

Criccieth Town Council

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 7.00 pm**. The meeting took place remotely using video technology.

1-10/20: Present

Chair : Cllr. Robert Cadwalader

Cllr. Phil Jones ;Cllr. Wayne Roberts; Cllr. Angela Hughes, Cllr. Nan Davies-Hughes; Cllr. Eirwyn Williams; Cllr. Ffion Gwyn; Cllr Robert Price; Cllr Alice Roberts; Cllr Sian Williams

Clerk – Dr Catrin Jones.

2-10/20 Apologies:

3-10/20 Declaration of Interests

4-10/20 Ratification of September 2020 Minutes

The Minutes were ratified and signed in accordance with the law.

5-10/20 Urgent items and for information (raised by Chair/Clerk)

Matters for information only – no decisions allowed

1. It was noted that the Town Council's temporary Web site was live and that an initial draft of the new Web site had been prepared.
2. It was noted that consultation was to commence on a new site for Ysgol Trefferthyr.

6-10/20: Correspondence

1. Gwynedd Council - COVID-19 Correspondence – response re bins for the town

A response was awaited from the Gwynedd Council Officer regarding the bins for the town.

Decision:

To receive for information

2. Request for CCTV – Queen’s Road, Criccieth –

The Clerk had been communicating with the Police Officer and now had a date to meet with the residents - 21st October.

Decision:

To receive for information

3. Nefyn Council's position statement

At a recent meeting of Nefyn Town Council, a motion was passed declaring support for measures that would prevent housing from being out of the reach of purchase by local people: (See [Appendix 1](#))

Nefyn Town Council had asked the Town Council to consider supporting its proposal and to bring the support to the attention of the Welsh Government and County Council so that they could introduce measures that would make a difference and enable local people to stay and live locally.

Decision

The Town Council agreed to support the proposal in [Appendix 1](#) and to bring that support to the attention of the Welsh Government and the County Council.

4. One Voice Wales – Training Programme October 2020

Details of the online courses had been circulated.

Decision

Members to inform Clerk if they were interested in registering.

5. Independent Remuneration Panel Wales– draft Report

The draft report had been circulated for comment.

Decision

There were no comments but the report was referred to the Finance, Policy and Management Committee to prepare a draft budget for 2021/22 at a date to be arranged in November

6. Letter re dog fouling

A letter of complaint received asking for consideration to extend the ban on dogs on the beach to the Aberistedd area was discussed.

Decision

Not to support - but to consider again if further complaints are received.

7-10/20 Planning Applications

None received.

8-10/20: Filling of Vacant Seat on Town Council

The two candidates who had applied for the vacancy were welcomed to the meeting, to give a brief presentation to the Town Council. They were thanked for their applications, the details of which had been circulated to Council members. Following the presentations a vote was taken in accordance with the Town Council regulations.

Decision:

Based on the result of the vote, Dr Peter Harlech Jones was elected as Councillor on the Town Council. He will be required to complete the acceptance form by the next Town Council meeting.

9-10/20: Financial Update 2020/21

A financial report from the Clerk had been circulated to all members which showed the Income and Expenditure against budget up to the end of September 2020 and the bank reconciliation for the period. It was noted that £8,634.14 had been spent (including VAT) out of the £ 68,760.00 allocated for the general budget. There were a number of significant payments to come during the financial year - including eg. grass cutting and toilet costs payable to Gwynedd Council, paying for a new Web site, spend on community contributions. There was £ 60,344.76 in the 'Community Account' account and £ 30,524.24 in the 'Money Manager' account.

Decision:

To receive for information and thank the Clerk for the report.

10-10/20 Community Plan

1. Cae Crwn Community Project

It was noted that work on the application form had been completed and was due to be submitted to the Lottery. Work on the 6,000-word application had been substantial and included a number of letters of evidence of support for the project, lease information, planning permission and a biodiversity report from Gwynedd Council. It was an application by the Town Council in partnership with Ysgol Treferyth, Friends of the Nature Garden and Gwynedd Council. A message about the project had been posted on the Criccieth Hub inviting individuals to express their interest to Cllr. Phil Jones. It was noted that another grant has just been announced for Allotments.

Decision:

To receive for information and to thank the Clerk for her work in co-ordinating the application with members of the partnership and Cwmni Celyn. Consideration should be given to applying for the new grant if this did not affect the application to the Lottery.

2. Town Map

Awaiting a response from Gwynedd Council Officer for permission to place laminated A1 maps on tables at the various agreed locations around town. Cllr. Ffion Gwyn had attended a web-based meeting with the local Merched y Wawr group and they thanked and congratulated the working group for their working in producing the map. It was a great asset.

Decision:

To receive for information.

3. Old Library Building

The Clerk had written to the solicitor conveying the Council's decision - awaiting response.

Decision

The Clerk to contact the solicitor.

4. High Street Exhibition and Remembrance 2020

It was noted that work was ongoing for a shop window display in the town for Remembrance November 2020 in conjunction with the Business Forum. This included use of the old craft shop window - with project work for VE day and also work from Commemorating Criccieth's Contribution 2018 to be included. The exhibition will be available until Christmas and will include wreaths with crochet and knitted red poppies for the High Street shops. Due to the pandemic the usual service and laying of wreaths in the Memorial Hall will not take place this year - a video will be coordinated and produced by Cllr. Ffion Gwyn for facebook and youtube to mark the remembrance.

Decision:

To receive for information and thank everyone for their work.

5. Christmas Lights 2020

The Clerk had been discussing with the electrician the possibility of switching on the lights earlier this year to extend the Christmas Welcome period in the town which will be quite different this year - It will not be the usual Christmas Croeos Dolig night to switch on the lights but the intention was to hold events in shops over several days, and to have videos etc. on social media. A drawing competition will also be organised.

Decision

To receive for information and agree to switch on the street lights sooner. The Clerk to check with electrician. Cllr. Phil Jones for offering to help install the trees on High Street shops.

11-10/20: External Audit 2019/20

No response to date from the external auditor.

Decision:

To receive for information.

12-10/20: Public Footpaths including Path 11

It was noted that the Clerk had written again to the Gwynedd Council Officer following the last meeting to thank him for the recent work to repair gates and to offer a field meeting - no response had been received to date.

Decision:

To receive for information.

13-10/20: Groynes and Sea Defences Criccieth

The Clerk had written to the Gwynedd Council Officer highlighting the additional damage caused by bad weather. A response had been received, apologising for the delay in carrying out this work. Unfortunately, due to the Statutory duty which had been designated to Gwynedd Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Unit's priority over the last two months had been directed to investigate all the flood events experienced throughout Gwynedd as a result of the storms in August. However, the Officer confirmed that those works were beginning to lighten, which meant that they had begun to release some of the officers to look at the Unit's other priorities, including the repairs at Criccieth. In view of that he hoped that the tender package would be completed and issued to local contractors very soon with the successful contractor being appointed following a short tender period. The schedule of works was subject to favourable weather and tides but he was hopeful that it would be done sooner rather than later. As the Town Council had highlighted that more damage had taken place in recent weeks, an officer would call in to Criccieth to assess this damage and include any necessary additional work in the tender documents.

Decision:

To receive the report for information with thanks.

14-10/20: Transport in Criccieth

Following the decision at the last meeting to request a site meeting with representation from the Town Council to discuss transport in Criccieth, the Clerk had written to the Gwynedd Council Officer – a response had not yet been received.

Decision:

Cllr. Eirwyn Williams to contact the Officer regarding the lack of response.

15-10/20: Grass and hedge cutting in the town

The Clerk had written to Gwynedd Council asking them to cut the height of the hedge of Path No.1 but had not yet received a response

Decision:

To receive for information.

16-10/20: Parking in Criccieth

Nothing to report.

17-10/20: Tree felling Criccieth

Since the last meeting a member of the public had fallen on the Maes near the eucalyptus trees. The Town Council had discussed the matter at the last meeting as part of the discussion on the planning application to prune the trees - and the Town Council's concern for safety and the need to resurface the area had been expressed in response to the planning application. Cllr. Eirwyn Williams had reported the accident to the Officer at Gwynedd Council. A report was received detailing the latest position from Gwynedd Council:

- The premises had been thoroughly cleaned the day before.
- Removal of one bollard would take place to ensure access to the sweeper.
- There will be an assessment of the condition of the slabs and possibly looking at starting resurfacing / resurfacing – this was dependent on funding.
- In relation to the trees - as they are in a conservation area, a consultation through the planning process on pruning will close on the 15th of October.

At the last meeting, concern was raised about the visibility issues for cars at the junction of the Esplanade with Porthmadog Road due to tree growth. The Clerk had written to a Gwynedd Council Officer who had agreed to undertake an assessment of the situation and report back. The officer had mentioned that there is “Ash die back” on one of the trees.

Decision

To receive the report and approve a proposal for the Maes:

- That tape be temporarily installed to ensure that people were not walking on the area;
- That appropriate signage is installed on a temporary basis
- As one possible solution that the existing railings be extended so as not to encourage walkers under the trees.

18-10/20: Benches in Criccieth

Nothing to report

19-10/20 Annual Meeting of the Town Council

An annual meeting of the Town Council needed to be arranged before the end of 2020.

Decision

To hold the Annual Meeting on 10 November.

20-10/20 Receipts

None

21-10/20: Payments

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • HMRC (PAYE) | £44.00 (cheque 101422) |
| • Clerk's Wages (September) | £853.00 (cheque 101423) |
| • Delwedd Ltd. | £190.25 (cheque 101424) |

The Clerk was granted permission to pay the bills.

21-09/20: Reserved Business (for members only)

The meeting ended at 20.40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on **Tuesday 10 November 2020**.

****The programme will close on 2 November 2020****

Dr Catrin Jones
Clerk

Appendix 1

(Translation of the measures from Welsh).

Nefyn Town Council's decision to support the following measures to deal with the housing situation:

- Local authority to have control of the housing market.
- A requirement that housing on the market be offered to local people first.
- In the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan, some areas are designated as 'coastal areas' and only affordable housing can be built in those areas. All areas in Gwynedd need to have the same protection as the 'coastal' areas. In the Nefyn Town Council area, Morfa Nefyn and Edern have 'coastal area' protection but Nefyn has no protection.
- Redefining 'Affordable Housing' so that they are accessible to local people and are mindful of Gwynedd's average wage.
- Operate a banding system when administering a social housing waiting list that would make local living or local contact essential.
- Enforcement of planning application if house to be converted into second / holiday home.

- Community management of the housing market.
- Adopt a Community Development Plan for Wales. Town Councils in Cornwall are already practicing a similar scheme.
- A requirement that owners who own a second / second home in the name of business pay the higher rate of council tax.
- Increase the Council Tax rate on holiday homes to reflect the fact that Gwynedd has the highest percentage of holiday homes in Wales. Swansea Council has already raised the council tax rate to 100%.
- Increase the rate of Land Transaction Tax on holiday homes / second homes.
- A requirement to have planning permission to place properties on Airbnb for long periods of the year. There will be a penalty tax for houses that are rented on Airbnb for long periods of the year.
- For the Welsh Government to provide funding to enable Gwynedd Council to jointly own a percentage of houses with local people. Joint ownership would enable a person to buy a home and ensure that housing stays local.