

MINUTES OF TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AT 7PM, WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 2025, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr A Lord (Mayor) (In the Chair), Cllr J Evans (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A Brown, Cllr A Bufton, Cllr M Dodds, Cllr B Dale, Cllr C Green, Cllr W Powell (Town & Powys County Councillor)

APOLOGIES: Cllr G Jones, Cllr L Elston-Reeves

IN ATTENDANCE: Josephine Rumsey (Town Clerk)

25/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr W Powell declared an interest in respect of **Planning Application Consultation Letter 25/23861/LBC** - Proposal: "Proposed retention of existing solar panel arrays and internal repairs and alterations." Address: Crescent House , Church Street, Talgarth LD3 0BL - Grid Reference: E:315698 N:233738.

25/111 MINUTES:

- The minutes of the Monthly Town Council meeting held on the 11 June 2025, had been previously circulated to Town Councillors.
RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Monthly Town Council meeting held on the 11 June 2025, be accepted as a correct record.

25/112 TOWN COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION & VACANCY – Received an application for a Talgarth Town Councillor vacancy, from Ben Shorthouse, a local Talgarth resident.
RESOLVED: To co-opt Ben Shorthouse to Talgarth Town Council and to continue to advertise for the remaining one Town Councillor vacancy.

25/113 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- **OVW /PAVO** – All updates and training dates – June – Sept - on circulation.
- **OVW Brecon and Radnorshire Area Committee** - Received draft minutes of the OVW AGM and 18 June meeting. Note next meeting – 7pm 25 Sept – online.
- **OVW Constitution and Governance Framework** - Received update from the OVW Chief Executive in respect of the OVW Constitution and Governance Framework. Noted these changes require formal adoption and that an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held remotely at 4 pm 3 Sept 2025. It is noted that 20% of member Councils must attend for the meeting to take place. This will be the only item of business. The agenda will include a summary of the proposed constitutional changes.
RESOLVED: Cllr A Lord, Mayor to attend the remote EGM 4pm 3 Sept 2025.
- **OVW Innovative Practice Conference – Wed 2 July 2025 – Royal Welsh Showground** – Noted no-one was able to attend. Minutes etc received and on circulation.
- **The Senedd- Bi Polar UK** – Noted Cllr A Lord, who had attended this Seminar on 9 July gave a brief update on the event and circulated the handout – 'Mapping the Gaps in Wales – the impact of incomplete data on bipolar diagnosis and care'.
RESOLVED: To fund Cllr A Lord's travel costs for this event.

25/114 TALGARTH /TREFECCA

- **Inconsiderate Parking outside Town Hall** – Cllr A Lord, Mayor, gave an update, on the position. **RESOLVED:** To pursue the way forward, as discussed.
- **Talgarth Town Centre issues/Liverpool House** – Noted it is understood that the sale will be completed shortly.

- **Digital Talgarth – Town Wifi** – Update received from Cllr J Evans, confirming that the wi fi is now operational from the rugby club, football club and town hall and useful to the town and that we can now advertise and share it on the website/facebook/notice board etc. Noted training is available and that Cllr Evans has attended the training and is happy to share his findings with colleagues.
- **Council Domain** – No new update.
- **S6 Biodiversity – Friends of the Wye** - Update received from Cllr J Evans that he has recently volunteered to join the group and take samples from the River Ennig at the bottom of his garden (as a tributary of the Wye) - this is to monitor the water quality and to ultimately aim to improve it. All of this data feeds into the platform Wye Viz Friends of the River Wye. If anyone else is interested in volunteering, please contact Cllr Evans, as the group is always looking for more volunteers. Cllr Evans would like to see how this develops and if there is anything as a council we can assist with in the future.
- **Council Allotment project** – No new update.
- **Youth Provision** – No new update.
- **Cost of Living Food Larder** – Cllr C Green reported that Cllr L Elston-Reeves, has had an initial meeting with a BMC representative, regarding the project and a further meeting will be held on 14 July.
- **Defibrillator for Trefecca** – Cllr A Lord, Mayor, reported that the new defibrillator for Trefecca has been received and will be fitted by Andrew Skyrme Electrician, in the disused phone box in Trefecca, free of charge. Defibrillator Awareness training will be arranged by St John Ambulance, in both the Town Hall and Trefecca College, as soon as possible.
- **Request from a member of the public re Defibrillator ownership/maintenance** - Received an enquiry from a member of the public, regarding the ownership and maintenance of defibrillators in the area. **RESOLVED:** To respond to the resident, that the Town Council currently owns and maintains the defibrillator located on the Town Hall, Talgarth and, when fitted, will own and maintain the newly purchased defibrillator for Trefecca.
- **BT Phone Box The Square – Consultation to remove the Telephone Equipment** – Noted that County Councillor W Powell has shared his correspondence with BT regarding this matter and will keep the Town Council informed of developments.
- **Celebrating our volunteers/groups** – Cllr J Evans, Deputy Mayor, suggested celebrating our volunteers/groups. **RESOLVED:** To discuss ways forward at a future meeting.
- **Black Mountains College (BMC) - Market Hall hiring for Farmers Markets**– Request received from Ben Rawlence BMC regarding potential markets in the Market Hall. **RESOLVED:** To agree to BMC’s request for future hirings for markets in the Market Hall and to seek further information.
- **Speed limit in Trefecca** – Cllr A Lord, Mayor, reported that he understood that the current speed limits through Trefecca were unenforceable and he is investigating further.
- **Signage request** – Request received from a local resident re the lack of signage directions for Talgarth. **RESOLVED:** To collate information and forward to the relevant authorities.

25/115 BBNPA Updates –

- **BBNPA Planning Application Consultation Letter 25/23861/LBC** - Proposal: “Proposed retention of existing solar panel arrays and internal repairs and alterations.” Address: Crescent House , Church Street, Talgarth LD3 0BL - Grid Reference: E:315698 N:233738. **RESOLVED:** Planning Application 25/23861/LBC considered and no objections raised.

- **BBNPA - WITHDRAWN PLANNING APPLICATION**
Planning Application Consultation Letter 25/23864/TRCA - Proposal: "The works we are proposing it to possibly Fell the mature Copper Beech tree to the rear of New House Farm, Talgarth on safety grounds. A tree report is attached in the application." Address: New House High Street, Talgarth LD3 0PG - Grid Reference: E:315253 N:233603
- **BBNPA – PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT GRANTED –**
Planning Application 24/23470/FUL - Proposal: "Erection of Agricultural building" - Land at Trewalkin, Pengenffordd, Talgarth Brecon LD3 0HA Grid Reference: E:315799 N:231051

25/116 TRAINING PLAN – Noted a draft Training Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting.
RESOLVED: To approve the draft Training Plan as circulated.
PCC – Code of Conduct Training – Received information from PCC confirming that their Standards Community Sub-Committee has considered the Code of Conduct training for Town and Community Councils and is offering a recorded training session on the Code of Conduct (around 1 ½ hours in length) which could be made available to all town and community councils at a cost of approx £30 per council – this would depend upon the number of councils who wish to participate. **RESOLVED:** To take up this offer if made available to Town Councils at the proposed cost of £30 per recorded Code of Conduct training.

25/117 FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Amounts received since last meeting 11 June 2025:

| Date | From | Item | Amount |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 01/07/25BACS | Perthyn | Hall hire – 25/35 | £108.00 |
| 01/07/25BACS | J Davies | SGC – Cremation Tablet fee – K &NS | £121.00 |
| 30/06/25BACS | Nat West Bank | June Interest on Business Reserve A/C | £54.29 |
| 29/06/25BACS | Free Spirit | Hall hire – 25/38 | £68.00 |
| 27/06/25BACS | C C James | SGC – Cremation Plot fee – MB | £200.00 |
| 26/06/25BACS | Falmai Ellis | Hall hire – 25/39 | £21.00 |
| 19/06/25BACS | R W Evans & Son | SGC – Additional Inscription fee - JP | £54.00 |
| 19/06/25BACS | R W Evans & Son | SGC – Memorial fee - MM | £227.00 |
| 17/06/25BACS | HMRC | VAT Return 2024/2025 | £2,839.07 |
| 16/06/25BACS | H C Furnell | Hall hire – 25/34 | £168.00 |

Accounts for Payment/Ratification at and since last meeting 11 June 2025:

| Date/Cheq | To | Item | Net | VAT | Total |
|---------------|------------------------|--|---------|--------|---------|
| 07/07/25 DD | PCC | Town Hall Council Tax | £386.00 | | £386.00 |
| 05/07/25 4037 | Border Office Supplies | Stationery – A4 paper | £32.90 | £6.58 | £39.48 |
| 05/07/25 4036 | OTM Groundscare Ltd | SGC Burial Ground Contract 2025/2026 – June invoice | £466.67 | £93.33 | £560.00 |
| 26/06/25 | BT D/D | Town Hall Tel Mthly Rent/B'Band | £26.78 | £5.35 | £32.13 |
| 18/06/25 4035 | Defib Store Ltd | Town Hall - Defibrillator Pads - £45 + Carriage £10 + VAT £11. | £55.00 | £11.00 | £66.00 |
| 13/06/25 | Eon D/D | Town Hall – Gas –29/04/25 – 27/05/25 | £104.62 | £5.23 | £109.85 |
| 13/06/25 | Eon D/D | Town Hall – Electric – 29/04/25 – 27/05/25 | £101.88 | £5.09 | £106.97 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 13/06/25 | Eon D/D | Public Conveniences – Electric - 29/04/25 – 27/05/25 | £30.68 | £1.53 | £32.21 |
| 11/06/25 4034 | Kels Klean | Public Conveniences –June cleaning | £49.50 | | £49.50 |
| 11/06/25 4033 | Town Clerk | Salary & Expenses June 25 | £1,293.33 | | £1,293.33 |
| 11/06/25 4032 | Caretaker – Town Hall | June Salary | £740.74 | | £740.74 |
| 11/06/25 4031 | SLCC | Annual Subscription – May 2025/2026 | £190.00 | | £190.00 |
| 11/06/25 4030 | HMRC | April, May, June – PAYE | £1,531.34 | | £1,531.34 |
| 11/06/25 4029 | PAVO | Payroll fee – April, May, June | £54.00 | | £54.00 |
| 11/06/25 4028 | OVW | OVW Training – Cllr A Lord – Mod27 | £21.00 | | £21.00 |

- **To Approve** - Schedule of monthly accounts since 11 June 2025, as above, circulated in advance of the meeting. **RESOLVED:** To approve Schedule of monthly accounts since 11 June 2025.
- **To Approve** - 1 – 30 June 2025 Bank Reconciliation Statement, circulated in advance of the meeting. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Bank Reconciliation 1 – 30 June 2025 - attached at the end of these minutes.
- **HMRC - VAT Reclaim 2024-2025** – Noted the Clerk has reclaimed and received £2,839.07 - VAT reclaim 2024-2025.

25/118 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES FOR 2024/2025 - Noted the report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

During the meeting the details listed in the subject heading were discussed.

The Council considered those determinations that were optional as well as the timing of payments. **RESOLVED that:**

- The basic allowance for extra costs for councillors working from home of £156 per annum, who do not opt out, be made in March 2026.
- The allowance for office consumables of £52 per annum, agreed be paid as an allowance rather than reimbursement for actual expenses incurred, who do not opt out, to be made in March 2026.
- Part of the discussion included the optional payment that could be made to the Mayor/Chair (£1500) and Deputy Mayor/Deputy Chair (£500). It was agreed that the option to allocate these funds should be kept but with a determination in this financial year that we would allocate £500 to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor a NIL sum, to be made in March 2026.

25/119 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE/S ON SUB-GROUPS & OTHER

ORGANISATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026 – Noted Clerk is currently updating the 2025-2026 list of Town Councillor representatives on the sub groups and other organisations and will include the two vacant Town Councillors positions when known.

RESOLVED: To clarify the position of the Town Council representation on The Mill group that meets on the first Thursday of the month. Noted Cllr A Lord or Cllr J Evans agreed to attend.

25/120 PCC COUNTY COUNCILLOR W POWELL – County Councillor W Powell had circulated his monthly report, in advance of the meeting and spoke to items raised.

Cllr Powell also copied the Town Council into several of his correspondence, for information

PCC Updates - Highway and other matters –

- **PCC/ Welsh Government investment programme for Talgarth information and signage** – A site visit took place on 7 July re Brilliant Basics, with PCC rep Jo Lancey, attended by County Councillor W Powell and reps from the Town Council - Cllr A Lord, Mayor, Cllr A Brown and Dr H Prosser WAW group. Noted Cllr A Lord, Mayor and County Councillor W Powell, gave brief updates from the site meeting outlining suggested proposals.
- **Drains in the Public Conveniences and The Square area – Responsibility/ownership** – Noted that a survey needs to be undertaken re ownership of the drains in these locations, as soon as possible.
- **Car Park** – Noted Cllr A Lord, Mayor, had received a communication from a local resident re this area and is dealing with the matter.
- **Metal Frame (from former PCC litter bin) – outside Public Toilet gates** – Noted PCC has organised removal of this metal frame, at end of week.

25/121 GROUP UPDATES –

- **St Gwendoline's Churchyard**
 - **Churchyard Maintenance – RESOLVED:** To pay OTM Invoice for June 2025 - £466.67 + £93.33 VAT = £560.00.
 - **Damaged Wall of Churchyard – RESOLVED:** To seek advice in order to prepare a specification to go out to Tender for the repair work.
 - **Manhole covers X 2 replacement** – Noted the 2 new manhole covers at the back of the church will be replaced, as agreed, after the asbestos work has been completed.
 - **Asbestos Removal St Gwendoline's Church Talgarth** – Noted the work is currently being undertaken and due to end 12 July.
 - **Ex-Mid Wales Hospital Patients Grave markers** – On going with checking records.
 - **Dog Fouling signage** – Signage in progress.
- **Town Hall/Public Conveniences** – Nothing new to report.
- **Talgarth WAW group** – Received draft minutes of the WAW Group AGM 25 June. Noted next meeting 7pm Fri 18 July 2025 at the Red Lion, Llangorse.
- **TDRG** – Noted Cllr C Green, Town Council representative, gave an update on the subjects raised at the TDRG meeting held the previous evening 8 July. Noted the next meeting will be held on 4 Sept at The Castle Hotel, Talgarth.
RESOLVED: To formally request BMC to arrange a site meeting for the Town Council, to view the progress of the 1875 Victorian School premises.

9pm Move of Standing Orders - Cllr M Dodds asked for a move of Standing Orders for 15 minutes

- **Festival 23/24 Aug 2025** – Cllr B Dale, Chair of the group, reported that this year's Festival arrangements are well in hand. Noted the road closure for the Festival 22 – 24 Aug had been approved.
- **Xmas Lights Group** – No new update.
- **Grow for Talgarth** – Update received from Rosie Williams, Chair of the group, confirming that the Big Garden weekend on 28/29 June, had been a great success and also reported that GfT has taken over the enhancement and development of the Mill Gardens. She thanked the Town Council for their continued support.
- **On the Verge** - Received all updates from Martin Draper, Chair OTV, noting that OTV had received National nomination and is a finalist for the BBC Cymru 'Wales Make A Difference Awards'.
- **The Mill** – Noted The Mill held an evening event on Sat 5 July.

- **Talgarth Visitor Centre** – Received draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 June and that the next meeting is planned for 2.30pm 28 July at the Strand Cafe.
- **TADSCA & King George V Children's Play – Dogs on Children's Play area Signage** – No new update.
- **Bowling Club** – Cllr M Dodds reported that the Bowling Club was going well.
- **PCSO** – Updates received and on circulation to include Speedwatch renewals and other issues.
PCSO Surgeries in Talgarth Town Hall – Noted confirmation dates received re future monthly PCSO Surgeries - 6pm 24 July, 21 Aug, 18 Sept, 16 Oct, 13 Nov & 11 Dec.
- **GP Biotec** – Noted Cllr A Lord, Mayor, to arrange a GP Biotec visit for Town Councillors as previously offered and to request GP Liaison meetings.
- **Smell Issues** – Noted smells are still occurring in the location of Talgarth.
- **Ysgol y Mynydd du** – County Councillor W Powell gave an update on the school matters.
- **Community Library** – No new update.
- **HBTSR** – Received Minutes of 11 June meeting and on circulation – noted Sunday 13 July event to take place at Ysgol y Mynydd du – details in their minutes.
- **Powys Health board – Better Together Workshop and Drop In Session Posters** – Received and on circulation, updates from Powys Local Health Board.
 - **Information about Waiting Times** – Noted from the beginning of July 2025, wherever you live in Powys you will receive planned care treatments (inpatients and day-cases) based on the NHS Wales waiting time measures. Details on circulation.
 - **Nevill Hall Hospital Engagement Launched by Aneurin Bevan UHB** – Received details on an engagement exercise by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board on the enhanced Local General Hospitals including Nevill Hall Hospital – the engagement period from 24 June 2025 until 15 August 2025 and information is available from their website including an online survey and public face to face and online engagement sessions. One of the sessions that takes place in person on 3 July in the Lecture Theatre at Nevill Hall hospital from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
- **Llais - Nevill Hall Hospital** – Information received re Nevill Hall and their other hospitals re their proposals - these sessions will provide the opportunity to ask any questions - one being held on 12 Aug, 1.00pm at the Clarence Hall, Beaufort Street, Crickhowell, NP18 1BN – 'Have Your Say'..
- **Llais Monthly Newsletter – June 2025 Edition** – Received and on circulation

25/122 VJ DAY 15 AUG 2025 – RESOLVED: Clerk to purchase a VJ Day wreath and flag to commemorate this occasion.

25/123 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- **PCC - Planning Decision Notices** - 9 - 26 June 2025 received.
- **PCC - Countryside Volunteer Programme - Hay and Talgarth Locality** – Received information about the launch of new working arrangements for the Powys Countryside Volunteer programme.
- **BBNPA** - Weekly list of Planning Applications
- **OVW** – Received:
- **OVW - E Bulletin** - Issue 5
- **OVW - Consolidation of Planning Law in Wales** - Publication of Draft Planning (Wales) Bill
- **OVW - Wales Nature Week** - 5 – 13 July and 8 July Event Celtic Wildflowers Tour

- **OVW - Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – Lived Experience Engagement Exercise –** Message from WG received
- **The Bracken Trust Summer Fete & Garden Party - Fri, 27 June - 3pm - 7pm -** at The Bracken Trust Centre, Cefnlllys Lane, Llandrindod Wells – Invitation received.
- **PAVO - Community Conversations: Shaping the Future of Powys Communities –** Information received and on circulation.
- **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales quarterly newsletter: April – June –** Information received for information.
- **Sports Powys –** Noted information received via local resident Jacqui Wilding, re funding from Sport Powys and partnership work with Llangorse Sailing Club with a number of opportunities coming up which may be of interest to the people in the community.
- **Request for Financial Assistance –** Cerebral Palsy group.

25/124 Date of the next meeting –

- **7pm Wed 10 September 2025**

There being no further business, the meeting closed 9.10 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE:

| Talgarth Town Council - Bank Reconciliation 1 June - 30 June 2025 | | | | |
|---|--------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Current Act | Cap Res Act |
| Opening Balances - 1 June 2025 | | | £1,710.76 | £61,786.92 |
| Receipts 1 June - 30 June 2025 | | | | |
| 02/06/2025 | BACS | Dr V Lloyd - Hall hire - 25/33 | 70.00 | |
| 09/06/2025 | BACS | J T Davies - SGC-2 Memorial erection fees BD & RD | 454.00 | |
| 09/06/2025 | BACS | R W Evans & Son - SGC-Memorial fee NT | 121.00 | |
| 11/06/2025 | TRS | Transfer Cap Res Account to Current Account | 6,000.00 | |
| 16/06/2025 | BACS | H Furnell - Hall hire 25/34 May | 168.00 | |
| 17/06/2025 | BACS | HMRC - VAT reclaim 2024/2025 | 2,839.07 | |
| 19/06/2025 | BACS | R W Evans & Son - SGC-Memorial fee MM | 227.00 | |
| 19/06/2025 | BACS | R W Evans & Son - SGC-2nd Inscription fee J & BP | 54.00 | |
| 26/06/2025 | BACS | F Ellis - Hall hire - 25/39 | 21.00 | |
| 27/06/2025 | BACS | C C James - SGC-Cremation Plot fee MB | 200.00 | |
| 30/06/2025 | BACS | Freespirit - Hall hire - 25/18 | 68.00 | |
| 30/06/2025 | BACS | Nat West - Bank Interest 1 - 30 June | | 54.29 |
| | | Total Receipts: | £11,932.83 | £61,841.21 |
| Payments 1 June - 30 June 2025 | | | | |
| 03/06/2025 | DD | ICO - Annual data fee | 47.00 | |
| 05/06/2025 | CH4021 | Savers - Batteries AAA | 3.69 | |
| 05/06/2025 | DD | PCC - Town Hall/Pub Conv - Mthly Council Tax | 386.00 | |
| 06/06/2025 | CH4016 | Parish on-line - annual subscription fee 2025/2026 | 54.00 | |
| 10/06/2025 | CH4004 | Biodiversity Day 22 Apr - Keltic Design - Sundries | 28.80 | |
| 10/06/2025 | CH4022 | OTM - SGC Maintenance fee - April | 560.00 | |
| 10/06/2025 | CH4023 | OTM - SGC Maintenance fee - May | 560.00 | |
| 10/06/2025 | CH4024 | Printerbase - Printer cartridge | 43.20 | |
| 11/06/2025 | TRS | Transfer Cap Res Account to Current Account | | 6,000.00 |
| 11/06/2025 | CH4031 | SLCC - Annual subscription | 190.00 | |
| 11/06/2025 | CH4020 | Defib Store Ltd - New Defib & Case for Trefecca | 1,674.00 | |
| 12/06/2025 | CH4027 | K R Saunders-Jones, Internal Audit fee 2024/2025 | 165.00 | |
| 13/06/2025 | DD | E-on - Public Conveners Electric-29/04/25-27/05/25 | 32.21 | |
| 13/06/2025 | DD | E-on - Town Hall Electric - 29/04/25 - 27/05/25 | 106.97 | |
| 13/06/2025 | DD | E-on - Town Hall Gas -29/04/25 -27/05/2025 | 109.85 | |
| 13/06/2025 | CH4025 | PCC - Festival road closure fee 22 - 24/8/2025 | 432.00 | |
| 16/06/2025 | CH4026 | Vision ICT - SSL Certificate - Pro rate annual fee | 50.40 | |
| 20/06/2025 | CH4029 | PAVO - Payroll Fee - Apr/May/June | 54.00 | |
| 20/06/2025 | CH4018 | Clerk's June salary/expenses | 1,293.33 | |
| 23/06/2025 | CH4030 | HMRC - Apr/May/June PAYE | 1,531.34 | |
| 24/06/2025 | CH4028 | OVW - Cllr A Lord training fee | 21.00 | |
| 24/06/2025 | CH4034 | KelsKleans - Town Hall - June cleaning | 49.50 | |
| 25/06/2025 | CH4032 | Caretaker's June salary | 740.74 | |
| 26/06/2025 | DD | BT - Town Hall Monthly B'band Rental | 32.13 | |
| 26/06/2025 | CH4035 | Defib Store Ltd - New Pads for Town Hall defib | 66.00 | |
| | | Total Payments: | £ 8,231.16 | £ 6,000.00 |
| | | Unpresented - Cheque 4031 - SLCC | 190.00 | |
| Closing Balances - 30 June 2025 | | | £3,891.67 | £55,841.21 |