

**MINUTES OF TALGARATH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 6PM, MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2021, HELD REMOTELY, TO DETERMINE THE PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022 & OTHER MATTERS**

**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 eleventh virtual meeting of Talgarth Town Council by Skype.

**21/1 TO DECLARE MATTERS OF INTEREST** – Cllr W Powell declared an interest in Agenda item 4 - Planning Application Consultation Letter 20/19367/LBC and took no part in the discussion or decision making.

**21/2 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

1. **Planning Application Consultation Letter 20/19367/LBC** - Proposal: “Re-engineered windows incorporating single glazing details” - Address: Pentwyn , Talgarth, LD3 0EH.

**RESOLVED:** Unanimous decision to support this Planning Application.

2. **Planning Application Consultation Letter 20/19320/FUL** - Proposal: “Two storey extension to dwelling” - Address: Trewalkin Fach , Talgarth, LD3 0HA

**RESOLVED:** Unanimous decision to support this Planning Application.

**21/3 TOWN HALL –**

- **Tender for Minor Works** – Noted no completed Tenders received.  
**RESOLVED:** To send out invitations to Tender to be opened at 17 Feb meeting.
- **Annual Fire Extinguisher Test** – Noted the Annual test took place on 7 Jan when one extinguisher had to be replaced due to nearing expiry date – cost £57 + £11.40 VAT.  
**RESOLVED:** The fire extinguisher to be replaced.
- **Annual Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting Test** – Noted the Annual test took place on 8 Jan when 2 Emergency Lights failed the test.  
**RESOLVED:** To accept the Quotation of Skyrme Electrical in sum of £76 + £15.20 VAT to replace these 2 Emergency Lights.

**21/4 CORRESPONDENCE RE FINANCIAL MATTERS –**

**Talgarth Town Football Club** – Email requests were received from the Chair of the Talgarth Town Football Club –

- (a) It was reported that the Club had been successful in securing grant aid of £2,000 for mobile floodlights and asking if the Town Council could purchase the floodlights on their behalf and for the Town Council to reimburse the Club the VAT and
- (b) a request for financial support from the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) To congratulate the Club on securing the grant of £2000 for mobile floodlights and to inform them that it is not possible (legal) for the Town Council to purchase the floodlights on their behalf and reimburse the Club the VAT.
- (b) To inform the Club of the Town Council’s procedure in which to apply for financial assistance, by submitting details of their current financial position prior to the end of financial year March meeting, when all requests for financial assistance, received during the year, are considered.
- (c) To remind the Club that there still remains the reimbursement from the Football Club to the Town Council of the £619.08 invoice for remedial works following the Annual Fire Emergency Light check on 1/5/2019 – (for replacement 13 emergency lights & exit sign ) so that the Pavilion could remain open.

21/5 **TO DISCUSS AND SET PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022** - Noted the Clerk had circulated to Town Councillors in advance of the meeting, the following documents to assist in determining the Precept for 2021/2022:

- Minutes of the last Precept meeting held on 13 January 2020 - approved at meeting on 12 February 2020.
- Precept Form including 2021/2022 – *for completion*
- Accounts Estimates - Year 1/4/2020 – 31/3/2021
- Approved Accounts - Year 1/4/2019 – 31/3/2020
- Burial Fees – *current*
- Town Hall Hire Charges – *current*

Cllr M Dodds wished the handyman job, which had been discussed over the last several years, to be progressed.

**RESOLVED:** To have a sub-group to progress this matter.

Cllr A Lord explained the documents, which had been prepared, on behalf of the Town Council, in order to determine the Precept 2021-2022.

- Precept Report including budget projections, actual spend and advice notes
- Explanatory Precept Notes – Cllr Lord went through his presentation on overheads, of the Precept form against the key points indicated in his notes – copy of the notes to be circulated after the meeting.

**Reserves** – Resolved that one-off expenditure projected for the next financial year, be met from the reserves and new recurring financial commitments will be precepted for.

**All Wales Play Opportunities Grant 2020-2021 Capital Bid - £10,000.**

- **King George V Children's Play area** – Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, expressed disappointment that this Play area, run by TADSCA – a volunteer group, had not been successful in securing the bid of £10,000, which he stated, would of enhanced this well used facility.

Cllr A Lord, TADSCA Liaison Officer, reported that he and Peter Weavers TADSCA have recently been discussing this Play area against the last ROSPA inspection report and both the surface /swings and the roundabout are need of replacement, for various safety issues.

Proposed by Cllr P Lewis and seconded by Cllr T McClatchey, unanimously carried, for the Town Council to invest in the upgrade of this area on the lines, as indicated in the TADSCA bid.

Noted Cllr C Voyle, Chair TADSCA abstained from voting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council, who owns this facility, invests in the upgrade of the King George V Play area with TADSCA.

- **Woodlands Play Area update** – County Councillor W Powell reported that Powys County Council, who own/run this Play area, has been successful with securing the Bid of £10,000 and that a previous campaign group has been re-launched and the associated Facebook Group now has just shy of 200 followers. They are looking to form a support group to do fundraising and consultation, when the public health situation allows and a socially distanced site meeting took place on 29 Dec. He mentioned that two generous anonymous donors have come forward to support further investment and Talgarth Woodland Group/On the Verge are also on board.

**Grow for Talgarth** – Proposed by Cllr P Lewis and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour to sponsor a flower box up to £100 – noting that annual sponsorship of £20 is payable each January.

**RESOLVED:** To sponsor Grow for Talgarth – a flower box up to £100 which will include the box and £20 sponsor money due in January 2021 and then, each year in January.

**Town Hall** – Noted that the Town Hall is closed to the public.

**RESOLVED:** To allow GfT, as per COVID regulations, to use the Market Hall to store and erect any items for the COVID-19 Project, currently taking place.

**Town Council Allowances – Resolved** that any intention by Town Councillors to claim the £150 allowance to which they are entitled, be noted and accounted for at this and future Precept meetings.

**RESOLVED:** That Town Councillors, who have not yet replied, to inform the Clerk if they wish to opt out of the £150 payment or otherwise complete the necessary paperwork to join PAVO PAYE for the taxable payment to be made at the end of March 2021.

**Town Council Loan Account** – Clerk circulated information re the Loan Account which was originally taken out for 8 years on 8 Sept 2015 – Fixed Interest Rate of 2.12% . Note the outstanding balance, after the 8 Sept 2020 payment, is £26,063.23 and next half-yearly payment due on 8 March 2021.

**PROJECTED TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2021/2022** **£68,560.00**

**PROJECTED INCOME 2020/2021** **£61,224.00**

**Budget Projection Precept Form 2021/2022** – completed as per attached.

Town Councillors were acutely aware of the financial pressures being faced by fellow local residents, with likely increases to come in Powys County Council Tax demands, including the Dyfed Powys Police and Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Precepts. This was a major factor for Town Councillors in their deliberations in determining their Precept level 2021/2022. They were, however, also conscious that if the Precept were to be reduced, it could mean a substantial rise in the future, as Town/Community Councils’ responsibilities continue to expand. It was therefore the consensus that the Town Council Precept for 2021/2022 be frozen at the same level as 2020/2021, thus imposing no additional burden on local residents.

Proposed by Cllr A Lord and seconded by Cllr P Lewis, all in favour, that the Precept be set at **£54,000 for 2021/2022**. Noted Clerk to submit the Precept Request form to Powys County Council by 22 January 2021.

Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, thanked Cllr Lord for his valued assistance in preparing these figures and notes for discussion with Town Councillors, in order to set the Precept for 2021/2022.

**21/6 BURIAL & TOWN HALL FEES –**

**RESOLVED:** To consider at future meeting when circumstances allow.

**21/7 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING -**

7 pm Wed 20 January 2021.

**There was no further business to be discussed and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8 pm.**

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....

