

**MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM, WEDNESDAY,
14 APRIL 2021, 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: John Williams, Retailer, High Street, Talgarth
Josephine Rumsey (Town Clerk)

21/48 WELCOME: Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, welcomed Mr John Williams to our 17th remote meeting, confirming that Mr Williams is here to observe the meeting, who has an interest in Agenda item Planning Application Consultation 21/19623/FUL - Proposal: "(Phase 1) Redevelopment of a former highway authority maintenance yard for the purposes of a single A1 unit and commercial unit" - Address: Former Highways Depot, Hay Road, Talgarth. Noted Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, read out Mr Williams' contribution of a summary of his key points to the meeting, which had previously been circulated to Town Councillors, as follows:

"Talgarth Square has been the centre for retail in this community for more than 200 years. Any decision to facilitate the migration of this retail activity to the edge of town should be fully informed and rigorously deliberated.

Significant concerns and objections regarding this proposal have already been raised by;

- *Powys Highways*
- *Powys Contaminated Land Dept*
- *Natural Resources Wales*
- *National Parks Strategy & Policy*
- *National Parks Building Conservation.*

The proposal appears to conflict with both the Local Development Plan and the Welsh Government's 'Town Centre First' policy.

The developer's comments on ideas for the existing Co-op building are so brief and vague as to be meaningless. There would be nothing preventing them from selling for a quick profit, with the property subsequently changing hands, potentially, through any number of remote investors and/or developers (each with no regard whatsoever for the local community). The focal point of Talgarth Square could be a boarded-up disused building for years.

The information provided is inadequate for making an informed decision on a proposal that could reshape the social and commercial fabric of the community for many future generations. In my view (as a resident and retailer in the designated retail centre of Talgarth) the town council should follow the lead of the experts at the National Park, NRW and Powys CC, and defer judgment until appropriate due diligence can be undertaken on a more robust submission by the applicant."

21/49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Declarations of interest were received from:

Cllr W Powell in respect of the BBNPA Planning Applications:

- **Planning Application Consultation Letter 21/19623/FUL** - Proposal: "(Phase 1) Redevelopment of a former highway authority maintenance yard for the purposes of a single A1 unit and commercial unit" - Address: Former Highways Depot, Hay Road, Talgarth
- **Planning Application Consultation Letter 21/19622/FUL** - Proposal: "(Phase 2) Four B1/B8 Units with associated Bat Mitigation Outbuilding" - Address: Former Highways Depot, Hay Road, Talgarth LD3 0AW.

Cllr Powell was not present when these Planning Applications were discussed and re-joined the meeting when these matters had been determined.

Cllr R Parry declared an interest, in respect of Agenda item 4 - PCC – Bid re Covid-19 Environmental work around the Town and left the room when this was being discussed.

21/50 BBNPA - To consider Planning Applications:

Planning Application Consultation Letter 21/19623/FUL - Proposal: “(Phase 1)

Redevelopment of a former highway authority maintenance yard for the purposes of a single A1 unit and commercial unit” - Address: Former Highways Depot, Hay Road, Talgarth LD3 0AW &

Planning Application Consultation Letter 21/19622/FUL - Proposal: “(Phase 2) Four B1/B8 Units with associated Bat Mitigation Outbuilding” - Address: Former Highways Depot, Hay Road, Talgarth LD3 0AW

Noted that John Williams, Retailer, High Street, was present for this part of the meeting. Discussion took place and some of the points of concerns voiced by other bodies, in respect of Planning Application 21/19623/FUL, which were on the BBNPA website, were noted.

RESOLVED: To forward, the following points of concern to the BBNPA in response to both Planning Applications 21/19623/FUL & 21/19622/FUL –

- The need to ensure continuity of retail use of the existing Co-Op retail space in the town centre in accordance with the LDP.
- That the Town Council allies itself with issues raised by other parties and requests the BBNPA to take into account and assure mitigations proposed, in respect of:
 - The need to ensure appropriate sightlines on the site main entrance
 - The need to preserve the public footpath and links to the Pelican crossing
 - The need to ensure appropriate parking on-site and avoid misuse of unauthorised spaces
 - Environmental concerns including sewerage links, any ground contamination from former fuel tanks, asbestos and to need to protect the bats in the area.
- Further concerns raised of the main rain/storm water drain culvert that carries the run-off water from the back of Woodlands Avenue (Park woods and fields run off) via the dingle to the river between “The Elms” and the Surgery Centre. Noted that the culvert actually runs under the proposed sites, approximately in line with the main sewer.

Planning Application Consultation Letter 21/19707/FUL - “Erection of new roof structure to cover an existing manure storage yard”- Penyrheol Farm, Pengenffordd, Talgarth LD3 0EY.

RESOLVED: To support this Planning Application.

21/51 DEATH OF PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH – The Town Council acknowledged the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 9 Apr by posting the official notice of death on the Town Council website.

It was decided at the meeting to review engaging ICT for these matters in future.

RESOLVED: To cancel the following previously arranged website changes - Operation London Bridge – The Queen and Operation Menai Bridge – Prince Charles.

Noted Cllr R Reid has put the Union Jack and Welsh Flag up, at half mast, on the Town Hall which will remain until 8am the morning after the State funeral.

21/52 MINUTES – The Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 10 March and 31 March 2021 had previously been circulated to Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 10 March and 31 March 2021, be adopted and accepted as true records.

21/53 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

PCC – Bid for Covid-19 Environmental work around the Town – Noted the Shade Garden work was almost complete. With regard to the Square project, David Kingston had reported that he is awaiting a date from PCC re the fixing the bollards.
It was noted that the re-painting by PCC, of the existing parking lines on The Square, is due to take place the following week.

One Voice Wales –

- **Membership of One Voice Wales 2021-2022** - Renewal of Membership cost - £278.
RESOLVED: To renew the Membership for 2021-2022 – cost £278.
- **OVW Training dates for April** - Received Training dates for April and on circulation.

Afon Llynfi Pollution etc - Update received from Ms Moscrop. NRW informing us that the Afon Llynfi Pollution investigation is still ongoing and they are making progress.

A479 Road Closure –

- Griffiths Contractors - Regular updates received from Gail Jones, Griffiths Engineer, including photographs.
- Faye Jones MP – Update received regarding the repair works in Penbont Road and through Trewalkin.
- County Councillor W Powell reported that some emergency pothole and ditching work is being carried out and he is seeking to reinstate the traffic management, previously undertaken, at the iron bridge

Grow for Talgarth - Update report received re their recent work around the town.

Website upgrade – Cllr Andy Lord reported that he is currently working on this upgrade.

21/54 **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 and `OVW SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS OF THE ACT FOR TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECTOR:** Noted that the Clerk had circulated a hard copy of each of these documents from WG and a useful Summary sheet received from Paul Eagan OVW to each Town Councillor. Cllr A Lord drew a couple of points of importance to colleagues.

21/55 TALGARTH/TREFECCA ISSUES –

BRONLLYS WELL BEING PARK – ‘THE NEXT 10 YEARS’ – Noted the remote Launch is to be held is 9.30am – 12 noon on 27 Apr and joining instructions by Eventbright have been received.

ST GWENDOLINE’S CHURCHYARD

- **Complaint letter** – Received concerns from Mr G Jones, Newport, who has parents buried in St Gwendoline’s Churchyard, regarding a pile of rubbish/dead flowers etc left by visitors visiting the Churchyard, near the gate at back of the Church.
Cllr A Bufton, who oversees the Churchyard, reported that due to many issues the additional winter clear-up was not completed this year and reported that our Contractor will, in future, remove any rubbish when he undertakes his regular churchyard maintenance.
RESOLVED: To respond by stating that due to many issues the additional winter clear-up was not completed this year but assure him that all rubbish will be regularly removed.
- **Visit by the Czech Ambassador to visit a War Grave in St Gwendoline’s Churchyard** - Notification received, informing us that the Czech Ambassador would be visiting, the War Grave of Dohimil Makowsky, in St Gwendoline’s Churchyard, Talgarth on 1 April at 11am and he would be laying a wreath.

Due to the current WG rules at the time, it was noted a small socially distanced gathering at the grave-side took place with Canon Rowland Edwards and Valmai Davies who tends to the War Graves, also present.

TOWN HALL – COVID Risk Assessment - Noted Cllr A Bufton had prepared a draft COVID Risk Assessment for the Town Hall, for use when re-opening the Town Hall for the Elections on 6 May. Noted OVW had commented that this risk assessment had been extremely well thought out and confirmed that a QR code to be displayed in the Town Hall, would be desirable rather than essential.

RESOLVED: To adopt this draft Town Hall Risk Assessment and to obtain a QR code.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – Healthmatic/Service Level Agreement – Noted a draft 1 year Service Level Agreement received, which covers what Healthmatic provides and what the Town Council pays for, currently in place at the Public Conveniences.

RESOLVED: To sign up the 1-year Service Level agreement from 1 April 2021.

BOWLING GREEN/CLUB HOUSE –

Lease from Talgarth Town Council to Talgarth Bowling Club – Noted we have received the final Lease agreed by the Town Council and the Bowls Club, which has now been signed up by both parties. Received the Solicitor’s Completion Statement for payment - Solicitors’ Fees for Lease £750 + £150 VAT = £900 + £40 Land Registry fees

RESOLVED: Clerk to return the signed Lease to the Solicitor, Hay-on-Wye, for registration and to pay Williams, Beales & Co Invoice Fees for Lease etc - £940 total.

Talgarth Bowls Club re-opening – Received Risk Assessment from Audrey Micklewright, Secretary, for re-opening up of the Bowling Club at the appropriate time.

Cllr A Bufton reported that he had some concerns and awaiting electrical advice re the fire alarm and emergency light equipment at the Bowling Club.

King George V Playing fields/Pavilion/Children’s Play area - Proposed Gym – Noted that both Cllr L Elston-Reeves and Cllr A Bufton have met with Gareth Davies re the proposed gym equipment. Cllr L Elston-Reeves circulated a short update from her meeting with Gareth and was happy with the theory of it.

Cllr A Bufton requested some images of the proposed gym, to be circulated to Town Councillors. There were no issues with the gym equipment.

Dog Fouling – Request received from Gareth Davies TADSCA regarding the topic of dog fouling and the following requests:

- 1: More signage around town.
- 2: Permanent line burnt into field to give better visual for walkers down the playing fields.
- 3: Improved signage down the playing fields.

Noted the Clerk had received some more ‘Dog Fouling’ signage from PCC for the town.

RESOLVED: To the above requests and for some ‘Dog Fouling’ signs to be given to Cllr R Parry, for the town and the former A479 Pengenfford Road.

Pavilion – Proposed White uPVC – gable end boards – Cllr A Bufton confirmed that he had met with Keith Parry, Football Club Chairman, regarding the proposed white uPVC covering on the gable end facia Boards and this request at the 31 March, meeting of the Town Council.

Children’s Play area - Noted approx. £800 was raised for this area, at the Easter Sunday event.

TADSCA – Talgarth Town Football Club - Lease – Cllr A Lord, Liaison Officer, reported that the Lease matter is in hand.

Chris Voyle, Chair of TADSCA reported that the Tennis Courts had been cleaned up and re-lined and that a new Tennis Club is intended to be formed.

Woodlands Play area – Cllr W Powell gave an update on this area and confirmed that the equipment which had been ordered from the grant, was to be delivered soon and installed for use.

Move of Standing Orders- Cllr M Dodds asked for a move of Standing Orders for 15 minutes.

Police - Speeding – Cllr A Lord reported the traffic accident on the night of Sat 4 April, when a car crashed into the College grounds.

Cllr A Lord reported that the Brecon & Radnor Express had contacted him about this incident and an account of the accident was in the B & R on 14 April.

It was noted that there are 3 villages on the stretch of road between Talgarth and Bwlch and 2 have had traffic calming measures installed - Trefecca remains the village left out.

RESOLVED: That Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, at the joint PCC and Town Council meeting the following evening, request, on behalf of Talgarth Town Council, a site meeting with Nigel Brinn and appropriate PCC officers to discuss the serious speeding problem on the stretch of the B4560 between Talgarth and Trefecca.

Police Crime & Incident Reports - 6 March 2021 to 6 April 2021. Report received from PCSO Emma Jackson asking if we have any questions regarding Patrol Plans or if we would like the police to attend a virtual meeting with the Town Council.

21/56 THIS MEETING - RESOLVED: To finish the remaining Agenda items from tonight’s meeting at the beginning of the next meeting on 28 April.

21/57 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS:

- 7pm Wed 28 April 2021 – *Finish 14 April Agenda items and To consider and adopt Town Council Policies and Procedures*
- 7pm Wednesday 12 May 2021 – *AGM and Monthly meeting*

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

SIGNED:

DATE: