

MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING AT 7PM, WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 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 G Jones, Cllr A Lord, Cllr T McClatchey, Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor), Cllr R Reid,

APOLOGIES: Cllr C Green, Cllr M Dodds (*due to a technical hitch*), Cllr R Parry, Cllr C Voyle

IN ATTENDANCE : Josephine Rumsey (Town Clerk)

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

21/164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No Declarations of Interest.

21/165 MINUTES: The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 10 and 24 November 2021, had previously been circulated to Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 10 and 24 November 2021, be accepted as correct records.

21/166 PLANNING MATTERS – To consider Planning Applications:

- **BBNPA – RECONSULTATION DUE TO AMENDMENT - Planning Application 21/20401/FUL** - Proposal: “The installation of 2 no. Electric Vehicle (EV) Quick Charging points and 2 no. electrical cabinets, associated cabling and ancillary works, including the installation of stainless steel bollards around the proposed equipment.” Address: Talgarth Car Park, High Street, Talgarth LD3 0PQ.
RESOLVED: To support this Planning Application.

21/167 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

BBNPA – Meeting 2 Nov with Chief Executive – Cllr P Lewis, Mayor reported that he had attended this remote meeting, at which Helen Roderick of the BBNPA, enquired if the Town Council had any thoughts of pursuing the Talgarth Town Plan, previously commenced by the Talgarth & District Regeneration Group (TDRG). Noted documentation and a memory stick relating to the work already undertaken by the TDRG, was handed to the Town Council in 2019, in order to develop the Town Plan, to become future BBNPA Supplementary Planning Guidance. Noted Helen Roderick BBNPA has offered to continue her assistance in the future, if required.
RESOLVED: To circulate the information and discuss at a future meeting, in the New Year.

7.20pm Cllr R Reid joined the meeting.

PAVO – Noted that COVID updates and training dates have been received, and circulated and that Cllr A Bufton had attended the remote Workshop for Community Buildings on the 17 Nov.

Afon Llynfi Pollution – Noted a summary of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24 Nov, is currently being processed and, as agreed, a response will be prepared and agreed by all attendees, for publication and to lobby our Senedd Members.

Received an update from Cllr James Evans, MS, who was unable to attend the 24 Nov meeting, confirming that he has written to the Minister Julie James MS regarding his concerns of the River Llynfi Pollution Report etc and forwarded a copy of her response dated 2 Dec, which had been circulated.

21/168 TALGARTH/TREFECCA ISSUES:

GP BIOTEC LIAISON GROUP – Noted the Town Council has received reports of unacceptable smells over the last couple of months, suggesting the smells are emanating from the GP Biotec site. Cllr A Lord, Member of the GP Liaison Group, gave a brief update on the GP Liaison meeting of 1 Dec, stating:

- That an explanation for the recent smells was offered - it appears that the charcoal filter attached to the blood tank has reached the end of its useful life. It is being replaced by a different system and is suffering commissioning issues.
- The group has welcomed a new member, Lucy Owen, who is currently monitoring several AD plants in the Hereford and borders area. She is independent from GP.
- It was also clarified that GP Biotec is not currently spreading in the Talgarth area, this being the reason why the Liaison Group is not currently receiving spreading notices.
- The Llynfi Pollution Incident 31 July 2020 was discussed briefly.

RESOLVED: To seek further information re the Llynfi Pollution Incident 31 July 2020.

GROW FOR TALGARTH –

PAVO – Volunteer of the Year - Presentation to Grow for Talgarth – Noted that, although Powys ‘Volunteer of the Year’ awards ceremony had been held online this year, a PAVO representative attended the 4 Dec Xmas event, who, together with PAVO Trustee Cllr W Powell and Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, presented GfT with their certificate and glass trophy for winning in this year’s Environment category.

Noted Cllr G Jones, Cllr R Reid, Cllr C Voyle and the Town Clerk were in attendance.

- **Proposal to plant 2 or 3 small Rowan trees on PCC land** – Noted the ‘Grow for Talgarth’ proposal to PCC, for permission to plant 2 – 3 trees Rowan/Mountain Ash trees in the triangular grassed area adjacent the River Ennig, has been discussed at Town Council level and local level via various social media groups to verify that there is local consensus, also approval of the neighbours to the proposed site has been obtained.

PROPOSED: To refer the GfT’s original request back to PCC for their consideration, now that the tasks requested by PCC, have been completed.

- **Talgarth Co-op Support to local Groups in Talgarth** – Cllr R Reid proposed that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Co-op Talgarth for the tremendous financial support the Co-op has given to the local groups in Talgarth, raising more than £40,000 over the last 5 years.

RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed to this proposal and to forward a letter of thanks to the Co-op for all their valued financial assistance in supporting the groups in Talgarth over the last 5 years.

- **Christmas Lights** – Cllr P Lewis, Mayor reported on the great display of Xmas lights again this year, with The Square looking absolutely lovely and seasonal. Cllr R Reid confirmed that due to COVID, the Lights Team have only put up the overhead lights and the ones on the face of the Town Hall, this year.

Cllr R Reid confirmed that the power supply of electricity for the Xmas lights in Bell Street, has, again this year, been provided by The Bell Hotel.

RESOLVED: To forward a letter of thanks to Martin Draper, Chair, on behalf of the Group, and to thank him and the Team for all their hard work in maintaining the lights, and for the lovely display again this year, which is so appreciated by all.

Also to reimburse costs of any electricity provided for the Xmas lights, as in previous years.

- **TIRC meeting 2.30pm 6 Dec 2021 at the Strand Café** – Received, for information, Agenda/minutes of the meeting held on 6 Dec.

ST GWENDOLINE'S CHURCHYARD

- **War Graves** – Noted that the Clerk has ordered the 8 Holly Wreaths for the War Graves, as usual – 7 in Churchyard + 1 at former Mid Wales Hospital - £6 each = Total £48.

Noted that Valmai Davies has kindly offered to again place the wreaths on the War Graves.

RESOLVED: To payment of the Invoice from Ann Davies of £48 for the 8 Holly Wreaths and to thank Valmai for her assistance in laying the wreaths.

- **MEMSAFE – Memorial Testing** – Noted that an update has been received from Memsafe re the repair costs for the 30 failed Memorials identified and a suggested way forward.

RESOLVED: To have a full remote meeting of the Town Council at 7pm Thurs 6 Jan 2022 to discuss the best way forward re this matter, prior to the Precept meeting on 10 Jan 2022.

8pm Cllr Andrew Bufton joined the meeting – *late due to work commitments*

TOWN HALL & PUBLIC CONVENIENCES –

- **Xmas event – Town Hall, The Square & Mill Yard – Sat 4 Dec** – Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, reported that the Xmas event by GfT, the Luncheon Club and TIRC, was well attended and appeared to go well.

Thanks were extended to Cllr A Bufton, Cllr R Reid and Cllr C Voyle, for their valued assistance with the event.

- **Cleaner vacancy** – Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, asked the views of Town Councillors re the way forward with this post.

RESOLVED: To discuss this position, in the New Year, when more information is to hand.

- **Stage Curtains** – Noted Cllr Bufton has met, on site, with a second company, and a quote for the supply and erect of the replacement Stage Curtains/rails, had been received today. It is noted that the company will be returning to take more accurate measurements, due to the stage area previously being stored with chairs. Material samples are yet to be received and some clarification with regard to the curtain tracking.

RESOLVED: Quotes to be circulated when more information is to hand, to consider the best way forward at the 7pm Thurs 6 Jan 2022, prior to the Precept meeting on 10 Jan 2022.

- **Town Hall/Public Conveniences** – Discussion took place and agreed that the redecoration work should take place early in the New Year.

RESOLVED: To obtain some guideline figures re costs for the redecoration and to prepare a specification for the redecoration work of the Town Hall, for discussion at the 6 Jan 2022 meeting, prior to the prior to the Precept meeting on 10 Jan 2022.

Also to prepare a second specification for the necessary works required in order to bring the Gents' Public Conveniences back into use, as soon as possible.

- **Small Electrical jobs & PAT Testing – Town Hall/Clerk's IT equipment** –

Noted on 17 Dec, Skyrme Electrical will be undertaking a couple of small urgent jobs and undertaking the Town Hall and Clerk's IT equipment, PAT testing - £2.50 + VAT per item, same charge as previous few years.

TADSCA – Children's Play area – Received confirmation from Peter Weavers on 17 Nov, that the TADSCA application to PCC for assistance towards improving the play area has been approved in the sum of £8000.

RESOLVED: Cllr A Lord, Liaison Officer to meet with TADSCA to discuss the future and forward progression on this matter, as soon as possible.

TALGARTH INDOOR BOWLS & TALGARTH BOWLS CLUB –

- **Indoor Bowls at Church Hall** – Letter of concern received 26 Nov, from the Indoor Bowls Club, regarding a rumour that the Church Hall may be closing at Xmas and requesting temporary storage of their Bowls mats in the Market Hall, if this rumour was true. With the Market Hall not able to be used, due to COVID restrictions, the Mayor confirmed that 3 months temporary storage of the mats, in the Market Hall, had been agreed. It was noted, on 28 Nov, that a decision had been made by the Parochial Church Council, for the Church Hall to remain open for a further 3 months and to be reviewed on 31 Mar 2022. Paul Evans, Indoor Bowls Club has since confirmed that as the Church Hall is to remain open for a further 3 months, the temporary storage in the Market Hall, would not now be required.

- **Outdoor Bowls Club** – Letter of concerns received on 29 Nov from the outdoor Bowls Club, stating that some of their members, who also play Indoor Bowls had raised concern of the rumour that the Church Hall may be closing at Xmas. Clerk informed the Secretary of the Bowls Club that it had been agreed on 28 Nov that the Church Hall was to remain open for a further 3 months and to be reviewed on 31 Mar 2022. Noted that the Bowling Club has concerns of dog fouling on the Bowling Green and King George V Playing fields, which they have also referred to TADSCA. Discussion took place and it was pointed out that the Bowling Club is an enclosed area with no public footpath or right of way and it was suggested that the Bowling Club organizes some suitable signage to be erected at the entrances to the Bowling Club. It was also suggested that the Town Council puts a suitable web page on the Town Council's website re 'dog fouling' issues, as discussed, with the exception of guide dogs to include the Bowling Club and the King George V playing fields and to pass this information onto TADSCA.

RESOLVED:

- To suggest to the Bowling Club to erect at entrances some signage - 'No Dogs Allowed' with the exception of guide dogs, and pointing out there is no public footpath or right of way through these premises
- The Town Council puts a suitable webpage on the Town Council's website as suggested above.

POLICE/SPEEDWATCH

- **PCC Follow-up meeting 2pm – 3pm Fri 10 Dec re Trefecca Highways/Speed Management Concerns** - Noted that this PCC remote meeting has been arranged, with PCC reps, Police and Town Council reps re some questions raised with regard to access to information from the speed monitoring strips fitted in the Summer, by PCC and the charging regime that apparently exists.

Noted Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, is not able to attend due to another commitment which has arisen.

RESOLVED: Cllr A Lord and Cllr R Reid will be attending from the Town Council together with County Councillor W Powell.

- **Police & Crime Commissioner – Proposed Visit 23 Nov** – Noted the visit proposed to Talgarth, had been postponed due to sickness – date to be re-arranged.
- **Speedwatch** – Noted no sessions have taken place since 13 Oct, due to PCSO being on sick leave but we have been informed that she is now back at work and will be recommencing the training for the 4 new volunteers, so that our Speedwatch team can all be fully trained up. Noted reports of excessive speeding appears to be on the increase and that the Go Safe van was in the area today.

PCC Highway matters –

- **Pavement outside the Ice-cream Parlour** – Noted a report had been received that a local lady resident, had tripped and fallen, in this location, which had been reported to PCC. PCC has since inspected the footway and raised a works order to reset 3 no. slabs as a precaution following on from our complaint. Noted the work has not yet been undertaken.
- **Fence at Recycling Centre** – Noted that the damaged fence, in this location, has now fallen down and the old bit of the fence removed by PCC.
- **Overgrown tree** – Noted, it would appear that the tree near the recycling area, reported by a resident, has been pruned alongside some other trees in the carpark.
- **Bad State of Repair on the Fostyll Road - out of Talgarth and just past Brenton Hall -** Cllr A Bufton reported the bad state of repair of the highway, between Brenton Hall and Park Bungalow, in this location.

RESOLVED: To report this bad state of road to PCC.

21/169 FINANCIAL UPDATE: To consider and approve Monthly Accounts – previously circulated.

Accounts for Payment/Ratification since last meeting 8 November 2021:

Date / Cheque No	To	Item	Net	VAT	Total
09/11/21 3479	TIRC	70 copies of Remembrance Sunday Service leaflets	£35.00		£35.00
09/11/21 3480	Amazon	250 x A3 sheets paper for Remembrance Sunday leaflets	£11.95	£2.39	£14.34
14/11/21 3481	Talgarth Parochial CC	Candles of Light Remembrance – Lord Livsey, Cllrs M Mullan, V E Davies, D Eckley - £2.50 each	£10.00		£10.00
14/11/21 2482	Gwent & Powys Army Cadet Force	Donation – Attendance at Remembrance Sunday Service	£30.00		£30.00
17/11/21 3483	Town Clerk	Nov Salary & Expenses	£1,062.05		£1,062.05
29/11/21 3484	V W Cleaning Services	Public Conveniences – Open Gates – Oct & Nov £100.26 & Cleaning Town Hall – 10, 11, 29 Nov £158.60	£258.86		£258.86
03/12/21 3485	One Voice Wales	Training Fee – Cllr C Green – Code of Conduct 27/10/21- 50% discount – Cost to pay £15.	£15.00		£15.00

03/12/21 3486	Skyrme Electrical	Town Hall – 6 monthly Fire Alarm & Emergency Test 1/9/21	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00
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03/12/2021 Business Reserve Account - £33,672.42 Current Account - £1,119.02

(Less unpresented cheques: £30.00, £15.00, £54.00 = £99.00)

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

21/170 TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL - AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 –

Received from Audit Wales on 7 Dec 2021, a copy of the certified Annual Return and Audit Report for 2020-21, signed up as satisfactory, with no issues.

Notice of Conclusion of the Audit to be displayed from 10 Dec 2021, for the required 14 days on the Town's notice board and Town Council's website, together with the certified copy of the 2020-2021 accounts.

Cllr P Lewis, Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked the Clerk for all her dedicated work and congratulated her on the presentation and satisfactory audit of the accounts 2020-2021.

21/171 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED –

WG - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 – Received update from the Minister for Climate Change confirming that the coming into force of the new TAN 15 and Flood Map for Planning has been suspended until 1/6/2023, noting that the existing TAN 15, published in 2004, and the Development Advice Map will continue in the meantime as the framework for assessing flood risk.

WG - Well-being of Future Generations National Stakeholder Forum – Information received.

WG - Ageing Well in Wales - Information Highlights – Nov 2021 update.

WG – COVID – Updates received.

PCC – COVID – Updates received.

PCC Budget Survey - Residents, businesses, and other stakeholders across Powys are being asked to share their views as part of the Council's budget setting process. Survey ends 19/12/21.

PCC - Elections 2022 –Received information regarding the PCC and Town & Community Council Elections on 5/5/2022. It was noted to include costs in our Precept figures 2022-2023.

PCC - Hafren Dyfrdwy Awards

PCC - Powys Planning Decision Notices - 8 - 22 Nov 2021

PCC - PCC & Town & Community Council Liaison Meetings - Information from PCC regarding grant funding for any purpose, is signposted to the website and social media platforms.

PCC - FAW Grassroots Facilities Fund – Noted Application for grants supporting projects within Powys. Noted - deadline for applications is 5 Dec 2021 and any funding received must be spent by 15 Apr 2022.

BBNPA Extraordinary General Meeting 3.30pm 14 Dec 2021 – Agenda received.

BBNPA Weekly Planning Applications; Agenda for BBNPA meeting, 26 Nov 10.00 am.

OVW News Bulletin – Nov 2021

Powys CHC - 9.30am 7 Dec via Teams – Notice and Agenda of the meeting received with:

- Report 'Mental Health of Young People During COVID-19 Pandemic'.
- Powys CHC – Preparation of the Annual Plan 2022-23 – Questionnaire for Stakeholders – Survey by 9/1/2022.

Black Mountains Lions Group – Noted that the Black Mountains Lions Group will be replacing the tree that had been accidentally cut off on PCC land outside Talgarth Surgery. These 3 trees were donated by the Group in 2014 and permission for their erection given by PCC.

Request for Financial Assistance – Hope House - Noted the Clerk has acknowledged this request, to be considered with all other requests received during the year, at our March meeting. Clerks & Councils Direct – Nov 2021 – Issue 138

21/172 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS:

- 7pm Thurs 6 Jan 2022 – Remote meeting – Memorial costs/Stage Curtains/Hall Redecoration
- 7pm Mon 10 Jan 2022- Remote Precept meeting
- 7pm Wed 12 Jan 2022 – Remote Monthly meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.42pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: