

**MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM, WEDNESDAY
29 JULY 2020, HELD REMOTELY**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr L Elston-Reeves

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

WELCOME: Cllr W Powell, Mayor, welcomed members to the third virtual meeting of Talgarth Town Council by Skype.

20/80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Declarations of interest received from Cllr W Powell - BBNPA - Planning Application 20/18760/FUL - Pwll Y Wrach Nature Reserve, Talgarth, and BBNPA - Planning Application 20/18777/FUL - Middle Genfford, Talgarth.
Noted Cllr Powell left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision making in respect of the Planning Application part of the meeting.

20/81 BBNPA – PLANNING APPLICATIONS/PRE-CONSULTATION – Planning Applications received for consideration, having viewed them online prior to the meeting: -

Cllr P Lewis, Deputy Mayor, Chaired the section on Planning Applications/Pre-Consultation:

1. Planning Application 20/18760/FUL - Proposal: “Footpath management works including new surfacing and steps” Address: Pwll Y Wrach Nature Reserve, Talgarth, Powys LD3 0E - Cllr P Lewis, Deputy Mayor, updated colleagues with information that had recently been put on the website and discussion took place.

RESOLVED: To support the Planning Application with the necessary provision taken into account regarding the dormice and to ensure efforts are made to prevent land slips at the site.

2. Planning Application 20/18777/FUL - Proposal: “Proposed general purpose agricultural building” - Address: Middle Genfford, Talgarth, Brecon Powys LD3 0EH – Cllr P Lewis, Deputy Mayor, updated colleagues with information that had recently been put on the website and discussion took place.

RESOLVED: To support this Planning Application.

3. Planning Application 20/18813/FUL - Proposal: “Proposed change of use from disused Library to proposed Christian Meeting Room. New roof structure and replacement of asbestos slates. Main Entrance relocated complete with new storm porch. New window openings. Existing external finishes to be up-graded.”- Address: Talgarth Library (Former), New Street, Talgarth LD3 0AH - Cllr P Lewis, Deputy Mayor, updated colleagues with information that had recently been put on the website and discussion took place.

RESOLVED: To respond that the Town Council is not objecting to this planning application, but would like clarification on events and how parking issues, to include disabled parking, are being addressed, due to the limited vehicular access in this location.

BBNPA Pre Consultation - Airwave Solutions Ltd – Proposed Base Station Site Upgrade. Land at Cwmon Pengenffordd, Crickhowell, Brecknockshire, LD3 0ES. NGR 319026,226956 – Received pre-consultation correspondence and supporting documentation prior to submitting a full planning application. **RESOLVED:** To support this pre consultation.

Cllr W Powell, Mayor re-joined the meeting and Chaired the remainder of the meeting.

20/82 MINUTES: The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 17 June and 16 July 2020, had previously been circulated to Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on the 17 June and 16 July 2020, be adopted and accepted as true records.

20/83 CORONAVIRUS COVID 19 – Noted the Town Council receives weekly updates regarding this matter, from WG and regular updates from PCC.

Update on Town Council Current Procedures –

- **St Gwendoline’s Churchyard - Revised draft Guidelines as from 29 July 2020 for the Churchyard - based on the WG and ‘Church in Wales’ Guidelines** – Noted the draft Guidelines, prepared by Cllr A Bufton, had been circulated to members, prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED:** To accept the revised draft Guidelines document from 29 July 2020, with the inclusion of the test, trace, protect strategy and to forward these revised Guidelines to local Funeral Directors for their attention.
- **Public Conveniences** – Cllr A Bufton gave an update, reporting that the former disabled toilet had been adapted for use as a unisex public convenience, with reduced opening hours – 8am – 5pm, and the former ladies’ and gents’ public conveniences had been closed until further notice. Also that ‘enhanced’ cleaning as per the WG guidelines - now twice daily cleaning, has been undertaken by Healthmatic, since 13 July. **RESOLVED:** To pay invoice of Alan Evans Builder in the sum of £356.25 for this work and to continue the second clean per day at an additional £16 per day, with Healthmatic, whilst WG guidelines necessitate and to regularly review the situation.
- **Bowling Green/Club house** – Clerk reported that the Bowling Club will be opening the Club House, with the required modifications from WG and Welsh Bowling Association guidelines COVID-19, from 3 Aug and running a number of competitions - starting early Aug and finishing mid Sept.
Grass snakes/slow worms – Noted the Secretary, Bowls Club, is in communication with Steph Coates, Wildlife Trust re the way forward, and awaiting information, but in the meantime, confirmed that the grasspit would not be disturbed.
Transfer of Talgarth Bowls Club - Deeds and Documents – Noted that Steve Butcher PCC had delivered the original completed Transfer documentation, together with the original Deeds relating to the property, direct to our Solicitors, Williams, Beales & Co, to be deposited for safe keeping. Noted our Solicitor has compiled and forwarded a schedule of the deeds and documents together with a copy of the Land Registry Statement he prepared for Steve Butcher to certify that the hatched bit of land on the plan, has been used by the Bowling Club for 25 years, in the hope that the Land Registry will include this hatched bit of land, with the Bowling Club land – this hatched bit of land currently not registered to anyone.
- **King George V Playing fields/Pavilion/Children’s Play area** – Update received from the Talgarth & District Sports and Community Association (TADSCA) -
Children’s Play area – TADSCA, as a voluntary organisation, felt they cannot ‘police’ use of the play area, and intend to keep it closed until WG Guidance allows unrestricted use. Noted that, in the meantime, they will undertake some remedial works and continue to empty the litter bins and maintain the grass in this area. **RESOLVED:** TADSCA will put up relevant signage, at entrances to the play area, and make regular checks of the area, to ensure the signage is place. Noted Cllr S Thomas offered to assist with the regular checks of the area and was happy to explain to anyone who may be present in the play area, the reasons why the area is closed. Noted Steve Butcher, PCC, has confirmed that the annual ROSPA check of play equipment will take place in Sept 2020, date tbc.
Pavilion – Opening up trading, outside the Pavilion in line with WG guidelines – Cllr A Bufton reported that he had met, on 23 July at the Pavilion, with Cllr C Voyle, Chair of the Football Club, in order to check out their Risk Assessment in order to open up the bar and area outside on the Pavilion grounds to commence trading in line with the latest WG guidance. Cllr Bufton congratulated the Football Club on the works done in preparation for the re-opening on 25/26 July.

Football pitches - Cllr C Voyle, Chair of the Football Club, gave an update of the proposed 'Pitch Renovations & Maintenance Work', pointing out that following decades of maintenance neglect, the football pitch is need of major renovation and confirmed that after this work has been completed, a maintenance regime will be put in place, by the Football Club, to keep the pitches in good condition.

Noted the Football Club had obtained a detailed plan and costings from Highground Contractors, in the total sum of £5,325.78 and the work has commenced.

20/84 HAYGARTH GP PRACTICE – PROPOSAL TO REDUCE SURGERY HOURS FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020 – Cllr W Powell, Mayor, gave an update following the 16 June meeting on this topic, after which a comprehensive letter of concern and scrutiny questions were forwarded to the Powys CHC and copied to Carol Shillabeer, Chief Executive, Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB), Jamie Marchant, Director of Primary, Community Care & Mental Health, PTHB, Kirsty Williams MS, Fay Jones MP, The Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP and Town & Community Councils in the Haygarth area.

Noted that an article regarding the matter was the lead story in the Brecon & Radnor Express of Wednesday, 22 July – on the front page and page 2.

Further updates were reported from Cllr P Lewis, Deputy Mayor, Cllr M Dodds and Cllr T McClatchey who had participated in the remote consultation meeting hosted by the Haygarth Doctors on 21 July, alongside representatives of Town & Community Councils in the Haygarth Medical Practice area and Powys CHC officers. Noted that no representatives of the PTHB had participated.

E-mail dated 28 July received from Kirsty Williams MS confirming that she had raised this matter directly with Carol Shilabeer and she will keep Talgarth Town Council informed of the response.

E-mail dated 23 July received from Fay Jones MP, asking the Town Council to keep her informed about how this progresses and she is happy to help in any way she can.

RESOLVED: For Talgarth Town Council to pursue lobbying with the Powys CHC and opposing the proposal of the Haygarth Doctors, to reduce surgery hours at both sites so radically.

20/85 FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Town & Community Councils with a Budget of less than £200,000 – Noted that, in accordance with 'The Practitioner's Guide to Governance and Accountability', Town/Community Councils with a budgeted spend of less than £200k, there is no requirement to account for outstanding creditors and debtors with accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Also that the bank reconciliation, should only account for income and expenditure actually incurred or received in a financial year, adjusted for any unrepresented cheques issued in that year or any income received that year but not yet credited to the bank.

Amounts Received since 17 June 2020 Meeting:-

Date	From	Item	Amount
06.07.20	J T Davies, Monumental Mason	Arrange 2 nd Inscription CG dec'd £35.00 Erect Cremation Tablet – V & GB dec'd £80.00	£115.00
07.07.20	Mr R G	Purchase of Burial Plot – H12	£265.00
13.07.20	Talgarth Luncheon Club	50% Donation for Town Hall Eurobin Hire – 1/1/20 – 31/3/20	£64.80
25.07.20	R W Evans & Son	Erect Memorial Stone – CHTP dec'd	£115.00

Accounts for Approval of Payment since 17 June 2020 meeting:

Date	To	Item	Net	VAT	Total
29.05.20	Martin Leighton	C'yard Maintenance – 2 nd cut of 14			£420.00
12.06.20	Parish on Line	Annual Fee – 13/6/20-12/6/21	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00
18.06.20	Town Clerk	June Salary & Expenses			£1,012.58
18.06.20	HMRC	Clerk's Income Tax & Employee NI – April, May, June			£875.22
18.06.20	BOSS	Stationery – A4 Paper & highlighters	£30.88	£6.18	£37.06
30.06.20	Martin Leighton	C'yard Maintenance – 3 rd cut of 14			£420.00
07.07.20	David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd	Memorial Bench – VE 75 th Anniversary - £930 + £125 Carriage + VAT £211.00.	£1,055.00	£211.00	£1,266.00
07.07.20	Black Mountains Botanicals	2 x Sanitiser Units + 10 litres Sanitiser for the Unisex Public Convenience	£139.00	£27.80	£166.80
09.07.20	VW Cleaning Services	Town Hall/Gates open/close – Apr, May, June			281.79
09.07.20	PCC	Town Hall - Eurobin Hire 1/1/20 – 31/3/20			£129.60
09.07.20	Seton	Unisex Public Convenience - New Sign	£12.14	£2.43	£14.57
16.07.20	Timpsons	Public Convenience – Keys cut	£31.00	£6.20	£37.20
16.07.20	Amazon	Calculator for Clerk			£7.50
20.07.20	Town Clerk	July Salary & Expenses			£1,022.93
25.07.20	Alan Evans Builder	Work as quoted – Town Hall £45.00 + Public Conveniences £139.40			£232.90
25.07.20	Alan Evans Builder	Work shutting down existing ladies & Gents toilet area/key etc and to convert former Disabled Public Convenience to Unisex area			£356.25
29.07.20	PAVO	Payroll fee – Clerk's Salary – Apr, May, June			£30.00

RESOLVED: Approval of payments above made since 17 June 2020.

Bank Balances – 13 June 2020:

Business Reserve Account - £60,210.60

Current Account - £1,196.37

Town Council Accounts 2020-2021– 1st Quarter (Apr – June 2020) Budget Review – Noted the 1st Quarter (April – June 2020) had been successfully audited by Sharn Drury, Internal Auditor, and circulated to Town Councillors.

CORRESPONDENCE DISCUSSED:

- 20/86 2020 PAYPHONE CONSULTATION** – Notification received from PCC on 22 July of a Consultation on the ‘Removal of Payphones’ in the area, and that the payphone (01874) 730268 at Pont Waun-Fach, Cwmdu, is one proposed to be removed under the 90-day consultation process ending the 8 Oct 2020. Comments to PCC by 30 Oct.
RESOLVED: To forward a letter of objection to the proposed removal of this payphone (01874) 730268 at Pont Waun-Fach, Cwmdu, pointing out that this is an area of very limited mobile reception, and also that it was once taken away, then reinstated and paid for by PCC/TRA at a high cost to the public purse, following a lively local campaign, based on public safety concerns.
- 20/87 VACANCY FOR A TOWN COUNCILLOR – RESOLVED:** To advertise the vacancy for co-option at our 7 Sept 2020 meeting.
- 20/88 WG - A479 Lower Genffordd Bends near Talgarth - Proposed Works: Essential embankment strengthening, Vehicle Restraint System Repair and carriageway resurfacing -** Received confirmation on 9 July from WG that works will be undertaken by Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd, working 7 days a week, with a completion date of Nov 2020.
Penbont Road signage and problems – Cllr W Powell, Mayor, reported that he had attended a well-attended site meeting with local residents on 18 July, organised by Fay Jones MP. Received a copy of Fay Jones’ follow-up letter of 20 July to Ken Skates WG re the A479 Closure South of Talgarth and the impact upon surrounding roads and awaiting a response. Cllr Powell also reported that there is to be improved signage and a regular police presence in this area.
- 20/89 WG - A479 – BRONLLYS ROAD. Welsh Government proposal for default speed limit of 20 mph in residential areas** – Received a letter dated 16 July from Rev Richard Walker, resident, Bronllys Road, reporting that the WG announced on 15 July, their acceptance of the final report of the “Welsh 20 mph Task Force Group”.
Cllr W Powell, Mayor, reported that he had thanked Rev Richard Walker for his letter, which was very timely, in the light of the Senedd vote the previous day.
Cllr W Powell reported that, well ahead of that vote, but in the light of positive comments previously made on ‘20’s Plenty’ by Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Transport, he had submitted the following question to Full PCC meeting to be held on the 31 July:
‘In the light of positive comments made recently by Lee Waters MS, Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Economy & Transport on the campaign for a ‘20’s Plenty’ speed limit in all urban areas, what consideration has PCC given to imposing a voluntary 20mph limit upon all vehicles in its ownership, or delivering its services, in our towns & villages?’
Cllr W Powell reported that he, too, sees the vote as a real opportunity to introduce a culture of more responsible driving and hopes to receive a positive response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Heulwen Hulme, as to how PCC could help to promote positive change. He also pointed out that the long suffering residents of Bronllys Road live alongside a Trunk Road, is beyond the remit of PCC – but not necessarily Lee Waters MS’ initiative.
RESOLVED: Town Councillors broadly supported the WG proposal for default speed limit of 20mph in our Town.
- 20/90 TALGARTH TOWN** – A suggestion received from Adam Price, formerly of Bronllys, for a display of flags and bunting etc in Talgarth during the Summer months, as we emerge from the current wave of the Covid 19 pandemic, and now that Talgarth businesses & community life are beginning to reopen - to support the businesses and add vibrancy to the town centre when normal events will not now be held.
RESOLVED: To support this suggestion, and noted the flags on the Town Hall and bunting around the War Memorial, will be put up to commemorate VJ 75th Anniversary on 15 Aug.

- 20/91 VJ 75th ANNIVERSARY Sat 15 Aug 2020** – Cllr W Powell, Mayor, spoke about the proposed small event to commemorate VJ day, at 11am Sat 15 Aug. Also now that the new bench has been received and positioned on the War Memorial, it can be officially dedicated to the community of Talgarth at the same small event, observing social distancing guidance.
VE Bench – Noted the new bench had been delivered, paid for by Talgarth Town Council, and fitted by Cllr R Reid and Tony James, in the location agreed at our 17 June remote meeting. Noted thanks had been conveyed to Cllr R Reid and Tony James for fixing the new bench at the War Memorial.
RESOLVED: To arrange a small appropriate event, observing social distancing guidance, with the Union Jack and Welsh flags on the Town Hall and bunting on the War Memorial, and agreed to purchase a VJ Day Poppy wreath.
- 20/92 GROW FOR TALGARTH (GFT)** – It was noted that GFT was pleased to receive the Town Council’s appreciation of their work, around the Town, during COVID-19 and that they are regularly watering from the rain filled water butts adjacent the Town Hall and Church Hall. It was noted that the RHS Wales in Bloom competition this year is not being held, but the Cultivation Street one is still going ahead and they will, as usual, give it their best endeavours.
- 20/93 PCC – BID FOR COVID-19 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK AROUND THE TOWN** – Cllr W Powell, Mayor, reported that he and Rosie Williams, had met with Vincent Goodwin PCC, earlier that day, as Mr Goodwin will be promoting a WG scheme, which might facilitate some environmental enhancement works around our Town.
RESOLVED: Clerk to obtain some dates, for a further meeting with Mr Goodwin for him to broaden out his proposals for a bid, of which the Town Council would be the applicant, if it went forward.
- 20/94 YSGOL Y MYNYDD DU – ESTYN REPORT 2020** – Received notification from Sam Toone, Headteacher, of an excellent Estyn report received at the school.
RESOLVED: To forward the Town Council’s congratulations to the staff, pupils and governors of Ysgol y Mynydd Du and assure them of our ongoing support to the school community.
- 20/95 KEEP WALES TIDY NATURE TEAM - Nature Package/Fruit Garden** – Noted the pack to be delivered to Ysgol y Mynydd du, in the Autumn and Cllr L Elston-Reeves will be overseeing the project.
- 20/96 TOWN HALL HIRE** – Notification received from Jo Lord, who hires the Market Hall for her Spinning sessions, that she is hoping to commence spinning at the beginning of Oct 2020 and enquiring about the hall hire costs.
RESOLVED: It was felt by Town Councillors that the initial arrangement re hiring costs were set at an introductory rate and that this rate cannot be reduced.
- 20/97 ST GWENDOLINE’S CHURCHYARD** – Noted Clerk had confirmed ownership and public liability insurance of St Gwendoline’s Churchyard to Canon R Edwards.
RESOLVED: To arrange an Inspection meeting when time permits.
- 20/98 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** –
PCC & Town & Community Councils – Virtual meeting Covid-19 Recovery Meeting – 15 July 2020 – Noted Cllr W Powell, Mayor and the Town Clerk had participated and the next meeting will be held 15 Oct 2020.
PCC - Displaced On-Street Parking Due to COVID-19 Safety Measures – Update received.
PCC - Safer Communities - COVID-19 Restrictions & Recovery – Re-opening Public Conveniences –Received update advice for reopening of Public Conveniences with a view to the 5 miles travel distance being lifted. An example risk assessment had been received.
PCC - Recycling Bins, Car Park – Noted the Clerk had reported to PCC ‘fly tipping’ on 2 occasions in this location, on 7 July & 16 July, and the rubbish had since been cleared.

PCC - Community Woodland & Local Places for Nature – Information received re grants now open to applications – Sent to Jed Needs for information.

PCC Wild flowers/orchids on Verges - Noted the Town Council had been copied into email exchanges with PCC and local resident Virginia Brown re concerns of wild flowers/orchids being destroyed on verges.

BBNPA - Planning Application 20/18444/FUL - Proposal: “Installation of a biomethane upgrading facility, ancillary infrastructure and equipment, access and landscaping” - Land At Great Porthamel , Talgarth, Powys LD3 0DL – Received for information, from Kirsty Lodge, AARDVARK EM Ltd, GP Biotec agent, a response from GP Biotec, addressing some of the queries raised in the Town Council’s response to this planning application.

BBNPA – PERMISSIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT –

- **Planning Application 20/18569/FUL** - Proposal: “A single storey lean to extension to the front of the existing property.” Address: 3 Council House , Depot Lane, Talgarth LD3 0AN
- **Planning Application 20/18568/FUL** - Proposal: “A single storey lean to extension to the front of the existing property.” Address: 4 Council House , Depot Lane, Talgarth LD3 0AN.

BBNPA - Draft Local Housing Market Assessment for comment – Request received, asking our views on the findings, and if we have any observations to feed into the project.

BBNPA - Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) – Received revised Delivery Agreement

OVW – Received June Electoral Newsletter

PAVO – Received Regular updates, Newsletters/Bulletins - inviting Grant Funding applications. It is understood that the Sporting groups in Talgarth have each received £10,000 PCC grant.

PAVO - Network Meeting – Received information for Hay, Talgarth and surrounding areas.

PAVO - Covid-19 Bulletin, Youth led Grants and Social Value Development - Moving Forward Fund.– Received information.

Welsh Blood - 7 Sept 2020 – Noted this session has been cancelled.

Hay Town Council - Hay's Temporary Social Distancing Measures – Information received - to be launched Tues 28 July 2020.

Bronllys Well Being Park - Newsletter – July updates received

WAW Members' Newsletter June 2020 – Received the June 2020 Newsletter.

Black Mountains College - Newsletter received & Invitation to a virtual Festival of Farming, Food & Nature - ‘Green Recovery Wales’ - 20-23rd July.

Rat infestation at Upper Hospital Villas, Talgarth – Complaint received.

Noted Cllr W Powell, who is already in dialogue with Simon Wedge of PCC in relation to rodent issues elsewhere, has passed on this new referral.

Bryn Derwen – Fence & Hedge problems - Received a complaint from a local resident regarding these problems in this location.

Noted Cllr W Powell took up the matter with the Wales & West Housing Association.

Welsh Hearts – Received request for financial assistance – to be considered Feb/Mar 2021 meeting with other requests received during 2020-2021.

Police & Crime Commissioner - Virtual Public Meeting with the Commissioner for the people of Powys – Noted meeting - 24 June - 11:00-12:00pm

Policing in Talgarth – Communication received from PCSO Emma Jackson, informing us that they are patrolling Talgarth and the surrounding areas, noting that the former Mid-Wales Hospital is still receiving unwanted visitors.

20/99 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

7.00pm Mon 7 September 2020

7:00pm AGM Wed 16 September 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: