

**MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AT 7PM, WEDNESDAY,
9 FEBRUARY 2022, HELD REMOTELY**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr R Reid – Received Cllr Richard Reid’s notification, that he has temporarily stepped down from Town Councillor duties, due to his recent illness diagnosis and future treatment required.

RESOLVED: To forward best wishes to Cllr Reid on his forthcoming treatment and future.

IN ATTENDANCE : Josephine Rumsey (Town Clerk)

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

22/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Declaration of interests received - Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk, in respect of Agenda Item 6 Town Clerk’s Annual Review.

22/28 TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 5 MAY 2022 – Cllr C Voyle reported that he would not be standing for re-election, due to his forthcoming move out of the area.

22/29 MINUTES: The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 12 January and Precept meeting on 17 January 2022, had previously been circulated to Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 12 January and 17 January 2022, be accepted as correct records.

22/30 PLANNING MATTERS –

- **BBNPA – Planning Application 21/20674/FUL** - Proposal: “Application for extensions of Maescoed to provide a carport and hobby studio.” Address: Maescoed , Bowling Green Lane, Talgarth LD3 0DX. To consider Planning Application.

RESOLVED: To support this Planning Application.

- **BBNPA – REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

Planning Application 21/20323/FUL The Mill Cottage, Talgarth – “Change of use from Office/Shop to Residential Use” (Full Application) at The Mill Cottage, The Square, Talgarth LD3 0BW.

22/31 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- **OVW updates**

- **COVID updates and training dates** - received and on circulation.

- **Brecon Area Committee 7pm Wed 9 Feb** – Noted same date as our Town Council meeting. Clerk sent apologies.

- **PAVO updates -**

- **COVID updates and training dates** – Received and on circulation.

- **Hand Sanitizer** – Noted PAVO were offering some free Hand Sanitiser.

Noted Cllr Bufton had arranged for 2 x 5 litres Hand Sanitizer, free of charge, to be collected from PAVO, Llandrindod Wells, for use in the Town Hall.

- **Afon Llynfi Pollution –**
 - **Response for Publication & to Lobby Senedd Members -** Cllr A Lord reported that, due to pressure of work, he has not yet drafted up a response from the summary of the 24 Nov 2021 meeting, for publication and to lobby our Senedd Members and asked if any colleagues wished to assist.
 - **RESOLVED:** Cllr W Powell & Cllr G Jones agreed to assist with the response.
 - **Draft letter for Town Council endorsement -** Received an email from Gwernyfed Community Council requesting the Town Council's endorsement of a proposed letter which they had compiled in response to a communication dated 30 Nov 2021 from a Senedd Minister, regarding this incident.
Cllr W Powell reported for information, that there was an article in this week's Brecon & Radnor Express about the 'Recovery of the Wye'.
RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed not to endorse the Gwernyfed CC draft letter in its entirety and to inform them that Talgarth Town Council agrees with the general sentiments of the draft letter, but does not wish to endorse the element which proposes that a Minister resigns.
- **GP Biotec – smells –** Received concerns from a further local resident, regarding the unacceptable smells again in Talgarth and offered to assist any other residents affected. Discussion took place and it was noted that these smells are being reported by residents in all parts of the town, including the local school, Ysgol y Mynydd du.
RESOLVED: To seek the best way forward to make a group contact to Powys County Council, as this affects the whole town of Talgarth .
- **BBNPA Planning Application for the 2 x Gazibos (on & adjacent The Square) –** Received update from Peter Weavers, confirming that the application has been lodged with the BBNPA ref 22/20765/ FUL and confirmed that he is content to represent the Council on a pro bono basis, as both a resident and one involved with Grow for Talgarth, with only out of pocket fees for reimbursement.
- **Highway matters –** Updates received from PCC Highways and noted.
 - **Top town area – Overgrown verges etc -** PCC confirms the verges will be cut if required during routine and cyclic grass cutting schedule - noted this work has been undertaken today.
 - **State of hospital road Talgarth –** PCC confirms that they will get a team to attend when resource allows. Noted that one drain has since been cleaned out.
 - **Penbont Bridge, Talgarth, reinstatement –**PCC confirms that it is their intention to carry out repairs to the bridge once resource allows.
 - **Pavements – Broken slabs outside The Ice cream Parlour, The Mill Cottage & outside Hairdressers in High Street –**Noted these areas were all repaired on 14 Jan.
 - **Street Lights –** Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, reported that numerous street lights were still 'out of order' despite being reported by the Town Council in Autumn 2021. Noted Cllr V Voyle offered to undertake a physical check of the lights 'out of order' in and around the town.
RESOLVED: To forward a the list of 'out of order' lights in Talgarth to both PCC and Trunk Road Agency, as appropriate, for repair.

- **PCC Update** – Received County Councillor W Powell’s monthly update and on circulation.

22/32 TOWN CLERK’S ANNUAL REVIEW – DUE 1 FEB 2022 - Noted that the Town Clerk left the meeting when this item was being discussed.

RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed that the Town Clerk has performed satisfactorily again this year and that her Salary Spine Point (SP) be increased to the final increment in this substantive grade, from Grade SP 22 – current hourly rate - £14.05 per hour - Contract 20 hours per week to Grade SP23- £14.42 per hour from 1 Feb 2022, as per the current NALC - National Salary Scales. Noted Cllr P Lewis, Mayor to sign up the Schedule 2022-2023 to accompany the Clerk’s Contract and thanked the Town Clerk her for her continued dedicated service.

22/33 TALGARTH/TREFECCA ISSUES:

- **Talgarth & District Regeneration Group (TDRG) –**

- **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** – Noted that Will Lloyd, Chair of the TDRG has invited reps of local groups, from neighbouring areas, to come together to exchange information and emerging plans and to establish a diary of events so far planned, to a meeting at The Castle Hotel, Talgarth on 10 Feb from 7:30 - 9:00 pm.

It was noted that as well as being Town Councillors, Cllr William Powell is Vice-Chair and Cllr L Elston-Reeves is a member of the TDRG and will be in attendance.

It was noted that Talgarth Town Council has some information to report to the meeting.
i. The Town Council has already agreed to purchase commemorative coins for pupils at Ysgol y Mynydd du.

Noted Cllr W Powell brought to the attention of the Town Council, that pupils attending Ysgol y Mynydd du also attend from the Bronllys and Gwernyfed Community Council areas attend Ysgol y Mynydd du, which is the school for their catchment area.

ii. PCC has supplied an Application for a free road closure for the event – To be submitted by 28 March.

iii. OVW received information re Jubilee Beacons for the event, noting that the Town Council owns a gas fired Beacon.

RESOLVED: Cllr M Dodds to attend the Jubilee meeting on 10 Mar, as the Town Council rep and to clarify numbers of pupils that attend Ysgol y Mynydd.

- **Community Library** – Cllr W Powell reported that the Agreement had been set up between the PCC Library Services, Ysgol y Mynydd du & the Regeneration Group and asked if Town Councillors would be interested in sight of the Agreement.

RESOLVED: To request a copy of the Agreement for interest.

- **Talgarth Former 1875 Victorian School** – Cllr W Powell gave an update confirming that the leaflet regarding views on the desirable future of the 1875 school, was part of a bid that the Talgarth & District Regeneration Group (TDRG) put in to Arwain and secured £7,000 to enable, what is described in the leaflet - doing a study and consulting the public, architects drawings and getting some notion of the condition of the building. Cllr Powell offered to share sight of the bid with Town Councillors and reported that the people who are leading the project on their behalf, would like to meet interested Councillors, either on line or in person to further discuss this matter.

Cllr P Lewis, Mayor suggested that if the TDRG has any updates or anything to report, to ask Will Lloyd, Chair, if he would like to produce a small update every month and forward to the Town Clerk, for circulation, prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: Cllr Powell to arrange copy of the bid and arrange a meeting with the leaders of the project, as discussed, for interested Councillors.

- **River Bank, Talgarth, on Swan Terrace side** – Noted that Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, who had been approached directly by local neighbours to the site, had sought clarification from Mr Allun Jones, if PCC was planning to take back the maintenance of this area of river bank, now that OTV has relinquished it.
Noted Mr Jones confirmed that he intends meeting with GfT representatives in the coming weeks re their proposed tree planting plan and would be also meeting with County Councillor W Powell at the same time, so as to address the river bank issue whilst there.
Noted Cllr Phil Lewis has requested that we be notified of the meeting date so that Town Councillor representation and concerned residents can be present re the River Bank/ Swan Terrace side.
- **Grow for Talgarth** – Noted Cllr P Lewis, Mayor and Cllr M Dodds, attended the meeting of the group the previous evening at the King George V Pavilion.
Update received , confirming that Grow for Talgarth has been selected to represent Wales in the UK finals Britain in Bloom 2022 and they are also in the Britain in Bloom - Large Village category.
- **TIRC meeting – 2.30pm 7 Feb 2022 in the Strand Café** – Agenda and Minutes of the meeting received for information. Next meeting 7 Mar 2022 at 2.30pm in The Strand Café.
- **St Gwendoline’s Churchyard/Fees/Memorials & Town Hall fees** –
RESOLVED: To arrange a meeting as soon as possible to review these fees.
- **Future of the Church Hall** – Received copy of the notes from the 24 Jan 2022 meeting and on circulation. Noted a further meeting was held at 6.30pm on 7 Feb in the Church Hall and attended by Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, Cllr M Dodds and County Councillor W Powell.
RESOLVED: Cllr P Lewis, Mayor and Cllr M Dodds to be Town Council reps on the group.
- **Town Hall /Public Conveniences – Redecoration – Main Hall including Kitchen, Toilet areas, Entrance area, Committee Room, Public Conveniences** – Noted that Tenders had been invited for this work and that some plastering and woodwork jobs had come to light which need addressing before the main redecoration work is commenced.
RESOLVED: To open all Tenders at 6pm Mon 21 Feb on a remote meeting.
- **PCC Premises Licence - Inspection 2 Feb 2022** – Noted Cllr A Bufton had met with Simon Lewis, PCC Licensing Officer, on site, for the Inspection and everything was found to be in order. Noted the Licence was displayed and the plan indicates that the whole premises (main Town Hall and Market Hall) is licensed . Next Inspection due in 2 years.
- **PRS/PPL Annual Review** – Noted the Town Clerk has completed the on-line Annual Review and it has been confirmed that due to the Town Hall being closed since 20 Mar 2020, there is a credit on our account of £45.72 so no charge is due, at the moment. A further on-line review with the Town Clerk will take place when the Town Hall is re-opened for hire.
- **Town Hall and Public Toilets Caretaker/Cleaner** – Draft Job Description circulated to Town Councillors together with OVW’s advice notes, prior to the meeting.
Discussion took place.
RESOLVED: To accept the draft Job Description – Hourly rate £9.90 per hour - 14 hours per week and to include a point *that ‘A job share will be considered’*. To advertise the post of, on the Town Hall Notice Board/Town Council website/Talgarth Community page.

Public Conveniences –

- **Hot Water in Gents’ area** – Noted Alun Walters had supplied a verbal cost when he installed the heating upgrade. A written quote of £410 has been received.

RESOLVED: To accept this Quote of £410 and for the work to be undertaken before the redecoration takes place in this location.

- **PCC Grant** - Received £1,886, COVID grant towards running public conveniences, from PCC for 2021/2022.

- **Bowling Club House – Insurance from April 2022** - Noted that, as previously agreed that the Town Council will insure all Town Council owned buildings in the future and to take on Bowling Club House when their NFU 5-year fixed policy ended in April 2022.

RESOLVED: To insure the Bowling Club House building from noon 20 April 2022.

- **King King George V Playing fields/Pavilion /Children’s Play area –**

- **Pavilion Entrance** – Discussion took place regarding the proposed alteration to the access to the Pavilion etc.

RESOLVED: To agree in principle to the project, in accordance with the advice of the appropriate authorities and for the required length of hedge to be removed before the nesting season.

- **Children’s Playground area** – Noted Peter Weavers TADSCA had met, on 8 Feb on site, with the rep from Wicksteed, and that an approx. £25,000 + 20% VAT of equipment etc had been chosen .

Noted the quote and order will be undertaken by the Town Council, as previously agreed and that the sum of £5,600 has been committed to this project by the Town Council and TADSCA will transfer the balance to the Town Council when exact costs are known.

- **Police/Speedwatch –**

- **PCSO** – Noted - PCSO 8014 Trudy Davies has joined PCSO Emma Jackson for the Hay/Talgarth area.
- **Speedwatch** – Noted training sessions took place on 28 Jan & 4 Feb and that we now have 6 fully trained up Speedwatch Volunteers, who can operate a speedwatch session, on their own, with 3 volunteers present. Noted we also have 1 more volunteer that needs just one more training session to become fully trained.
- **Police Speed checks in Trefecca** – Update received from the Police Speed Reduction Officer confirming his findings, from a session he carried out in Trefecca on 17 Dec 2021 and in a one-hour period, recorded five speeding offences.

22/34 FINANCIAL UPDATE:

To consider and approve Monthly Accounts – previously circulated.

Amounts received since last meeting 12 January 2022 and banked:

Date	From	Item	Amount
31/01/22	PCC	COVID recovery grant payments 2021/22 for public conveniences	£1,886.00
07/01/22	CC James, Funeral Director	Fee for Burial Plot – MD dec’d	£140.00

Accounts for Payment/Ratification since last meeting 12 January 2022:

Date/Cheq No.	To	Item	Net	VAT	Total
03/02/22 3503	Dylan Roberts Interiors	50% cost of fitting stage curtains/tracks	£2,400.00		£2,400.00
03/02/22 3502	Lyn Morgan Furnishings	50% cost of supplying stage curtains, Backdrops,Valences	£4,422.00	£884.40	£5,306.40
30/01/21 3501	PAVO	Payroll fee – Oct - Dec 2021	£30.00		£30.00
30/01/21 3500	Martin Leighton	C’yard Maint 14 th cut of 14	£441.00		£441.00
30/01/21 3499	V W Cleaning Services	Public Conveniences – Open Gates – Dec & Jan £161.51 & Cleaning Town Hall – 2.5 hours £36.25	£197.76		£197.76
25/01/22 3498	Tindle News- papers Ltd	Brecon & Radnor Express advert re Memorial testing – 19/01/2022	£136.80	£27.36	£164.16
20/01/21 3497	Town Clerk	Jan Salary & Expenses	£1,057.49		£1,057.49
18/01/22 3496	Blackwood Fire Ltd	Town Hall – Annual Fire Extinguisher check + 4 new Fire Extinguishers	£224.48	£44.90	£269.38

04/02/2022 Business Reserve Account - £42,173.05 Current Account - £3,608.94

(Less unpresented cheques, 3500 £441.00, 3501 £30.00, 3502 £5,306.40, 3503 £2,400.00)

RESOLVED: To approve the above Financial update/Monthly Accounts.

Town Council – Quarterly Bank Reconciliation - Apr – June Quarter Budget – Received the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation – Oct - Dec 2021, satisfactorily audited by Internal Auditor and previously circulated to Town Councillors, prior to the meeting.

9pm Move of Standing Orders- Cllr P Lewis asked for a move of Standing Orders for 30 minutes.

22/35 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & DISCUSSED –

Talgarth Town Council future meetings – Discussion took place regarding the possibility of hybrid or face to face meetings going forward. OVW guidance obtained and on circulation.

RESOLVED: Cllr A Lord to look into costings for the required equipment for our 9 Mar meeting.

Talgarth Medical Centre – Noted that the Mayor and Clerk, had received concerns by several residents of Talgarth, asking if the rumour was correct that ‘Talgarth Medical Centre is closing’. Cllr Phil Lewis, Mayor, asked the Clerk to seek clarification from the Powys Teaching Health Board (PtHB) and a response was received that same afternoon confirming there was no truth in the rumour and the concerned residents were informed. A copy of the confirmation received from the PtHB was put on the Notice Board and Town Council’s website.

Alleged unauthorised development - dropped kerb, entrance and exit - following refusal 21/20590/MINOR Site: The Surgery, Cottage Lane, Talgarth, Powys – Received concerns and photographs from a concerned resident regarding this matter. Noted the Town Council had reported this matter to the BBNPA who has since confirmed that the developer must comply with Condition 5 of planning application 16/14091/FUL and the concerned resident has been informed.

Ashburnham House – invitation to staff celebration at Ashburnham House to thank their staff team for their work over the Pandemic – Wed 16 Feb – from 11:30am – Noted Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, Cllr M Dodds and Cllr G Jones agreed to attend this event.

22/36 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION –

WG - Covid 19 – Regular weekly updates received.

WG - Welsh Government Apprenticeship Scheme 2022 – Noted opening soon – Information received.

PCC - Powys County Council/Town & Community Council meeting 1 Feb 6pm on Teams – Noted this remote meeting was attended by Cllr P Lewis, Mayor and Josephine for the Town Council and Cllr W Powell as Powys County Councillor – Minutes to follow

PCC - Riverine SACs and Phosphorous Update Feb 2022 for Community and Town Councils – Information received.

PCC - Powys Planning Decision Notices – From 10 Jan – 21 Jan 2022.

PCC - Covid Restrictions Update – Update received, noting that provided the downward trend continues, from 28 Jan, we will move to alert level zero for all indoor activities and premises.

PCC - Covid 19 Testing – Updates received and on circulation.

BBNPA - Agenda for National Park Authority, 11 Feb 10.00 am

BBNPA - Agenda for Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 28 Jan, 10.00 am

BBNPA - Weekly list of Planning Applications received.

BBNPA - Agenda for National Park Authority, 20 Jan, 10.00 am

PAVO - Locality Initiative fund – Information on circulation

OVW - Report on Section 47 Multi Location Meetings - Received results of the survey on Section 47 Multi Location Meetings for Community and Town Council re meetings with effect from May 2021.

OVW - Tree planting and Orchards - Nature Forum – 10 Feb at 6.30pm and 11Feb at 2pm

OVW - Raising awareness / promotion videos – Information received.

OVW- News Bulletin – On circulation

Powys CHC - Mental Health Consultation – From 01 Feb until 28 Mar 2022.

Trefi Smart Towns – Information received.

Black Mountains College - Invitation received to their free Spring Discovery Day Event on Sat 12 Feb 2022 at Gwernyfed Walled Gardens - Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Wales Air Ambulance - Request for Financial Assistance – Letter acknowledged and will be dealt with at our 9 Mar meeting, with all other requests received during the year.

22/37 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS:

7pm Mon 21 Feb 2022 – To Open Tenders

7pm Wed 9 Mar 2022 – Monthly meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.33pm

SIGNED:

DATE: