

**MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AT 7PM,
WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2025, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE
ROOM, TOWN HALL, TO DETERMINE THE PRECEPT FOR 2025/2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr L Elston-Reeves (Mayor) (In the Chair), Cllr A Lord (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A Brown, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr D Coleman, Cllr J Evans, Cllr C Green, Cllr G Jones, Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor)

APOLOGIES: Cllr C Briggs, Cllr B Dale, Cllr M Dodds,

IN ATTENDANCE: Josephine Rumsey (Town Clerk),

WELCOME: Cllr L Elston-Reeves, Mayor, welcomed members to the meeting.

25/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Declarations of Interest given –

- Cllr W Powell in respect of Agenda item 4 Grant applications for 2025-2026 –
- Cllr A Brown in respect of Agenda item 4 item para 5 - Grant Application for 2025/2026

25/15 MINUTES – The Minutes of the last Precept meeting held on 17 Jan 2024 and approved at the 14 Feb 2024 meeting were circulated, for ease of reference.

25/16 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / CONSIDERATION –

- (a) **PCC Precept letter dated 26/11/2024** – Information letter dated 26 Nov 2024 received - noted Precept request 2025-2026 to be submitted to PCC by 31 Jan 2025.
- (b) **Town Councillor Allowances 2025-2026** – Cllr L Elston-Reeves reminded Town Councillors of the annual entitlement to Councillor Allowances, details previously circulated: Homeworking arrangements - £156 & Consumables - £52, which are exempt of PAYE arrangements. Town Councillors will automatically receive this amount at end of financial year - any Town Councillors not wishing to accept these payments must complete and sign an ‘Opt out’ form, previously circulated.
- (c) **Bollards – RESOLVED:** To accept the Quote of M H Davies in the sum of £1559.40 + VAT.
- (d) **Public Conveniences – Hire Agreement – RESOLVED:** To finalise Hire Agreement, as agreed.
- (e) **Review of Hall Hire Fees** – Proposed fees list, agreed at 15 Jan meeting, needs to be updated as agreed. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to circulate finalised list and to agree category re hiring charges list and we can finalise at 12 Feb meeting.

25/17 TO DETERMINE THE PRECEPT FOR 2025-2026 – Cllr L Elston-Reeves handed over to Cllr A Lord, for his presentation of the Precept part of the meeting.

Cllr Lord went through his presentation explaining the key points indicated in his advice notes, which he had prepared on behalf of the Town Council, in order to determine the Precept 2025-2026.

Grant applications for 2025-2026 – Declarations of interest by Cllrs Powell & Brown

- Cllr W Powell, who had declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 – Grant applications for 2025-2026, left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision making.
 - Cllr A Brown, who had declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 – TDRG part – Grant applications for 2025-2026, left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision making.
- 1. Gwernfyed High School** – Grant Application 2025/2026 requested £200 – **RESOLVED:** After discussion it was agreed that a grant of £200 would be made in the year 2025/2026.

2. Bronllys Well Being Park – Grant Application 2025/2026 requested £50 - £60 – **RESOLVED:** It was decided that the Town council would not pay a Grant but instead would offer free Town Hall hire. This would require a contribution to energy costs but the hire fee would be waived.

3. Talgarth Repair Cafe – Grant Application 2025/2026 requested £200. **RESOLVED:** The Precept meeting would normally consider items for expenditure for the financial year 2025/2026, however, as this is seed funding and the wish is to get started immediately the Town Council is prepared to pay this in the current financial year.

4. Talgarth Community Hall – Grant Application 2025/2026 requested £200. **RESOLVED:** After discussion it was agreed that a grant of £200 would be made in the year 2025/2026.

5. Talgarth & District Regeneration Group – Grant Application 2025/2026 requested £750. **RESOLVED:** It was noted that a grant of £500 was agreed for the financial year 2024/2025 on the production of audited accounts which are still required. It is understood that although the application is from TDRG the monies are to fund the Library. The TDRG in this instance is acting as an umbrella with a constitution which was required by Powys CC.

The current application is for £750 which represents a 50% increase on the previous year. This caused some discussion with regards to the acceptance of a recurring cost to the Town Council. It was felt that such a commitment would have to be put to the Council Tax paying public for them to agree or reject. The Town Council has to protect the Council Tax payers from avoidable increases.

It was agreed that a grant of £200 would be made in the year 2025/2026. Further funds could be made available if a strategy for raising funds was made clear to the Council.

Project List - The project list presented for consideration was fully considered.

RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed to the summary proposals – attached.

PROJECTED TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2025/2026 **£86,568.50**

RESOLVED: It was proposed, voted and decided to set the precept 2025/2026 at **£78,000.00.**

Cllr L Elston-Reeves, Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Cllr A Lord for his valued assistance in preparing these figures and notes for discussion with Town Councillors, in order to set the Precept for 2025/2026.

Town Councillors were acutely aware of the financial pressures being faced by fellow local residents, with likely increases to come in Powys County Council Tax demands, including the Dyfed Powys Police and Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Precepts. This was a major factor for Town Councillors in their deliberations in determining their Precept level 2025/2026.

25/18 DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING - 7pm Wed 12 Feb 2025.

There was no further business to be discussed and the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

Signed:

Date:

Summary of Projected spend - April 2025 to March 2026

<u>Salaries</u>	£36,770.00
<u>Town Hall</u>	£11,851.00
<u>General Admin</u>	£12,040.00
<u>Training Courses</u>	£1,000.00
<u>War Graves/Remembrance</u>	£130.00
<u>Town Hall/Toilets Maintenance</u>	£6,100.00
<u>Burial Ground</u>	£10,500.00
<u>Elections</u>	£250.00
<u>Christmas lights</u>	£1,000.00
<u>Repair Loan</u>	£0.00
<u>Donations</u>	£477.50
<u>Project list</u>	£6,450.00
<u>Total</u>	£86,568.50