

**MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM, MONDAY,
2 DECEMBER 2020, HELD REMOTELY**

MEMBERS PRESENT BY VIDEO LINK: Cllr P Lewis (Mayor) (In the Chair),
Cllr L Elston-Reeves (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr G Jones, Cllr A Lord,
Cllr T McClatchey, Cllr R Parry, Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor), Cllr R Reid,
Cllr S Thomas, Cllr C Voyle

IN ATTENDANCE BY VIDEO LINK: Josephine Rumsey (Town Clerk)

WELCOME: Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, welcomed members to the ninth virtual meeting of Talgarth Town Council by Skype.

20/155 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Declarations of interest received -

- Cllr A Bufton in respect of Agenda item 4 – Matters arising - Haygarth Doctors' Proposals for curtailed opening hours at Hay & Talgarth sites.
- Cllr R Parry in respect of Agenda item 4 – Matters arising - PCC – Bid for Covid-19 Environmental work around the Town

20/156 BBNPA – Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) - Consultation on LDP Documents – Noted comments should be made in writing **by 5pm Thurs 14 Jan 2021** to - LDP@beacons-mpa.gov.

RESOLVED: Any comments from Town Councillors to be forwarded to the Clerk for onward transmission to the BBNPA by 14 Jan 2021.

20/157 MINUTES: The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 2 November & 20 November 2020, had previously been circulated to Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on the 2 November & 20 November 2020, be adopted and accepted as true records.

20/158 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Haygarth GP Practice - Reduced surgery hours from 01 10 2020 – Noted that Cllr A Bufton left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision making.

It was reported that Cllr P Lewis and Cllr M Dodds attended the remote Extraordinary Meeting on 16 Nov of the Powys CHC Executive Committee, the Haygarth Medical Practice and the PtHB. An update on this matter was received from Katie Blackburn CHC on 1 Dec, as follows:

- that a joint meeting has been arranged on 9 Dec, between the CHC, the Medical Practice and the PtHB.
- the Executive Committee has agreed that every avenue needs to be pursued before a making a referral to the WG.

From the 9 Dec meeting, the Executive Committee would like to achieve the following:

- i) assurance is given that the concerns and issues raised by patients and community representatives have been acknowledged
- ii) a mitigation plan addressing these concerns and issues will be produced
- iii) that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report is produced
- iv) that the changes implemented by the Practice from 1st Oct 2020 have been communicated to all patients

In addition, the Executive Committee has requested that a review of the change implemented on 1 Oct 2020, is undertaken at the end Mar 2021 (and patients' views are incorporated into this review) and that, following the meeting on 9 Dec, patients are communicated with/updated.

PCC – Bid for Covid-19 Environmental work around the Town – Cllr R Parry left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision making.

Following a socially distanced meeting with Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, Cllr W Powell and Rosie & Gaynor, GfT, at The Mill House on 28 Nov, to re-arrange a couple of issues with the Bid, - a revised plan drawn up by GfT of the suggested Shade Garden and a plan for the seating area opposite Coronation House, drawn up by Cllr P Lewis, was received.

Noted Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council had submitted the PCC bid – a partnership project with input from GfT, to PCC Regeneration Department by the deadline date of 30 Nov 2020.

It was noted that if the grant was successful, the funding would be initially paid from Town Council funds by 1 March 2021 and then reclaimed from PCC by 31 Mar 2021.

Cllr A Lord, on behalf of the Town Council thanked Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, for all his work in preparing and presenting the Bid, which is appreciated by all concerned.

RESOLVED: To await the outcome of the Bid within 28 days.

Afon Llynfi Pollution etc – Update received on 18 Nov from NRW:

- Ms Moscrop confirmed to GP Biotec and to the Town Council that the investigation into this incident is *'ongoing and no parties have at present been eliminated from our investigation.'*
- that *'it is not the policy of NRW to advise preliminary findings of investigations.'*

FOI – Received from NRW on 27 Nov the requested FOI, in large electronic files.

Noted Cllr W Powell had received an additional resource of information which he agreed to forward to colleagues, for information.

RESOLVED: To purchase 10 memory sticks £24.99 for downloading the FOI information for viewing by Town Councillors.

A479 Road Closure update – Following information received on 3 Nov, when the Town Council learned that the long awaited re-opening of the A479 due on 5 Nov, would not be happening as a result of some technical/legal glitches, the Town Council on 6 Nov wrote a letter expressing great dismay and deep disappointment to Ken Skates, WG and copied to the Brecon & Radnor Express, Kirsty Williams MS, Faye Jones MP, PCC officials & County Councillors & Community Councils on the affected route.

Noted the content of the Town Council's letter of disappointment and concern, had been included in the account on this matter, in the Brecon & Radnor Express – issue 12 Nov.

Received updates from Ken Skates WG (26 Nov) and the North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency confirming that it is anticipated that the A479 will reopen in the Spring of 2021.

A copy of Llangorse Community Council's letter of concern to Ken Skates WG re A479 closure, which supported our letter of concern to Ken Skates, has been received.

Kirsty Williams MS confirmed that she will be taking these issues up with the Minister directly and will keep the Town Council informed of progress

Noted Cllr W Powell had joined a remote meeting on 26 Nov with Kirsty Williams MS and Mr Gareth Day of the North & Mid Wales Trust Road Agency. Cllr Powell reported that he had identified the need for emergency repairs to the Trewalkin and Crick highways/informal passing places/gateways. He also expressed concern at the lack of communication to the community of this continued road closure, together with the knock on effect to businesses in both the Talgarth and Cwmdu areas.

Received from Rev R Walker, for information, copy of his correspondence of 24 Nov with Fay Jones MP and her response re his Bronllys Road concerns.

One Voice Wales – Remote training – 9 Dec - Code of Conduct & other training –
RESOLVED: Cllr R Parry, Cllr T McClatchey and Cllr S Thomas to attend the 9 Dec – Code of Conduct on-line training - £30 fee each.

PAVO – Free On-line Training – 9 Dec - Community Buildings COVID19 –
RESOLVED: Cllr A Bufton to attend this free on-line training.

Grow for Talgarth –

RHS Wales in Bloom Sept 2022 – Cllr A Bufton reported that he, Cllr P Lewis and Cllr C Voyle had met in the Town Hall on 9 Nov, with Rosie & Gaynor of GfT present, to discuss maximum seating for the proposed event in Sept 2022.

Cllr A Bufton reported that he had received advice from the Powys Fire Officer in this respect.

RESOLVED: That Rosie & Gaynor would report the agreed maximum seating possible to the organiser of the RHS event.

Xmas Fayre event 12 Dec – Noted a socially distanced Xmas event was being held on The Square with GfT and the Luncheon Club members, raising money for MacMillan support.

War Graves – Xmas holly wreaths – 7 War Graves at St Gwendoline’s Churchyard and 1 War Grave at the former Mid Wales Hospital – Clerk reported that Valmai Davies had offered her services to tend to these graves again this year and place the holly wreaths.

RESOLVED: To purchase 8 x Holly wreaths from Ann Davies, Llyswen @ £6 each= £48 and to thank Valmai Davies for tending to these graves and placing the wreaths again this year.

Website upgrade – Cllr A Lord updated us of the current position of the Town Council website, reminding us that we agreed the £970, at the last Precept meeting, for the Vision ICT’s quoted sum for the upgrade, as we were informed that we had to improve the accessibility of our website. Cllr Lord reported that he would like to see a regular news feed page with headlines, where we can include regular news items to update the community on what we do as a Town Council.

RESOLVED: Town Councillors to view the website and to forward any suggestions of improvements to Cllr A Lord, for discussion at our 20 Jan 2021 meeting.

20/159 CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 – WG, OVW, PCC, PtHB, PAVO, regular updates received.

20/160 TALGARTH/TREFECCA ISSUES –

ST GWENDOLINE’S CHURCHYARD – CANDLES IN MEMORY - It was noted that, due to COVID, the Tree of Light Service will not be held this year but Candles will still be lit in memory of people.

RESOLVED to apply to light 4 candles at St Gwendoline’s Church in memory of the late: Lord Livsey of Talgarth, Cllr Mike Mullan, Cllr Vivian Davies & Cllr Derrick Eckley - £10.

Benches in Churchyard – Cllr R Reid reported that he had commenced treating the Town’s benches with the wood preserver, by commencing with the benches in the Churchyard.

Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Cllr Reid for undertaking this work.

TOWN HALL –

Town Council meetings – Noted OVW does not recommend Town Council meetings resuming in the Town Hall for the foreseeable future due to the continuing spreading of COVID.

RESOLVED: To remain with the remote meetings for the foreseeable future.

Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Cllr Lord for setting up our meetings on SKYPE which is appreciated by all.

Minor Works –

RESOLVED: To send out invitations to Tender for some minor works to box in the new tank in the Committee Room – to open at the 11 January 2021 meeting.

Stage Curtains - Noted we have received an indication of the cost to replace the curtain track, stage backdrops and stage curtaining - together with Flame Retardant Twill Curtains and Valances (unlined) approx. £11,000.

RESOLVED: To include the replacement cost of the stage curtains etc in the precept figures 2021-2022. Also to apply for the ‘Awards for All’ Grant.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES –

Ladies Cubicle - Cllr A Bufton reported that the one ladies cubicle will soon be re-opened up to the public - we are just awaiting some minor works to be completed.

Unisex Toilet – Cllr A Bufton reported that the tube heater was not working in this location and causing a problem.

RESOLVED: To order A G Evans, Builder, and Skyrme Electrical to complete these works asap

BOWLING GREEN/CLUB HOUSE – An Invoice in the sum of £867 has been received from Williams, Beales & Co, Solicitors, being the fee for the Transfer of the Bowling Green/Pavilion from PCC to the Town Council which will be paid from the retained £1,000 of the £10,000 grant. Noted the new Lease from the Town Council to the Bowling Club is due on 1 April 2021.

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS/PAVILION/CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA -

All Wales Play Opportunities Grant 2020-21 bid for the Children’s Play areas – Noted that Peter Weavers, on behalf of TADSCA will be submitting an application for the King George V Childrens Play area and Steve Butcher PCC is doing so, for the Woodlands Play area.

Talgarth Senior Football Club – Noted Clare Mills-Brown, Secretary, Talgarth Town Football Club, confirmed that Keith Parry has now been appointed Chairman and Gareth Davies, Vice Chairman of the Talgarth Town Senior Football Club.

It was noted that the reimbursement of £619.08 for remedial works, in the Pavilion (15/5/2019) is still outstanding by the Football Club.

RESOLVED: To request the payment from the Football Club and to remind them of 2 Pavilion Annual Inspections due - Electrical and Fire Extinguishers.

Clock on Pavilion – RESOLVED: To seek to obtain costs to get this clock in working order – a suggestion was to approach Smith of Derby, our Clock maintenance engineers.

XMAS LIGHTS GROUP –

Bunting Licence for Xmas Lights in Talgarth – Noted the Application form and fee £108 had been forwarded to PCC and Bunting Licence has been received – copy has been sent to Martin Draper, Xmas Lights group.

Lights Group - Update received from Martin Draper, Chair Lights Group, confirming:

- that all the lights (albeit not the wall mounted ones) have been put up and were switched on, without a ceremony, on Sat.28 Nov.
- that a further light had been purchased - cost £22.39 and situated under the bridge adjacent Tower House, electricity to be funded by Tim Martin.
- That Sydna The Bell is powering the LED lights in Bell Street. and should receive a payment of £15 for use of electric.
- Other business owners - Georges butchers, Primrose Pharmacy, Glanennig Home, Bridgend Inn, and private owners - Tim Martin and of Great House, fund the electricity for the Talgarth Xmas Lights.

RESOLVED: To pay the amounts below from the precepted monies and to:

- To write and thank all businesses and private home owners, for continuing to supply/fund the electricity supply for the Xmas lights for the town which is appreciated
- to pay a contribution of £15 towards the electricity supplied by Sydna The Bell.
- To fund the new Xmas light £22.39

FESTIVAL GROUP – Cllr R Reid reported that the AGM of the Festival Group, had been held recently at the King George V Pavilion and confirmed:

- that all previous officers had been re-elected, led by Sue Lewis, Chair
- that it had been agreed to cancel the Festival of the Black Mountains in Aug 2021
- that, if circumstances allow, they would hold some smaller fund raising events during the year, currently with a ‘Best Dressed Xmas Window’ competition for local businesses.

TALGARTH LIBRARY/TIRC –

Talgarth Library – Received update from Ann Seymour, Co-ordinator of the Library project. Noted the Library Opening times will be forwarded, for the Town Council website.

TIRC – Received update from Anna Weston, Chairman of the TIRC, confirming:

- that the TIRC is now open between 10 and 2 from Mon to Sat each week.
- that Cllr Phil Lewis, Mayor, had joined the TIRC as a volunteer.
- that the committee, who are active and enthusiastic, want to build on the TIRC’s role in the community and increase the appeal of taking up a volunteering opportunity, to all age groups.
- Received minutes of 9 Nov & Agenda for their next meeting 2.30pm 7 Dec at The Strand.

QUESTIONS RAISED RE VARIOUS EMPTY PROPERTIES – Noted the Mayor had received questions regarding the following empty properties, from a member of the public, during his volunteering shift at the TIRC:

- **Former J C Griffiths, Agricultural Engineers’ Yard** – Noted no definite information known about this empty property.
- **Former PCC Highway Yards** – **RESOLVED:** To ask PCC Properties department for an update regarding these yards.

20/161 FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Accounts for Payment/Ratification:

Date	To	Item	Net	VAT	Total
10.11.20	BOSS	10 x A4 Copier Paper £22 + VAT Xmas Lights Group – Masks £18.99 + VAT Town Hall – Paper towels - £23.36 + VAT	64.35	9.07	73.42
10.11.20	Williams, Beales & Co	Transfer of Talgarth Bowls Club – Town Council – Fee £700 + VAT Land Registry Fees - £27 + VAT	727.00	140.00	867.00
16.11.20	PCC	Xmas Lights Group – Fee for Bunting Licence			£108.00
16.11.20	Amazon	Welsh Flag			£6.40
16.11.20	Land Registry	Application fee – Search re land – Covid-19 Town bid			£3.00
20.11.20	Town Clerk	Nov Salary & Expenses			£1,033.55

Amounts received since last meeting and banked:

Date	From	Item	Amount
10.11.20	A V Griffiths & Son	Burial Plot – GEG dec'd	£140.00

Bank Balances – Business Reserve Account - £39,167.98 Current Account - £2,409.92

20/162 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED –

WG - Electoral Reform Newsletter – Issue 9 - Nov 2020.

WG - Section 137 - WG the Discretionary Expenditure Limit 2021-2022 – Noted the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for 2021-22 is £8.41.

WG - Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing (MAFA) - Information - Age Matters - The autumn edition from Age Cymru.

PCC - WG hospitality guidelines - Received today from PCC Restrictions from 18.00 hours Fri 4 Dec 2020. Forwarded copy to TADSCA, Football Club and Bowling Club in respect of our premises – The Pavilion and the Bowls Club

BBNPA – The Wild Boar on Talgarth Common – Cllr R Parry recently reported this issue to the Town Council and the Clerk had notified the Police and to put a notice on FYI Talgarth. Noted the matter had been reported to BBNPA and the Ecologist Nicky Davies has written to the Town Council requesting anyone she can speak to about the matter.

RESOLVED: Cllr R Reid to contact Nicky Davies BBNPA.

BBNPA – Agenda for BBNPA meeting 10am 27 Nov 2020 & weekly Planning Applications.

OVW - Members Survey undertaken by One Voice Wales – Result of Survey received

OVW - Town & Country Planning Strategic Development Plan Wales Regs 2021 and Regs to establish Corporate Joint Committees.

Powys CHC - Full Council meeting 8 December 2020 – Received Agenda – Noted that Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, joined this meeting on Microsoft TEAMS with a session at 11.10 Questions and Answer session for members of the public.

Powys CHC - Questionnaire for Stakeholders Survey – Responses by 3 Jan 2021

Requests for Financial Assistance received from:

- **Citizens Advice Powys** – update received – all advisers are fully operational and working from home and they have recruited 6 new volunteers to work remotely and join their existing team of active volunteers.
- **Brecon Advice Centre** – Noted the centre is currently manned from 10.00 until 13.00 on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri or can be contacted on 01874624595 or email to clients@breconadvicecentre.org.uk. They again thanked the Town Council for their financial assistance in the past and hoped we and continue to do so.

Walkers are Welcome CIC – Newsletter Nov 2020

PtHB - Nevill Hall Hospital is Changing 17 Nov 2020 – Received electronic copy of the guidance booklet which has been put on the Town Council website.

Repair Café Wales Team –the £13.2m Repair and Reuse Fund.

Kingdom Hall Of Jehovah’s Witnesses, New Street, Talgarth – Noted a letter dated 1 Dec had been received by Town Councillors, from Christopher & Rebecca Tovey, introducing themselves.

20/163 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

6pm Thursday, 3 December 2020 – Full meeting to consider Planning Applications.

6pm Monday, 11 January 2021 – Precept meeting & 7pm Wednesday, 20 January 2021 – Monthly meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: