

MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM, WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 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: Josephine Rumsey (Town Clerk)

WELCOME: Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, welcomed members and Ben Rawlence, Director of The Black Mountains College (BMC), to the 14th virtual meeting of Talgarth Town Council by Skype.

21/23 BLACK MOUNTAINS COLLEGE(BMC) PROPOSALS – Ben Rawlence, Director of the BMC, gave a short presentation of their proposals, prior to submission of a planning application, at Troed yr Harn, just a mile out of Talgarth, as their launch campus. It was noted that the BMC has secured a 50 year lease, at Troed yr Harn, and they envisage this as a long-term campus, providing a unique learning resource and outdoor study centre – details of the proposals were circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, thanked Ben for his presentation and wished the BMC well in the future.

21/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Declarations of interests received -

- Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk, declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 Town Clerk's Annual Review and left the room whilst this was being discussed.
- Cllr A Bufton in respect of Agenda item 4 – Matters arising - Haygarth Doctors' Proposals for curtailed opening hours at Hay & Talgarth sites.
- Cllr R Parry in respect of Agenda item 4 – Matters arising - PCC – Bid for Covid-19 Environmental work around the Town

21/25 MINUTES: The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20 January 2021, and of the Confidential meeting held on 15 February 2021 had previously been circulated to Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 20 January & of the Confidential meeting held on the 15 February 2021, be adopted and accepted as true records.

21/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

DOG FOULING/GENERAL WASTE BINS – Received a response dated 16 Feb from ColletteEvans PCC, to our request for a general waste/dog fouling at Brynderwen and Westfields lane/in the area of the gate adjacent Westfields. It was noted that PCC had not actually supplied any new dog waste bins for many years as they encourage residents to take their dog's waste home and that there is an issue around the manpower emptying and maintaining of the bins in general. Noted that PCC is currently reviewing all these arrangements and requests, so that they can decide on a way forward that is affordable and sustainable and our requests for dog bins at Brynderwen and Westfields Lane will form part of that review. Noted some 'Clean up after your Dog', signs will be forwarded from PCC, to be put up around the town.

Owners of dogs caught fouling, can still be prosecuted by Council – Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, reported that he had seen the following article on the B & R website which is of interest and suggested something like could be put on our website.

"Owners of dogs caught fouling, can still be prosecuted by council. People who are caught allowing their pooches to poo in public can be fined, even though there are no dog wardens in Powys. <http://www.brecon-radnor.co.uk/article.cfm?id=113099>

RESOLVED: That the Clerk informs TADSCA, Ms Leanne Williams and Mr Byron Carey of the content of the PCC response.

HAYGARTH GP PRACTICE – No new update

PCC – BID FOR COVID-19 ENVIRONMENTAL WORK AROUND THE TOWN -

Project work – Progress - Noted the project work is progressing well in the Shade Garden and the Square project will commence when the bollards arrive in mid-March.

Reimbursement of Grant – PCC has confirmed that they have now been given some flexibility with the payment of these grants from WG and has agreed that the works can continue into the first quarter of the new financial year (April -June), giving us and the team flexibility around late deliveries, planting and the weather.

Litter Bin - Grow for Talgarth requested a litter bin from PCC for the new Shade Garden.

Noted as PCC is not issuing bins at the moment, they have agreed to relocate one of the bins on The Square, to be positioned adjacent to the new Shade Garden.

ONE VOICE WALES – OVW Brecon/Radnor Area Committee Meeting to be held at 7.00pm Tues 23 Feb, on a remote basis using Star Leaf.

RESOLVED: Cllr P Lewis, Mayor reported that he would be attending.

Training - Received February & March training dates.

AFON LLYNFI POLLUTION – No new update.

A479 ROAD CLOSURE UPDATE – Update received from Kirsty Williams MS on 22 Jan enclosing an update dated 21 Jan from Mr Gareth Day WG, confirming that:

- The issue regarding the urgent need for repair on Upper Genffordd road is being addressed this week
- The discussion regarding the resurfacing of the local roads via PCC is ongoing and the WG are still awaiting confirmation of these costs which it hopes to receive shortly. The WG is still willing to help support financially, the repairs required.
- The discussions continue with the land owners for the main scheme and have reached a positive way forward with the remobilising of the site setup in early Feb 2021. It is programmed to reopen the A479 in spring 2021.

It was noted that Cllr P Lewis, Mayor had, at the time, expressed concern to Town Councillors and asked County Councillor W Powell to chase up these costs with PCC.

Further updates received from Gareth Day WG on 28 Jan, 2 & 12 Feb – which confirmed that works recommenced on site on 1 Feb with the site clearance/de-vegetation of the area taking place. The programmed finish is May 2021 but this will be dependent on a number of factors including the time of year, winter period, and the weather with this type of operation.

Noted that there will be a public liaison officer on site and Mr G Day has asked they provide the Town Council with regular progress updates.

GROW FOR TALGARTH –

Sponsor/Town Council Flower Box – RESOLVED: To pay the amount due - £100.

Flower Box – Bruce Williams reported that the new Flower box near the Market entrance had been defaced with red paint.

WEBSITE UPGRADE – Cllr A Lord reported that he has received a new preliminary website from Vision ICT and has a few points to feed back.

Cllr A Lord reported that if anyone wishes to peruse the new website, at this stage, he will forward the link.

21/27 CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 – WG, OVW, PCC, PtHB, PAVO, regular updates received.

20/28 TOWN CLERK’S ANNUAL REVIEW – DUE 1 FEB 2021 - Noted that the Town Clerk left the meeting when this item was being discussed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk has performed satisfactorily again this year and from 1 Feb 2021, her Salary Spine Point (SP) be increased by an increment ie from Grade 21 – current hourly rate - £13.78 per hour - Contract 20 hours per week to Grade SP22` - £14.05 per hour from 1 Feb 2020, as per the current NALC - National Salary Scales.

Cllr P Lewis, Mayor to sign up the Schedule 2021-2022 to accompany the Clerk’s Contract and thanked the Town Clerk her for her continued dedicated service.

21/29 BBNPA PLANNING APPLICATION –

To consider Planning Application 21/19552/FUL - Proposal: “Replace conservatory with single-storey extension” - Address: Pen Y Wern, Pengenffordd, Talgarth Brecon LD3 0ER

RESOLVED: To support this Planning Application.

BBNPA PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

1. **Planning Application 20/19161** - “Erection of single storey rear extension to existing house and replacement of 4 No. timber sliding sash windows to front of property” (Full Application) at 2 Church Row, Church Street, Talgarth, Brecon Powys.
2. **Planning Application 20/19240/FUL** - “Application for the extension of The Lindens with a garden room, including a change of windows, fenestration detailing and the demolition and replacement of the front garden wall in a revised location.” (Full Application) at The Lindens, Church Street, Talgarth, LD3 0BB

21/30 TALGARTH/TREFECCA ISSUES –

INCONSIDERATE PARKING ON THE SQUARE, TALGARTH –

Inconsiderate Parking on The Square and a drainage problem in front of The Mill House -

Noted Tony Caine PCC had copied the Town Council into his reply to Bruce Williams, confirming that the Enforcement Team do visit Talgarth on a regular basis and deal with any parking on double yellow lines. It was noted that Tony Caine had reported the drainage issue, on the road in front of The Mill House, for repair.

FOI Request - Concerning parking tickets issued in Talgarth from 1/1/2019 – 31/12/2019 & 1/1/2020 – 31/12/2020 –Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, reported that he had noted from the Parking Tickets report, received from Tony Caine PCC, that he could find more details via the PCC link as it could and be filtered down for Talgarth, and it confirmed that: In 2018/2019 – 66 were issued and in 2019/2020 – 60 were issued, noted only went up to 19 Dec 2019.

Traffic Survey Nr Rugby Club Roundabout – Dean Williams confirmed that they are awaiting the data from their contractor, and will forward it to us when received.

BRONLLYS WELL BEING PARK – ‘THE NEXT 10 YEARS’ – Noted that an electronic

version of this document has been circulated to Town Councillors. Also 2 hard copies of the document have been received, should anyone wish to view one.

Cllr M Dodds, Member of the BWBP Board, reported that the group is very grateful to Talgarth Town Council for its support and informed us that the document will be delayed in its launch.

ST GWENDOLINE’S CHURCHYARD –

Howell Harris’s Parents’ Tomb – Response received on 10 Feb from Dr Mervyn Bramley, of the Brecknock Society & Museum Friends, who was pleased to learn that the grave stone has been restored and several of them had recalled our previous discussions from 2016. Also noting that the safeguarding of the original table stone in Coleg Trefecca is a good link with the on-

going local heritage of Howell Harris. He felt that the proposed Information Board is an important part of 'telling the story' of the historic churchyard location to both visitors and the local community, and will help to realise benefits of the restoration.

Dr Mervyn Bramley referred to his previous email of 27.03.16 in which he had asked details:

- Is Planning Permission required for the Information Board?
- The Design of the Information Board.
- Budget and a contribution from the Brecknock Society – It is noted that the Society's Executive Council is willing to contribute £250 towards the overall cost, which for design, supply and installation would probably be £1 - 2 K.

RESOLVED: To support the idea in principle, and to look into permissions, designs and costs to discuss at next precept meeting.

St Gwendoline's Churchyard –

RESOLVED: To hold a Site Inspection meeting, when time allows.

TOWN HALL –

Tender for Minor Works – Noted that Tenders had been invited from 8 local companies and 3 completed Tenders received, for minor works to 'box in the tank' in the Committee Room –

- Smith Builders – £882. + £176.40 – Total £1,058.40
- Wyndham Watkins - £550.00 + £110.00 VAT – Total £660.00
- Ellis Peters – Total £365.00.

RESOLVED: To accept the lowest Tender of Ellis Peters in the sum of £356.00.

Town Hall – Music Licence 2021-2022 – Noted the Clerk has completed the Review for the Town Hall Music Licence 2021-2022 which is based on the last audited accounts Town Hall income 2019-2020 when we received £5,809+ £215 late payments.

Noted from 1 Apr 2020 – 31 Mar 2021 (due to Covid-19, we will not receive any Town Hall hire and the charge for 2022/2023 will be based on that).

RESOLVED: To pay the charge for 2021-2022 is PRS £58.09 + £11.62 VAT, PPL £53.50 + £10.70 VAT- Total £111.59 + £22.32 VAT – Total £133.91.

For ratification on the Finance report.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES –

Vandalism in Ladies public toilets – Graffiti (red spray paint) was found on the morning of 15 Feb in the re-opened ladies' toilet cubicle. Clerk had reported the incident to the police.

RESOLVED: To put a notice, expressing disappointment of this event, on the website.

12 month Service Level Agreement - Received today, from Healthmatic a standard Draft 12 month Service Level Agreement, for completion, as per the Service they deliver etc for Talgarth Public Conveniences, as currently, there is no service agreement in place.

RESOLVED: To consider at our 10 March meeting.

Water Rates – Received Invoice from Dwr Cymru - 18 Aug 2020 - 3 Feb in the sum of £201.94. For ratification on Finance report.

BOWLING GREEN/CLUB HOUSE –

Lease – Talgarth Town Council to Talgarth Bowling Club – due 1 April 2021 - Received from Williams, Beales & Co, Solicitors, a copy of the Draft Lease from the Town Council to the Talgarth Bowling Club for consideration and signing up on 1 April 2021.

Noted the Clerk has forwarded a copy of the Draft Lease to Audrey Micklewright, Secretary, Talgarth Bowling Club for their approval/comments.

RESOLVED: That Town Councillors consider this Draft Lease as soon as possible so the matter can be finalised by 1 April 2021.

Club House duties – Noted Cllr A Bufton had met with reps of the Bowling Club regarding the regular duties required at the Club House.

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS/PAVILION –

Pavilion duties – Received from the Senior Football Club the outstanding reimbursement of £619.08 from 2019/2020.

Cllr A Bufton reported that he had met with Keith Parry, Chair of the Club and that weekly checks required are all in place.

Key holders – Pavilion - Noted a check of the key register has been undertaken and that Keith Parry, Chair of the Club had requested a key for the Pavilion which the Clerk has arranged.

KING GEORGE V CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA -

Priority of Play equipment/flooring - Cllr A Lord, Liaison Officer, reported that a meeting of the TADSCA group had been held on 22 Jan with Steve Butcher, PCC in attendance.

Noted an on-line poll was to be put on the Community page website to gauge ideas of equipment. It had been noted that the surfaces under the slide and roundabout, need attention as a priority. The group noted that the Town Council has ring-fenced money for the play area and have not set any deadline. However, it was noted that all present would like to see things moving as the better weather approaches.

PAVO has established a small grant fund (£33k) to assist organisations whose aim is to provide activities that help to improve physical and emotional well-being in a Covid-compliant manner – It was noted that Peter Weavers TADSCA is intending to put in a bid application for grant monies for some seating – Applications to be submitted by 25 Feb.

WOODLANDS PLAY AREA – County Councillor W Powell gave an update, reporting that some ideas had now been sought out and ordered by Steve Butcher PCC, for the new play equipment for this location which is owned and managed by PCC.

POLICE/SPEEDWATCH/SPEEDING –

‘Old School Land’ from 1 Queen’s Ave to the top of Woodlands Ave road – Noted BBNPA Eifion Jones, Rights of Way Officer, has confirmed that a bollard will be placed at the lane from Queen’s Ave end to prevent this problem re-occurring.

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL –

- **Former PCC Highways Council Yards** - Update received from the proposed Developers at a remote meeting with the Town Council on 15 Feb, prior to the Developers submitting planning applications to the BBNPA. Noted the Developers reported that this matter is no longer of a confidential nature.

RESOLVED: To request Steven Jones, PCC Highways, to attend an informal meeting of the Town Council on Wed 24 Feb re any highway issues with the planning applications.

21/31 FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Schedule of Monthly Accounts: RESOLVED: As follows:-

Amounts received since last meeting 20 Jan 2021 and banked:

| Date | From | Item | Amount |
|----------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| 28.01.21 | Talgarth Town Football Club | Reimbursement of monies owing 2019/2020 - Total £1,328.48. Paid- £710.40 on 6/1/20 – Balance Paid - £619.08 on 28/1/21 | £619.08 |
| 01.02.21 | HMRC | Reclaim of VAT 2019-2020 | £4,687.09 |

Accounts for Payment/Ratification since last meeting 20 Jan 2021:

| Date | To | Item | Net | VAT | Total |
|----------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 18/1/21 | Leisure Bench Ltd | PCC COVID-19 Project 2 Tables - Shade Garden 1 Table - The Square | 678.92 | 135.78 | 814.70 |
| 20/1/21 | Wood Mines Ltd | PCC COVID-19 Project 1 Gazebo - Shade Garden 1 Gazebo - The Square | 2,976.67 | 595.33 | 3,572.00 |
| 6/1/21 | PPL/PRS Ltd | Town Hall Music Royalties – 2021-2022 – PRS - 2021-2022 – PPL - | 58.09 53.50 | 11.62 10.70 | 69.71 64.20 |
| 28/1/21 | OVW | Fee for Remote Training 9/12/20 Cllrs McClatchey, Thomas, Parry- Total £90 less 50% bursary | | | 45.00 |
| 1/2/21 | Ellis Peters | PCC COVID-19 Project Carpentry labour/materials - Shade Garden | | | 716.39 |
| 1/2/21 | Talgarth Building Supplies | PCC COVID-19 Project Building materials – Jan Invoice - Shade Garden | 1,686.22 | 337.24 | 2,023.46 |
| 1/2/2021 | Bruce Williams | The Mill Lease – Access/Egress – Town Hall – Mill Yard - £1 Pepper Corn rent 2021-2022 | | | 1.00 |
| 8/2/2021 | Skyrme Electrical Solutions Ltd | Town Hall – Annual Fire Alarm & Emergency Test 8/1 £140 + VAT. Remedial works from Annual Test - 2 x New Emergency Lights | 140.00 76.00 | 18.00 15.20 | 168.00 90.20 |
| 8/2/21 | Ironmongery Services Ltd | PCC COVID-19 Project Bolt down post shoes for Gazebo – The Square | 26.95 | 5.39 | 32.34 |
| 10/2/21 | Dwr Cymru | Public Conveniences – Water Rates – 20/8/20 – 3/2/21 | | | 201.94 |
| 11/2/21 | Cards & Gifts | 100 th Birthday Card – JG | | | 3.88 |

Business Reserve Account - £45,169.06 Current Account - £3,072.21

- **Zurich Insurance – 5 year fixed policy terminates 31 May 2021** – Noted we have received 3 Insurance Companies recommended by OVW in order to obtain quotations for the Town Council Insurance due for renewal on 1 June 2021.
RESOLVED: To arrange for up to date valuations of our Town Council owned properties from Mr Nesterow, AJN Design & Surveying Services Ltd, who undertakes this type of valuation for rebuild work and who has done work for us previously at three of our other properties. Noted Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr A Lord, Cllr R Reid together with the Clerk to scrutinize the current Insurance Policy for accuracy etc, prior to obtaining quotations.
- **Lease from Town Hall onto The Mill Yard** – Noted £1 peppercorn rent 2021/2022 due. For ratification on Finance Report.
- **Town Council Loan** – Received audit statement that reflects the principal balance outstanding of £26,063.23 at the present time until our next repayment is made on 8th March 2021, after which the principal balance outstanding will be £21,833.04. Note the loan will mature on 8 Sept 2023.

21/32 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & DISCUSSED –

WG Changes in Smoking Restrictions from 1 March 2021 – Cllr A Lord forwarded this information to the Chair/Town Councillors and TADSCA which takes effect from 1 March 2021. Noted TADSCA has confirmed arrangement of appropriate signage at the Children’s Play area.

RESOLVED: To obtain appropriate signage for all Town Council owned premises.

WG - Preparation and Publication of Statutory Financial Accounts 2020-21 – Information received, noting that as the pandemic continues there is an ongoing impact on local authority staff resources and there may be additional work to finalise the accounts this year. Authorities may therefore wish to prepare their accounts to the extended timetable used for 2019-2020.

WG - Keep Wales Safe Campaign – Noted Golley Slater Communications on behalf of WG is asking for our support with the Keep Wales Safe campaign to identify partners who can create awareness and help communities respond to the ever-changing pandemic.

PCC - Talgarth Town Hall - Welsh Parliament & Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Thursday, 6th May 2021 – Received Questionnaire for completion regarding the proposed Elections on 6 May. OVW suggests we accept the booking for the time being but we will need to wait and see what will happen about the elections for the Welsh Parliament as well as Police and Crime Commissioners. Noted PCC has booked the Town Hall, Talgarth, for these Elections, providing WG guidelines allow.

PCC - Result of Call For Broadband Expressions of Interest – Noted, PCC has informed us that the Broadband project group met last week to review the responses received, but our community has not been selected on this occasion, but if an opportunity arises in the future, they will be in contact again. In the meantime, PCC Community Broadband Officer would be happy to assist if you would like support in getting a scheme running in your area

Defibrillator on Town Hall - Noted the defibrillator, in this location, is not is working order. Clerk has been trying to contact Wales Cariad, who supplied the defibrillator to the Town Council, which we received as a donation from The Black Mountains Lions group. Noted Clerk is having difficulty in contacting Wales Cariad at the moment, despite leaving a message on their website but pursuing to get the Defibrillator in working order.

HM Land Registry – Survey for Community and Town Councils in Wales – Noted working in conjunction with Welsh and central Government, HM Land Registry is tasked with registering all public sector body land by 2025, then all privately held land by 2030.

RESOLVED: Clerk to submit the Survey by 25 Feb on behalf of the Town Council.

Letter of concern from local resident – A letter was received from Ms Lambton regarding her concerns of the grassed areas/flower boxes etc around the town.

RESOLVED: The letter was acknowledged and forwarded to the GfT group who responded to Ms Lambton’s concerns on 9 Feb.

GP Biotec – Received Annual Report 2020 for information. Noted that GP Biotec has arranged, a virtual meeting on Zoom to catch up on their agenda points, chaired by GP Biotec, on Wed 3 Mar at 6pm. Note Town Council reps on the GP Liaison Group – Cllr A Lord & Cllr R Reid.

Street Light TG135 Opposite Highcliffe Terrace – Noted Clerk reported this street light not working to PCC for attention

Hole in Road, Trefeca Fawr – Cllr R Reid reported there is a deep hole in the road junction to Cefyn Mawr farm and a blocked pipe in this location.

RESOLVED: The Clerk had reported the matter to PCC who has confirmed that the matter is being dealt with in due course.

Talgarth WAW 2020 Annual Report – Received update from John Gibson, Secretary, Talgarth WAW group, confirming that the National Walkers are Welcome Accreditor has assessed Talgarth WAW on their 2020 performance as “well done, criteria met”. A copy of the Annual Report was forwarded, for information.

Noted a Zoom meeting had been held on 2 Feb and attended by Cllr Dodds, Cllr Lord & Cllr McClatchey. Minutes of the meeting received, noting there will not be a WAW Festival in May 2021 but they are planning for a WAW Festival in May 2022.

On the Verge - Update received from Martin Draper and on circulation

21/33 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION –

WG Elections Team – Newsletter - Received

PCC & Town & Community meeting – Received draft Minutes of 13 Jan 21 meeting and confirmed minutes of 15 Oct 20 – on circulation with slides from the 13 Jan meeting.

Noted Cllr P Lewis Mayor, Cllr W Powell and the Clerk had joined the meeting.

OVW – News Bulletin - This Edition: Essential reading for all Clerks and Councillors –

Code of Conduct Review, Disqualification of Councillors – note new draft Guidance on the Code of Conduct for members of County and Community/Town Councils – note to submit any comments to communications@ombudsman.wales by 28 Feb 2021.

PAVO - Laptops 4 Schools - IT 4 Kids – Noted PAVO looking for laptops for Schools IT for children.

PAVO - E-Bulletin – Feb 2021

PAVO - Training – February remote training

Home Start Cymru – Received a leaflet and a poster about their service - website is

<https://homestartcymru.org.uk>

Keep Wales Tidy - Expert Advice Sessions 'Wildlife Gardeners Question Time' 15th Feb

5pm – Sent information onto Cllr L Elston-Reeves and Heather Summerfield who undertook the fruit garden at Ysgol y Mynydd du.

Requests for Financial Assistance – Requests received from Llangattock Litter Pickers & Brecon Dial a Ride - to be considered at 10 Mar meeting with other requests received 2020/2021.

21/34 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS:

- 7pm Wednesday 10 March 2021
- 7pm Wednesday 14 April 2021
- 7pm Wednesday 12 May 2021 AGM

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: