

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 9 MAY 2018, AT 7 PM IN THE TOWN HALL, TALGARTH

PRESENT:– Cllr J Wilding (Mayor), Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor) (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr G Jones (arrived 7.30pm), Cllr P Lewis, Cllr J Lilly, Cllr A Lord, Cllr R Reid, Cllr Pip Turner

APOLOGIES:- Cllr Z Argent, Cllr N Bally, Amy Argent – Youth Member

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk

18/111 TO DECLARE MATTERS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations of interest.

18/112 MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 10 May 2017, previously confirmed at Town Council meeting held on 14 June 2017, were circulated for ease of reference.

18/113 REPORT BY OUT-GOING MAYOR YEAR 2016/2017 – Cllr J Wilding, out-going Mayor, circulated her annual report , in advance of the meeting, as follows:
 “As Mayor since May 2016, I feel privileged to have worked with town council members to promote, develop and sustain Talgarth Town. I would like to repeat my thanks to everyone for all the support, assistance and work undertaken throughout the year. Each councillor brings their own knowledge, skills and expertise and of course their valuable time which has been most appreciated. Town councillors have again worked hard maintaining, improving and developing Talgarth and its community. As a team, I feel we have worked extremely well together to achieve the aims and objectives we planned for 2017 - 2018.

The past year has been enjoyable, interesting and very busy with many activities, visits and civic engagements (including meeting the Nepalese Ambassador, Police & Crime Commissioner, local MP and AM’s, giving out medals to finishers of the Classic Car rally) and we hosted One Voice Wales in the Town Hall and I was proud to lay the wreath during Remembrance parade.

We continue to support many local events which ensure Talgarth remains progressive, lively and encourages tourism, including the Talgarth Walking Festival, our Twinning with Pizzaferrato, the Festival of the Black Mountains and Talgarth Lights Group events and Talgarth Sports to highlight just a few.

Town councillors are elected members of the community who represent the interests of the whole community as a collective, influencing development and the other decision makers such as Planning, Highways, Health and Social Services and Powys County Council.

Representation, debate and discussion, during the past year has involved numerous planning applications and proposals including housing and building projects, such as, Churchfields, Talgarth Primary School (Ysgol y Mynydd Ddu) and highways issues such as reviewing the proposed roundabout /school access which is being developed albeit this continues to be under debate and will remain so until the safety of the children is secured. The beautiful new school being built, opened and enjoyed by those using the facilities together with the new homes being built a great asset and development for the area which the town council have had substantial input in both of them.

We also participated and supported various campaigns from the Welsh Assembly, PCC, Health consultations, the dementia friendly programme, One Voice Wales, our Town Plan 2018 - 2020 development (assisted by Talgarth & District Regeneration Group) and the consultation regarding the future of Town Councils themselves.

The Town Hall emergency egress has now been completed, albeit the completion of the internal alterations remains ongoing with the future plans for the Town Hall basement yet to be determined.

The regular review meetings with GP Biotec Group have been useful albeit some areas of development are still something the Town Council wish to ensure happens in practice and monitoring the situation together with NRW will continue. It would not be prudent to become complacent and we will continue to engage and check the processes are safe and meet regulation.

The council together with Hay on Wye and Bronllys councils avidly support the Bronllys Wellbeing Park CLT Ltd development and were for a period custodians of the membership fees for safe keeping, paid by the membership until the Board were voted in, with the funds now transferred into the BWBP CLT Ltd bank account. The council welcomed the new project

development officer and has regular updates of the projects progress.

Powys County Council have devolved many services and assets to local communities, to date the Council have now taken over the toilets, sports pavilion and playing fields and are in the process of taking the Talgarth Bowls Club asset which will be leased to the club thereafter to ensure its future. It has been a somewhat drawn out process albeit ensuring the asset is secured in an appropriate state (e.g all the building, electrical, plumbing and maintenance work is completed) is an obligation of the council to make sure these assets are not going to cost excessively when they are taken on.

Last year, I reported we were continuing to fight for the free car parking facility, as PCC were intending to impose charges and had said they were going ahead installing meters regardless. We liaised widely and put our plight to Mark Drakeford AM Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government via Lyn Cadwallader (CEO One Voice Wales) regarding the inadequate and incorrect procedures of the consultation process and the inequalities with our council not receiving the same opportunities as others if we were to have the meters installed eg Hay on Wye receiving a 20% refund of charged fees. Thankfully the hard work and effort was worthwhile, although there may be future debate and possibly a consultation. We presently have ensured the meters will not be installed and the car park remains a free facility which I'm sure residents are very happy to know and will help us promote tourism in the area too.

A development which continues to be on the town council agenda is the former Mid-Wales Hospital, which has been a long term issue causing much local distress and difficulties. Together with the owner and developers, the police, fire service and local residents representatives (Neighbourhood Management Group) there has been a concerted effort to prevent further deterioration, vandalism and inappropriate activities being undertaken on or around the site. The developers presented a proposed plan of development to the town council and continue to prepare a development brief for the planning application/s. It is an ongoing problem which has some interesting prospects the town council are keen to support and promote, always assuming the proposals are suitable, enhance the area and meet all planning regulations.

There has also been a proposal to initiate a college (The Black Mountain College) on the old hospital site albeit it is not totally reliant on this site only and has great merit for future employment, education and retaining our younger people in the area. The BBNPA have provided substantial funding that requires matching which is being applied for by the project lead which highlights their commitment. The town council also support this excellent project, two councillors attend the steering group meetings to keep the council updated together with the regular briefing note from the project lead.

The Old Post Office has been a bone, of contention, for which I remain extremely disappointed and frustrated about, as the town council are powerless to engage the owner or get any enforcement procedures into action. The actual flats and the bow window have been installed and are very good albeit PCC had an ongoing battle to secure these too. It will be evident the town council needs to follow this up rigorously and try to get PCC to engage with the owner or determine some enforcement criteria which may assist.

It has been a pleasure to know the old Nat West bank building was taken over almost directly when the bank closed by the Wye & Usk Foundation. They also have great plans for the river and local areas to enhance and develop them substantially. The opening on Monday 8th May 2017 by the Foundation ensured the building wasn't idle for too long and will be maintained rather than left unoccupied.

We have voted in a new councillor this year, introduced a youth representative with the hopeful anticipation a further youth member will also like to join us, which obviously adds to the dynamics, debate and discussion and future of the council itself. Fortunately we have also been able to engage a few people as "Friends of the Churchyard" and military graves who will assist in maintaining the church yard and graves.

This year's Mayors Parlour was well supported and provided a real opportunity for cross fertilization of information, ideas and helped to produce an annual calendar of events which are being displayed, updated and reviewed by the Tourist Information Resource Centre which helps to prevent overlap of events and promote them wider.

Again, I wish to offer my sincere gratitude to all our community organisations, charities and individual volunteers for their commitment and tireless, ongoing fundraising efforts. Their contribution to the local community is truly valued.

During the past year I have attended over 80 meetings, including the monthly town council and burial meetings together with attempting to be present, at as many of the local events as possible to support all of them. Although it has been a challenge at times, it has also been a privilege to

serve Talgarth in a mayoral capacity.

Some areas which I have not been able to undertake during the year require review and further input during 2018-2019 are:

- Dog Fouling - Production of Video (June 2018) and concerted effort on prevention
- Maintenance & Administrator Appointment - employing a person is to undertake asset maintenance together with administration duties to aid succession planning to ensure the future of the town council workload is managed effectively and appropriately.

My husband, John Wilding has supported me throughout the year attending many events and engagements alongside me for which I am very grateful. I thank Deputy Mayor Councillor William Powell for his support and standing in when I've not been available.

The determination and input of all the Town Council membership, together with the hard work carried out by our Town Clerk has allowed us to achieve so much this year which I want to offer my sincere thanks to them all.

I have served as Mayor for the past two years, which as highlighted above, has been truly enjoyable and a great honour however I feel it is time to step down now to allow someone else to lead and help the town progress. I am obviously happy to remain as a councillor and I wish my successor and the council every success for the future."

18/114 MAYOR FOR YEAR 2018/2019

Proposed by Cllr A Lord and seconded by Cllr P Lewis, all in favour that Cllr W Powell be nominated Mayor for the ensuing year 2018/2019.

Noted there were no other nominations.

Cllr W Powell accepted the position of Mayor for the ensuing year 2018/2019 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Section 83, Local Government Act 1972 of Mayor in the presence of the Clerk.

Cllr W Powell requested that, in the future, the Town Council undertakes its work by having regular group meeting for Planning, Premises, Finance, Burial Committee etc and reporting recommendations back to full Council.

Any groups that need an urgent decision, a special open meeting will be arranged.

Cllr A Lord proposed with a unanimous decision to thank Cllr Jacqui Wilding, retiring Mayor, for all her dedicated work undertaken during the last two years as Mayor.

18/115 DEPUTY MAYOR FOR YEAR 2018/2019

Proposed by Cllr A Bufton and seconded by Cllr M Dodds, all in favour, that both Cllr Pip Turner and Cllr P Lewis be nominated as Joint Deputy Mayor, for the ensuing year 2018/2019.

Noted there were no other nominations.

Cllr Pip Turner and Cllr P Lewis accepted the joint position of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year 2018/2019.

18/116 MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising from these Minutes which are not on the Agenda.

18/117 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Clerk reported that Sharn Drury was prepared to be appointed as Internal Auditor for the ensuing year 2018/2019, and her fee would remain at £15 per hour and she would internal audit quarterly as per Audit requirements since 1 Apr 2016.

Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr A Lord, all in favour, to appoint Sharn Drury, as Internal Auditor for the ensuing year 2018/2019.

18/118 ANNUAL REVIEW/ADOPTION OF TOWN COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, RISK ASSESSMENT, ASSETS REGISTER & TOWN HALL FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – Draft documents circulated in advance of meeting. **Standing Orders** - Noted the draft Standing Orders now include: Youth Member/s 25e, New Members Allowances – 17f and the new 2018 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) covered under Para 11. Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr J Lilly, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Financial Regulations - Note the Financial Regulations remain un-changed since last year. Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr R Reid, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Town Council Risk Assessment – Noted there are 2 additions this year – Allowances made payable to Members following the publication IPRW’s Annual Report and the new 2018 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)- Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Assets Register as at 31 March 2018 - Proposed by Cllr M Dodds and seconded by Cllr G Jones, all in favour, to adopt this document.

Fire Risk Assessment (Town Hall) – Cllr A Bufton reported that this Fire Risk Assessment would be amended when the advisory works are completed. **Agreed** to adopt until such time.

18/119 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON SUB-COMMITTEES/ORGANISATIONS FOR YEAR 2018/2019 – Noted Town Councillors agreed to represent the Town

Council on the various Sub-Committees and other groups for 2018/2019, and a list was compiled for circulation to Town Councillors.

Agreed to re-look at the list and revise as necessary.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Cllr A Lord agreed to lead this on behalf of the Town Council.

18/120 TOWN COUNCILLORS SIGNATORIES ON NAT WEST BANK A/C – **Agreed** to include Cllr W Powell, Mayor with the current 5 signatories: Cllr A Lord, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr R Reid and Cllr J Wilding and Josephine Rumsey, Town Clerk, for transferring between accounts.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: