	
Tel Rent £18.32 Broadband/Calls £24.00, Home Office £35, Travel £2.00.	£ 967.95
V W Cleaning Services – Jan - Gates Open/Close £67.89,	
Town Hall cleaning £151.20	£219.09
PRS/PPL –Town Hall –PRS £50 + PPL £50 + £20.20 VAT	£121.20
OTM – Churchyard Maintenance Jan - £287.50 + £57.50 VAT	£345.00
PCC – Uncontested Election Fees 13/12/2018	£2,031.55
Healthmatic Ltd – Public Conveniences – Cleaning 1/10 – 31/12/18	
£1,687.50 + £337.50 VAT	£2,025.00

**19/44 FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Current Account           £1,559.74  
High Interest Account   £58,074.84

**19/45 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

7:00 pm Wed 13 March 2019

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**SIGNED:** .....

**DATE:** .....