

Criccieth Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council held at 7.00 p.m., Tuesday, **27 August 2019** Council Chamber High Street, Criccieth.

Opening prayer

1-08/19: Present

Chair: Cllr. Robert Cadwalader

Cllr. Phil Jones; Cllr Williams A Evans; Cllr. Robert T Price; Cllr. Dafydd Lloyd; Cllr Angela Hughes

Clerk – Dr Catrin Jones.

Ms Caryl Lewis present for item 11 Feasibility Study of Old Library

2-08/19 Apologies:

Cllr Sian Williams; Cllr. Dr E Tudor Jones; Cllr. Dr Ian Rees;

3-08/19: Declaration of Interest

4-08/19 Ratification of July 2019 minutes

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

5-08/19 Urgent items and for information (raised by Chair/Clerk)

Matters for information only – no decisions allowed

- a. It was noted that the Bus service to Caernarfon was restarting on 27 August – with 4 buses a day directly to Caernarfon. It was good to note that Gwynedd Council had succeeded with the resuming of this service. The Town Council had been corresponding with Gwynedd Council on this matter in order to secure a service.
- b. Ms Emma Buckley was congratulated on her success in the National Eisteddfod of Wales held recently in Llanrwst.

6-08/19: Correspondence

- a. **Support for Independence – e-mails dated 16 and 17 July by residents requesting a discussion and vote by the Council**

An e-mail had been received from two town residents requesting a discussion and support for Welsh Independence by the Town Council.

Decision: Following discussion the Council did not see it appropriate to make a declaration on a political matter.

- b. **Gwynedd Council Order (Dwyfor Area No 2) 2019** – email 6 August
Gwynedd Council intended to make the B441 Road in Criccieth a “no waiting at any time” on both sides of the road by the junction of Ty’n Rhos and Waen Helyg.

Decision: Agreed with the intention.

- c. **Groynes Min y Mor Beach, Criccieth** – email 6 August
Noted the communication from Gwynedd Council regarding the concern which had been expressed by Cllr. Eirwyn Williams on the state of the groynes in Criccieth. It was intended to apply to the Welsh Government for funding to commission a specialist Engineer to look in to the situation, in the hope that it was possible to recommend a more effective way of regulating the beach in the future. It was hoped that a response from the Welsh Government would be available soon.

Decision: To receive the information

- d. **One Voice Wales Practitioner's Guide – email 8 August**
The most recent version of guidance on Governance and Accountability to assist the Council to regulate its fiancé in accordance with what was need form good regulation and financial management was noted. It was necessary to review the financial regulations of the Town Council in light of publishing the revised NALC regulations.

Decision: To receive the information and refer to the Finance, Management and Policy Sub-Committee of the Town Council for consideration.

- e. **One Voice Wales North Wales Training Sessions – emails 12 and 19 August**
A list of courses had been circulated.

Decision: To receive the information

- f. **Mantell Gwynedd – Conference and AGM 13 November – email 20 August**
Information had been circulated with an invitation to attend.

Decision: To receive the information. Councillors to book a place if they wished to attend.

7-08/19: Planning Applications

- a. C19/0720/35/LL Conversion of living unit to 3 self-contained flats – Medical Hall, 54, High Street, Criccieth LL52 0EY

Decision: No objection

Since publishing the agenda:

- b. C18/0871/35/LL –Change of use of annexe to holiday accommodation Eirianedd, Rhos Bach, Criccieth, LL52 0EP. It was noted that an appeal had been submitted to the Welsh Government and that any observations on the application would be sent to the Welsh Government and to the appellant. The Town Council had considered the application in November 2018 and had not objected to it.

Decision: To receive the information.

8-08/19 Filling of Vacant Seat on Town Council

Two applications had been received by the closing date and circulated to members of the Town Council. The two applications were presented to the Town Council for consideration and in

accordance with rule 27 of the Standing Orders for Co-opting to a Vacant Seat members voted in a secret ballot for the candidate of their choice as there was more than one applicant for the seat.

Decision: The result of the vote was to co-opt Mrs Nan Davies-Hughes as councillor on Criccieth Town Council and that she should sign the acceptance form by the next meeting of the Town Council. A thank you letter would be sent to the unsuccessful applicant.

9-08/19: External Audit of Town Council Accounts for 2018-19

It was noted that a query had been received from the BDO due to the reduction in receipts for the year. An explanation had been given in the evidence presented to the, but this did not analyse the differences with sums to enable the BDO to fully understand and reach a conclusion. The Clerk had sent a response.

Decision: To receive the information

10-08/19 Annual Report Town Council 2018/19

The Clerk had prepared a draft annual report which had been circulate. This was the Town Council's first annual report. A price for printing for different numbers had been received.

Decision: It was agreed that the primary means of making the report available to the public was to publish on the Town Council's website. In order to ensure reach it was agreed to print 200 copies initially and that these should be made available in different locations in town, including the Library, Medical Centre, homes for the elderly, some of the High Street Shops and the Council's consultation day on 4 September. The Clerk was thanked for her work.

11-08/19 Criccieth Community Plan – update

a. Feasibility Study Old Library

- (i) A report was report from Ms Caryl Lewis, Cwmni Celyn on the plans for the Consultation Day to be held on 4th September at Criccieth Memorial Hall. A discussion was followed on the questionnaire seeking views. It was noted that a letter had been circulated to every house in Criccieth and an invitation sent by email to all groupw/societies to attend.

Decision to thanks Ms Caryl Lewis very much for attending and also to the Memorial Hall for agreeing to host the day as it was a community event.

- (ii) A report from the QS on the Old Library. It was noted that the report had been received and circulated to members earlier in the day.

Decision: to discuss at the next meeting of the Town Council.

b. Unique Streets

It was noted that the arrangements for the Creative Incident day held on 3rd August in the gardens of the Lion Hotel had been really successful. Around 1,000 had visited and 200 visited the Nature Garden. As a result the High Street shops had been very busy. Very positive feedback had been received from shop owners and attendees at the event. The

intention was to make this an annual event. The next event will be held on the 2nd November with the unveiling of Howard Bowcott's sculpture on the Maes. Details to follow.

Decision

To receive the report and to thank all the organisers and stewards for their work

c. Needs assessment affordable housing

Letters had been sent to every house in town and by email to societies – the consultation with the community was to be held on the same day as the Old Library consultation – 4th September in the Memorial Hall.

Decision

To receive the report

d. Minutes of Community Plan Steering Group 30 July 2019

The Minutes of the Steering Group had been circulated. The Steering Group recommended the following priorities for action and spend by the Town Council:

- (i) Locating four new benches in 'plastic wood' in the town: by the old jail, by Bron Rhiw, a location near the shoe shop and outside the Post Office. Estimated price £1,000.
- (ii) Consider the possibility of public WiFi in town.
- (iii) Outdoor fitness equipment
- (iv) A place for young people to meet
- (v) Consider the best way to enable a voice for young people when making decisions
- (vi) To arrange an assessment of the condition of trees in town as a priority, in addition to a plan for further planting
- (vii) To look at producing a map of Criccieth
- (viii) Improve signage – the Town Council should place signs of appropriate colour size etc. The first should be a sign to the car park
- (ix) Future of the Old Library Building – dependent on the Feasibility Study and further consideration and decision by the Town Council

Decision:

To approve the minutes and recommendations and also the Progress Report and Priorities for Further Action and that a plan for spend should be prepared taking consideration of external sources of funding to support the Community Plan.

In light of the Community Plan and the reference within it to jet skis, concern was raised as an urgent matter regarding the very dangerous incident which had occurred by a group of jet skiers in Criccieth on August Bank Holiday. A report had been submitted to the police who were making enquiries about the matter.

Decision:

To write to Gwynedd Council to express the concern of the Town Council and to call on the Council to ban the use of personal watercraft and jet skis in the waters around Criccieth Bay. This would entail preventing them from being allowed to enter the waters around Criccieth, Black Rock Sands, Porthmadog and Pwllheli. This was due to the dangerous use of personal watercraft off the beach and around the area of Criccieth Bay. This would be in order to

return to the quiet enjoyment of the beaches , for their safe use by swimmers, kayak and paddle board users and for the protection of local wildlife and fragile ecosystems. It was agreed also to commence a petition for signature in order to support the ban.

- e. **Application to Gwynedd Council for a grant “Looking after each other”**- details on the application for a grant of £2,000 which would support the aims of the Community Plan.

Decision:

Agreed to submit the bid in partnership with appropriate groups in town.

12-08/19 Future of Criccieth Town Council Building and Library

A response was awaited from Gwynedd Council.

Decision To receive the report.

13-08/19 Transport in Criccieth – complaints and serious incidents

- a. It was noted that the report by Gwynedd Council was awaited regarding the traffic from the direction of Pwllheli.
- b. It was noted that the Clerk had written to Gwynedd Council to confirm the Town Council’s support for the residents of Ty’n Rhos who do not accept that the new crossing is sufficient. A copy of the wording of the petition had been sent. A response was awaited.

Decision: The Clerk to see an update on (a) above.

14-08/19 Grass and hedge cutting in the town

Nothing to report

15-08/19 Parking in Criccieth

Awaiting a response from the officer at Gwynedd Council.

Decision: The Clerk to seek an update.

16-08/19 Tree felling Criccieth

Nothing to report.

17-08/19 Benches in Criccieth

It was noted that the costs for the materials to renovate the benches around town had been received and presented for payment at the end of the meeting. The work had begun and had been postponed over the summer due to the town being busy with visitors on their holidays.

Decision:

Received the report and to thank very much the members of Criccieth in Bloom and the Environmental Group for their work.

18-08/19 Public Footpaths – including Path 11

A report was awaited from the officer at Gwynedd Council. It was noted that Cllr Wayne Roberts had drawn the attention of the Assembly Member to this matter and that the Clerk would arrange a meeting to prepare a letter to the Assembly Member.

Decision:

To receive the report.

19-08/19 Town Council Noticeboard

The new noticeboard had been installed and very positive comments had been received from residents.

Decision: To receive the information, agreeing that the new noticeboard was very attractive and of benefit in order to share information with residents.

20-08/19 Receipts

None

21-08/19: Payments

• HMRC (PAYE)	£34.09 (cheque 101347)
• Clerk's Wages (August)	£755.66(cheque 101348)
• Gwasg Cymru	£85.00 (cheque 101349)
• Clerk's Travel Costs	£126.80 (cheque 101350)
• Dream Internet Solutions	£240.40 (cheque 101351)
• Ms Ann Llwyd	£96.00 (cheque 101352)
• Mrs M Jones	£141.84 (cheque 101353)
• RBL Poppy Appeal	£17.00 (cheque 101354)

Decision: Permission was granted to the Clerk to pay the bills.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on **Tuesday evening 24 September 2019**.

****The agenda will close 16 September 2019****