

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 12 MAY 2021 AT 7 PM, HELD REMOTELY

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr A Bufton (due to attending a remote PAVO training session on ‘Opening up Community Halls’ after COVID, Cllr R Parry

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

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

21/67 TO DECLARE MATTERS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations of interest.

21/68 MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 16 September 2020, previously confirmed at the Town Council meeting held on 14 October 2020, were circulated for ease of reference.

21/69 REPORT BY OUT-GOING MAYOR YEAR 2020/2021 – Cllr P Lewis, out-going Mayor, read out his annual report as follows:

“Having been elected as chair of Talgarth Town council in September 2020 it has been my immense pleasure to work alongside my fellow councillors in addition to other community minded people to ensure the development and sustainability of our town and its wider community.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all my fellow councillors present and past for all their hard work and commitment not only during my brief time in office but over the years that Talgarth Town Council has been in existence. Without the hard work and commitment shown by yourselves Talgarth would be a much poorer community. Not wishing to single out any individuals I would like to extend a special mention to Cllr Andy Lord for organizing our virtual monthly council meetings which has enabled us to continue to undertake our duties and of course our Town Clerk Josephine who continues to work tirelessly and usually above the call of duty to keep us in line and ensure we stay on the straight and narrow.

Given the unprecedented period we find ourselves in not a great deal has been undertaken during the last year. The cancelling of the Festival, the scaled down Christmas light display are just a sample of what has changed during this period. However, we were able to hold a socially distanced Remembrance day service both on Remembrance Sunday and on the 11th November when it was my great privilege to lay the wreath at the memorial on behalf of the Town council. We have been able to keep the public conveniences open during the pandemic with significant additional input of time and expenditure; the new heating system has been installed in the Town Hall - many thanks to the contractor Alan Walters and Andrew and Richard for getting this done so efficiently. The Covid 19 bid for Town Centre environmental work was successful and the shade garden part of these works has been completed and the official opening is to take place on 22nd May. The ‘Grow for Talgarth’ group have been wholly responsible for the completion of this and I would like to offer my wholehearted thanks to them. It is an excellent addition to the community. The section of this bid which covers the area on the square has encountered a few obstacles; the installations of the bollards and gazebo have been held up due to some unforeseen problems. However the parking area has been relined and hopefully the final installation will be completed soon.

The works on the A479 following its long closure is now progressing well after the previous hold ups and will be completed and reopened hopefully by the end of May. Many thanks to Gail Jones, Alun Griffiths contractors for the on-going updates and photographs.

Speed watch has recruited several new members and following training our speed watch sessions can recommence. There are also the serious speeding issues between Talgarth and Trefecca which were raised with Nigel Brinn, PCC and a Teams meeting with PCC and Dyfed/Powys police has been arranged at 10.15 on 17th May to discuss.

The proposal by Haygarth Practice to shorten surgery hours in both Talgarth and Hay from 1st October 2020 was made during August 2020. We strongly opposed this as we felt it was a retrograde step for the people of Talgarth. A virtual meeting was held with the practice from which no satisfactory answers as to the reasoning behind the proposal were given. We contacted the CHC, Powys teaching Health Board, Kirsty Williams MS, Fay Jones MP and Vaughn Gethin MS, Health Minister. Despite all our attempts to achieve meaningful dialogue between the practice population of Talgarth and Haygarth practice the proposed shortened hours were introduced on 1st October without the proposed patient survey/discussions taking place and no evaluation report regarding the ‘pilot’ project which is now the reality having been produced by either the practice or PTHB. I feel this was a sad day for the progression of the population of Talgarth.

Woodlands play area received a grant towards its upgrade. The bid was placed by Steve Butcher PCC and a group has been set up to take this current and future upgrades forward. Cllrs William Powell and Louise Elston-Reeves are part of the group. TADSCA also put forward a bid to upgrade the King George V children’s play area but were on this occasion unsuccessful. It was agreed that a joint funding exercise between TADSCA and the Town Council would take place to undertake the much needed upgrade to the play area.
Again many thanks for all your support and assistance.”

RESOLVED unanimously to thank Cllr Phil Lewis for all his leadership and dedicated work as Mayor since the AGM on 16 September 2020.

21/70 MAYOR FOR YEAR 2021/2022 & DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE -

Nominations were invited for the position of Mayor for the year 2021-2022.

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, that Cllr P Lewis be nominated Mayor for the year 2021/2022.

Noted there were no other nominations.

Cllr P Lewis accepted the position of Mayor for year 2021/2022 and noted for the Town Clerk to arrange for Cllr P Lewis to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Section 83, Local Government Act 1972 of Mayor, in her presence.

RESOLVED unanimously that Cllr Philip Lewis be elected Mayor for the year 2021/2022.

Members of the Council congratulated the newly elected Mayor and wished him well during his year of office.

21/71 DEPUTY MAYOR FOR YEAR 2021/2022

Nominations were invited for the position of Deputy Mayor for the year 2021-2022.

Proposed by Cllr W Powell and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, that Cllr L Elston-Reeves be nominated as Deputy Mayor, for the year 2021/2022.

Noted there were no other nominations.

Cllr L Elston-Reeves accepted the position of Deputy Mayor for the year 2021/2022.

RESOLVED unanimously that Cllr Louise Elston-Reeves be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2021/2022.

Members of the Council congratulated the newly elected Deputy Mayor and wished her well during her year of office.

21/72 MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes held on 16 September 2020.

21/73 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE/S ON TOWN COUNCIL SUB-GROUPS/ OTHER ORGANISATIONS FOR YEAR 2021/2022 – Clerk had circulated to Town Councillors

the 2020/2021 list of Town Councillors on the various Sub-Groups of the Town Council /Other Organisations. Cllr P Lewis, Mayor reported that the Planning Group had been removed from the list as we can only make a decision at full meetings.

It was also agreed to commence the Communication group when time allows.

RESOLVED: For members to have a look at the list and if there are groups someone would like to be on or come off to let the Clerk know so that the list can be finalised for 2021/2022.

21/74 TOWN COUNCILLORS SIGNATORIES ON NAT WEST BANK A/C –
RESOLVED to remain with 4 signatories: Cllr A Lord, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds,
Cllr R Reid and for Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk, to remain for transferring between accounts.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21/75 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING:
7pm Wed 12 May 2021, following the AGM - Monthly meeting - Remote meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.20pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: