

TALGARTH TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

Are you passionate about the Community you live and have spare time to commit to being part of the team? What does the role entail?

The Town/Community Council is an elected tier of local government closest to the people with a range of powers to act and deliver services for their electorate. Community Councillors work together to serve the community and assist residents with their issues and aspirations, listening to and representing all views and making a positive difference by influencing decisions that affect the community. Youth representatives are encouraged to be part of the team.

Challenging decisions are made on a wide variety of subjects which members are accountable for. Town/Community Councillors have a responsibility to be well informed about diverse local views by engaging with residents and being immersed in community life as a whole. They prepare for, attend and take part in regular meetings, agree and comply with a range of policies and ensure the Town/Community Council is run properly within its statutory powers. The Town/Community Council sets an annual budget which forms a base for a Precept request to Powys County Council, who collect the funds from the electorate and pay to the Town/Community Council. The Town/Community Council owns and/or operates a number of assets including St. Gwendoline's Church burial ground, the Town Hall, King George V Playing fields, Bowling Club, bus shelter/Trefecca, noticeboards and seats. Regular inspections and basic maintenance of assets are carried out by the Town Councillors and specialist contracts advertised and awarded. Training is undertaken on topical matters such as planning related matters and regulatory subjects. Some small grant funding to not for profit making groups/charities can be provided. Town/Community Councillors are also appointed to represent the Town/Community Council and actively take part on many local and national committees/groups and give regular feedback to colleagues. Councillors are encouraged to take on roles to share responsibilities between members equally and as a team.

Talgarth Town Council meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday evening each month, except August, in the Town Hall, Talgarth. Additional meetings can be held as required. Due to Covid-19 currently meetings are held remotely, via Skype. Future meetings are planned to be on a multi location basis, in line with legislation.

Much voluntary time is given by Town/Community Councillors. Based on the size of the electorate in the community, the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales annually sets out if a contribution towards some expenses incurred may be paid. Councillors often choose not to accept any expenses payments. A table is published annually in the finance section of this website showing all expenses paid.

The Clerk to Council is the only direct employee of the Community Council and also acts as Responsible Financial Officer, Proper Officer and Data Protection Officer. This includes managing all the financial affairs and general administration to meet with the legislative requirements and act as an advisor to the Council.

There is an Internal Auditor who carries out an annual audit of the systems and procedures of the Council. An external audit is also carried out annually by Welsh Government appointed auditors.

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