

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

PRESENT: Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor), Mayor (In the Chair), Cllr Pip Turner (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr L Elston-Reeves, Cllr G Jones, Cllr A Lord, Cllr R Reid, Cllr C Voyle

APOLOGIES: Cllr P Lewis (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Z Argent, Cllr J Lilly, Ms Amy Argent – Youth Member

IN ATTENDANCE: Josephine Rumsey - Town Clerk

19/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no Declarations of Interest.

19/47 PLANNING APPLICATION & PLANNING ISSUES –

BBNPA Planning Applications

BBNPA – 18/16755/FUL – Removal of 1950s extension and replacement with office study and sunroom together with new openings formed within existing structure –Glandwr, Talgarth LD3 0ER - Town Council comments – Proposed by Cllr Pip Turner and seconded by Cllr A Bufton, all in favour, to support this Planning Application as we did in Dec 2018.

BBNPA - 18/16756/FUL – Replacement of 1950s outbuilding with new traditional timber styled barn to form annexed living accommodation – Glandwr, Talgarth LD3 0ER Town Council comments – Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour, to support this Planning Application, as we did in Dec2018.

BBNPA – Approval for Planning Applications

18/16853/FUL - Tower House, High Street, Talgarth, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0BW

18/16794/LBC - Tower House, High Street, Talgarth, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0BW.

BBNPA Local Development Plan (LDP) (Adopted December 2013)

Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes - Noted that the BBNPA has produced the following draft addendum to an approved supplementary planning guidance notes (SPG) to aid implementation of the adopted Local Development Plan.

- Enabling Appropriate Development in the Countryside

These documents are available for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks - 7 Mar – 2 May 2019. To view the draft SPG addendum <http://www.beacons-mpa.gov.uk/?p=29129>

BBNPA - Local Housing Market Assessment 2019 for Mid and South West Wales –

Noted that the BBNPA, in partnership with all other local authorities across the Mid and South West Wales region has commenced work on the preparation of a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA).

19/48 MINUTES: Minutes of the 13 Feb 2019 - Previously circulated, Cllr W Powell, Mayor, sought adoption. Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 Feb 2019 be signed as a correct record.

19/49 TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

- **Finance Group – Agreed** that Cllr A Lord convenes the Finance Group to be made up of also Cllr J Lilly and Cllr G Jones and the Town Clerk and to initially look at the figures at the end of the financial year and to present a report to the May meeting. To review quarterly thereafter.
- **Communications Group – Agreed** that Cllr L Elston-Reeves convenes the Communication Group to be made up of also Cllr W Powell, Cllr A Lord, Cllr Pip Turner and Youth Member Amy Argent and the Town Clerk. **Agreed** Cllr A Lord to update the draft OVW Social Media Policy, to include GDPR, for adoption at a future meeting.

- 19/50 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – 2018 – 2019** – Clerk had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. Noted that £40 had already been donated from the precepted amount of £250 for 2018-2019. **Agreed** to donate to the requests received from:
- **Bobath Children’s Therapy Centre Wales** – Proposed by Cllr W Powell and seconded by Cllr L Elston-Reeves, all in favour to donate £50
 - **Wales Air Ambulance Service** - Proposed by Cllr A Bufton and seconded by Cllr C Voyle, all in favour to donate £50
 - **Brecon Advice Centre – attended by Talgarth residents** - Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr W Powell, all in favour to donate £50
 - **Brecon & District Dial a Ride – Hay-on-Wye Dial a Ride** - Proposed by Cllr Pip Turner and seconded by Cllr M Dodds, all in favour to donate £50

It was noted that approx. £3,089.00 in 2018/2019 has been donated to groups in free hall hire. And that some local hirers contribute a nominal sum of £5 towards energy costs for meetings etc and it was suggested that all local groups, do so in the future.

19/51 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED –

Talgarth & District Energy Cooperative – Update received from Jed Needs, seeking two members of the Town Council, to sit on the Board of the Community Benefit Society (CBS). **Agreed** to Cllr Pip Turner and Cllr J Lilly being members of the Board and Cllr W Powell as a reserve member.

Potential Nepalese twinning initiative – Letter received from Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Nepal, requesting a town twinning between Talgarth and Damak Municipality of Nepal.

Agreed to respond that the matter had been discussed at our recent meeting of Talgarth Town Council where it generated some enthusiasm and it was agreed to arrange an informal meeting with Major Gurung, who has done a lot to promote the young Nepalese twinning with Brecon & whose Nepalese enterprise in Talgarth is proving so popular.

Also, that the Town Council would like to meet the Ambassador when he is next in Wales and has space in his programme.

Agreed that one area that has immediate appeal is the scope for developing a youth link and to this end, Cllr Malcolm Dodds, Chair of the Premises Committee at Ysgol y Mynydd Du, has undertaken to raise the issue at an early future Governors meeting at Ysgol y Mynydd Du.

It was thought to be a good idea to have a display on Damak Municipality at our Black Mountains Festival in August, to raise profile & promote the idea and our Mayor, Cllr William Powell, agreed to share this proposal to gauge interest.

Finally, as tourism is a key driver in the Nepalese economy & for us here in Talgarth, Cllr Powell will liaise with the team at our local Information Centre, Talgarth TIRC, as to their ability to get involved.

Wales Audit Office – Received BDO Audit Fees 2017/2018 –£225.75. **Agreed** to payment.

Welsh Water works – Noted the Town Council was copied into Mrs Starling’s concerns to Dyer & Butler, Contractors re a problem of foul water. Cllr W Powell reported that he has had a second meeting with Mrs Starling regarding her concerns.

PAVO - Budget Briefing paper – Received a briefing paper dated 8 Mar from PAVO, which had previously been circulated to Powys County Councillors, ahead of the budget discussion at the PCC Council meeting on 7 Mar.

Climate Emergency Planning- Cllr W Powell, Mayor, had circulated information in this respect, which Welshpool Town Council was currently pursuing.

Agreed to look at this matter and discuss at a future meeting.

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report - February 2019- Received the report and on circulation.

Vision ICT – Received annual Invoice for £125 + £25 VAT for web hosting and support – Mar 19 – Feb 20. Proposed by Cllr W Powell and seconded by Cllr M Dodds, all in favour, to pay this invoice.

Shredder – Clerk reported that she needed to replace the Shredder. Proposed by Cllr A Bufton and seconded by Cllr Pip Turner, all in favour, to purchase a new Shredder from Amazon £43.07 + £8.61 VAT + Oil £.17 + 83p VAT.

Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2019 Issue 122 received and on circulation.

19/52 POWYS COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Cllr W Powell reported his monthly update:

- As reported to colleagues last month, there had been something of a 'running commentary' on the proposed budget cuts across many PCC service areas, combined with an early statement by the Independent/Conservative led Cabinet that they were proposing a 9.5% rise in Council Tax.
- It had been a dynamic situation, with changes and re-assessments coming forward on a frequent basis. At the key meeting on 21 Feb, Cllr Powell's group, the Welsh Liberal Democrat/Green Group, sought to present a set of alternative proposals, based on increased capitalization of assets, a lower Council Tax rise of 6.95% and removal of several of the cuts, including the threat to branch libraries, to community support & the plan to introduce Blue Badge charging. Unfortunately, the Section 151 Officer, David Powell ruled their alternative budget inadmissible on grounds of the level of capitalisation involved. However, Cllr W Powell's group were able to enlist the support of a number of rebel Independents & Conservatives, together with Labour & Plaid Cymru colleagues to defeat the proposed budget & Council Tax increase by a single vote, referring it back to the last possible date of 7 Mar.

After a week of intense talks between the various political groups, the Independent /Conservative Cabinet made a wider range of concessions, to address some more of our concerns, including:

- * safeguarding the future of the 10 branch libraries;
- * deleting the plan to charge for Blue Badges;
- * reinstating a Community Support fund;
- * reducing the planned increase in school lunches by 5p.

On the day, Cllr W Powell's group proposed a further amendment to reinstate £95,000 to Youth & Cultural organisations across the County, to help them with budget pressures, which was passed, despite Independent/Conservative opposition.

So although Opposition groups, led by Cllr Powell's group, voted against the budget & punitive Council Tax increase, it was passed by a narrow majority.

Cllr Powell said that is pleasing that they have been able to safeguard the future of the libraries, and secure the other concessions. However, many damaging cuts remained, including the removal of Green Waste facilities in car parks across the County, in favour of a chargeable doorstep collection - about which Cllr W Powell remains personally sceptical.

- As regards the BBNPA LDP Candidate Site process, Cllr W Powell hoped to attend a briefing session on 14 Mar at the BBNPA HQ, ahead of the next stage in May, with its assessment of the viability of the sites submitted. As he had stated the previous month, it would be necessary for Talgarth Town Council to engage with PCC over this process, given their capacity limitations – and also, crucially, given the fact that PCC is the owner of all the sites for which it had made submissions.
- In the meantime, Cllr Powell understood that the former PCC Council Depot was again on the market, following the decision by Melin Homes not to pursue the interest they had expressed, ahead of the recent LDP submissions. On another point, he was informed that the former Library premises were currently under offer. He hoped that the identity & plans of the prospective purchaser would soon be disclosed.

- A significant number of housing issues had been raised with Cllr W Powell during the past month in his casework, including bringing various 'void' properties back into the housing stock. He was also pleased to report that we had the prospect of resolving the longstanding impasse over the Woodlands Avenue Community Room, with plans afoot for an additional PCC residential unit at ground floor level.
- Following the enquiry by Cllr Louise Elston-Reeves on the roll out of digital bus timetable displays, Cllr Powell confirmed that he had written to PCC Transport Manager John Forsey regarding this and was awaiting a response.

19/53 PCC HIGHWAYS - PCC Street Cleaning – Agreed to ask Cllr Phyl Davies to clarify the frequency of street cleaning in Talgarth.

19/54 LEASE – TOWNHALL ONTO THE MILL YARD – Noted payment made to Bruce Williams - £1 Peppercorn Rent - The Mill Lease 1/4/19 – 31/3/20.

19/55 TALGARTH ISSUES –

BLACK MOUNTAINS COLLEGE PROPOSAL – Agreed to forward the Town Council's broad support, in principle, for the proposed Black Mountains College proposal to be situated in the mid Wales area, as we have done so in the past. Noted the group was seeking support in pursuing the Powys/Ceredigion bid for Growth Deal.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES - Noted Malcolm Holt, Business Development Manager, Healthmatic had asked for an update on the quotation they had supplied, on reducing the Public Conveniences from 3 to 1. Discussion took place and agreed that Cllr R Reid and Cllr A Bufton put together a draft plan to discuss at a future meeting.

Faulty Light repair – Agreed to pay Skyrme Electrical's Invoice for replacing faulty light in Public Conveniences in Dec 2018 - £70 +£14.50 VAT – Total £84.50.

'GROW FOR TALGARTH' – Noted the group is actively working on tidying up Talgarth – planting up the flower beds/boxes, some weeding of the streets and painting of railings. It is understood that the Usk & Wye Foundation has made links regarding some 'Grow for Talgarth' project with Ysgol y Mynydd du in readiness for the 'Britain in Bloom' competition. Noted that Heather Summerfield is one of the main leaders of the garden at the school.

TALGARTH SPEEDWATCH SCHEME –

Data Analysis on road by Ysgol y Mynydd du - Agreed to check with Tony Caine/Jo Lancey PCC if the data analysis, in this location, has been completed so that the Speedwatch team can target this area.

Speedwatch equipment – As previously agreed the equipment has been received – Amazon Gear – Speedgun £91.66 + £18.33 VAT, Project Signs £139 + Carriage £18.00 + VAT £31.40 and 5/6 high viz jackets – free of charge from the Police.

BOWLING CLUB -

Noted PCC has forwarded the new 5 year certificate - 2019 – 2024 for the Electrical Test at the Bowling Club Pavilion.

A Purchase Order for has been issued to the Town Council for releasing the £10,000 grant to the Town Council.

Awaiting Phil Sherrard, Legal Dept PCC, to amend the responsibilities documented in the Sept 2000 Lease of PCC and the Bowling Club, to indicate that the Bowls Club is totally responsible for all financial issues at the Bowling Club and no financial burden on the Town Council.

Agreed that we accept the £10,000 Grant relating to the Transfer of the Bowling Club to the Town Council, as long as the Transfer document is legally correct and all works completed.

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS ETC –

Pavilion - Water Leak – Noted the Estimates were received on 15 Feb, as follows, and, as previously agreed, the lowest Tender of Smith Builders was accepted and work commenced with the drying out of the Pavilion, on 18 Feb.

- Smith Builders - £9,146.54 + VAT £1,829.31 = £10,975.85

- Sheppards Builders - £13,212.00 + £2,642.40 = £15,854.40

Noted that the Football Club had been alerted by Welsh Water that an excessive amount of water loss had occurred at the Pavilion. Clerk had reported this to the Zurich Insurance as a potential claim for 'loss of water', due to the leak, and obtained from the Football Club, for comparison, water bills for this time last year and this year have been obtained from the Football Club to forward to Zurich Insurance.

TADSCA – Noted that the TADSCA meeting took place on 6 Mar with reps of TADSCA, Town Council, Senior & Junior Football Clubs and Cricket Club. Discussions took place on the best way forward and Cllr W Powell, as a PAVO Trustee, agreed to investigate potential PAVO support, to help take the organisation to the next stage of its development and for all groups to know their legal obligations. PAVO contact details have since been forwarded to TADSCA. Cllr Powell reported that advice from PAVO was found to be helpful with issues at the Bowling Club.

Children's Play area - Annual Play Inspections 2019 – Noted Clerk had forwarded PCC application/information to TADSCA re the 2020 ROSPA annual check.

TALGARTH LIBRARY -

Received from Kay Thomas PCC, the collated feedback sheets re both Hay and Talgarth library consultation sessions held on 4 Feb.

Noted PCC, at its recent Budget meeting, had agreed that Talgarth Library is to remain open for a further 12 months.

Kay Thomas PCC is still encouraging people of all ages to continue to respond to the public consultation by 28 Apr 2019.

HAY, BRECON & TALGARTH SANCTUARY FOR REFUGEES - Agenda received for meeting at 6.30pm 20 Feb at the Rugby Club, attended by Cllr W Powell and Cllr C Voyle.

Update received from the meeting – noted next meeting at 6.30pm 27 Mar at the Rugby Club.

WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS – Agreed to forward a letter of thanks and appreciation to Bryan Evans for looking after the War Memorial gardens again this last year and providing the Summer and Winter flower plants, free of charge.

CAR PARK – Cllr A Lord suggested that we need to be vigilant regarding the free parking at the Car Park.

19/56 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.

19/57 HEALTH ISSUES-

Bronllys Well Being Park CLT – Noted the Bronllys Well Being Group's AGM is being held at 7pm 15Apr in the Concert Hall, Bronllys. Noted Cllr M Dodds, our health representative is unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

19/58 GROUP UPDATES –

ONE VOICE WALES (OVW) – Membership 2019-2020 – Received Invoice £249 for subscription from 1 Apr 2019 – 31 Mar 2020 – this fee based on 780 chargeable dwellings @ £0.320p per dwelling. Proposed by Cllr G Jones and seconded by Cllr R Reid, all in favour, as previously agreed to renew membership.

OVW - News Bulletin - March 2019

FESTIVAL GROUP – Noted a fund raising event Easter Saturday 20 Apr – a Duck Race.

Next meeting 7pm 18 Mar in Town Hall.

TALGARTH & DISTRICT REGENERATION GROUP – Noted a meeting of the TDRG was held on 19 Feb and the AGM will be held at 7pm on 2 Apr in the Town Hall Committee Room. Noted a presentation by Ben Rawlence, Black Mountains College will be held at 7.30pm the same evening.

WALKERS ARE WELCOME GROUP– Received draft minutes of the WAW meeting

5 Mar and the next meeting will be held at 7pm 23 Apr in the Town Hall. Noted that the 2019 WAW Festival Programme is on circulation.

19/59 TOWN HALL & MARKET HALL

Town Hall – Tender works –

Agreed to pay Skyrme Electrical Solutions as per Tender, as follows:-

5 year Electrical Installation Inspection Report – £150 + £30 VAT = £180.00

Additional lighting - food preparation area – 2 florescent led lights –

- £105 + £21 VAT = £126.00

Electrical Trunking in Main Hall - £210 + £42 VAT = £252.00

Replace 7 Emergency Lights - £258.00 + £51.60 VAT = £309.60

PAT – Tender invitation sent to 4 Electricians.

1 completed Tender received from Skyrme Electrical - £2.30 per item + VAT.

Proposed by Cllr Pip Turner and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour, to accept this Tender.

Boilers – Noted that Alun Walters, Engineer, will be servicing the 2 boilers next week.

Legionella Testing – Noted the testing Thermometer has been received and paid, as previously agreed, from Thermometers Direct - £45.00 + £3.12 VAT.

V W Cleaning Services – **Agreed** to Feb invoice - Gates Open/Close £67.89, Town Hall cleaning £151.20 – Total £219.09.

Market Hall – Tender work- Noted Tender work of Tony McNamara had been completed.

Agreed to pay Tender sum of £520.00.

19/60 ST GWENDOLINE'S CHURCHYARD –

Tender – Churchyard Maintenance – 1 – 3 years – Invitation invited from 4 Ground Maintenance companies to cut/remove the grass cuttings. Received 2 completed Tenders.

OTM Groundscare - Contract for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year - £7,180 + £1,436 VAT each year

Martin Leighton, Garden Services –

Contract for 1st Year - 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 - £5,600 - No VAT

Contract for 2nd Year - 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 - £5,880 – No VAT

Contract for 3rd Year - 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022 - £6,174 – No VAT

Proposed by Cllr Pip Turner and seconded by Cllr R Reid, all in favour to accept the lowest Tender of Martin Leighton Garden Services to cut and remove grass cuttings.

Overpayment of Burial Plot - A V Griffiths & Son – overpayment refunded RJ -£140.00

19/61 AMOUNTS RECEIVED

Hall Hire – Country & Western Group – Jan, Mar £40 hire + £5 Licence	£90.00
Hall Hire – Black Mountains Friends Group – 1/3/19	£6.00
Hall Hire – Black Mountains College Group – 12/1/19	£22.00
Hall Hire – Child's Party 9/2 £22, 10/2 £22	£44.00
Hall Hire – Festival Group – Apr 18 – Mar 19 meetings £5 fee	£50.00
Hall Hire – TDRG – Apr – Mar 19 meetings £5 fee	£55.00
Hall Hire – Talgarth Community Choir – Jan – Mar	£50.00
Hall Hire – Table Tennis – Apr 18 – Mar 19.	£135.00
Hall Hire – BBNPA 19/3	£40.00
Hall Hire – Step Aerobics – 8/1 – 19.2 £77, 5/3 – 26/3 £44.	£121.00
Hall Hire – Zumba – 3/1 – 28/3	£143.00
Hall Hire – Powys Dance – 15/1 – 9/4	£132.00
TDRG – Contribution to Town Hall Licence fee £70 for year.	£15.00
Talgarth Football Club – Reimbursement - Fire Extinguisher Work in Pavilion	£71.11
C C James – Burial of Ashes JRT dec'd	£80.00
A V Griffiths & Son – Burial of Ashes VJB dec'd	£80.00
A V Griffiths & Son – Burial of Ashes MERE dec'd	£80.00
Josh Davies – Erection of Cremation Tablet – MERE dec'd	£80.00
David Gwynne – Grazing Agreement 2018-2019	£85.00

19/62 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

J Rumsey, Clerk – Mar Salary £1,110.63, Less Tax £222.20 = £888.43, Tel Rent £18.32 Broadband/Calls £24.00, Home Office £35, Postages £12, Travel £2.25.	£ 980.00
Cllr C Voyle – Pro rata payment of Town Councillor Allowance £150 2018/2019 – one quarter - £37.50 Less £7.40 tax	£30.10
Cllr L Elston-Reeves – Pro rata payment of Town Councillor Allowance £150 2018/2019 – one quarter - £37.50 Less £7.40 tax	£30.10
V W Cleaning Services – Feb - Gates Open/Close £67.89, Town Hall cleaning £151.20	£219.09
V W Cleaning Services – Mar - Gates Open/Close £75.71, Town Hall cleaning £129.60	£205.31
A V Griffiths & Son – Overpayment refunded RJ	£140.00
BIGDUG – Xmas Lights Shelving for storage - £349.00 + £69.80 VAT	£418.80
Wales Audit Office – BDO Audit Fees 2017/2018	£225.75
Bruce Williams – The Mill Lease Peppercorn rent	£1.00
Thermometers Direct – Legionella Tester - £45 Del £3.12 VAT £8.02	£48.12
Protect Signs - £139.00, Carriage £18.00, VAT £31.40	£188.40
Amazon Gear – Speed Gun - £91.66 + £18.33 VAT	£109.99
Dwr Cymru – Town Hall Water Rates – 9/8/18- 19/2/19	£192.84
Dwr Cymru – Public Conveniences Rates – 9/8/18- 19/2/19	£303.09
Tony McNamara – Tender work – Market Hall	£520.00
Highground Maintenance Ltd – Tender work – Churchyard – £766.38 + £153.28 VAT	£919.66
Black Mountains Interiors – Tender work Town Hall - £130 + £26 VAT	£156.00
Vision ICT – Annual Webhosting & Support fee- £125.00 + £25.00 VAT	£150.00
Amazon – Shredder -£43.07 + £8.61 VAT - £51.68 + Oil - £4.17 + 83p VAT -	£56.68
Public Loan Board - Principal due £4,055.48 Interest due £450.98 -	£4,506.46
Donations: Dial a Ride, Hay-on-Wye	£50.00
Wales Air Ambulance	£50.00
Brecon Advice Centre	£50.00
Bobath Children’s Therapy Unit	£50.00
OTM Groundscare – Monthly fees – Nov, Feb, Mar – 3 months £287.50 + £57.50 VAT x 3	£1,035.00
PAVO – Payroll fee – Jan – Mar – Clerk £30, Cllr V £5, Cllr ER £5	£40.00
HMRC – Clerk + 2 Cllrs Income Tax& Employee’s NI for Clerk – Jan – Mar	£849.71
Skyrme Electrical work- Town Hall - £723.00 + £144.60 VAT	£867.60
Skyrme Electrical work – Public Conveniences - £70.00 + £14.00 VAT	£84.00
Skyrme Electrical – PAT testing – 45 items Town Hall/Computer equipment £103.50 + £20.70 VAT	£124.20
Alun Walters – Service 2 boilers in Town Hall	£120.00

19/63 FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Current Account £1,339.11
High Interest Account £48,583.15

19/64 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING 7:00 pm Wed 10 Apr 2019

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: