

Criccieth Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council held at 7.00 p.m., Tuesday, **10 December 2019** Council Chamber High Street, Criccieth.

Opening prayer

1-12/19: Present

Chair: Cllr. Robert Cadwalader

Cllr. Phil Jones; Cllr Nan Davies Hughes; Cllr. Dr Ian Rees;
Clerk – Dr Catrin Jones.

The death of Cllr Dr Tudor Jones was noted with great sadness. In addition to his committed medical work, he had been a prominent member of the Town Council for a period of 40 years and had given fantastic service to his community in many ways. His passing was a great loss to Criccieth. Everyone stood for a minute's silence in remembrance.

2-12/19 Apologies:

Cllr. Eirwyn Williams; Cllr. Robert T Price; Cllr. Wayne Roberts; Cllr. Dafydd Lloyd; Cllr. Angela Hughes; Cllr. Sian Williams;

A number of apologies had been received and the desirability of improved attendance at meetings was noted.

3-12/19: Declaration of Interest

Cllr Robert Cadwalader for item 7-12/19: Planning applications b. C18/0698/35/LL

4-12/19 Ratification of November 2019 minutes

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

5-12/19 Urgent items and for information (raised by Chair/Clerk)

Matters for information only – no decisions allowed

6-12/19: Correspondence

- a. The Gwynedd Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation Order 2007) Variation Order (Dwyfor Area No 2) 2019
No waiting at any time had been in force since 2 December on the B4411 Class 2 Road on two sides by the Ty'n Rhos and Waen Helyg junction.

Decision:

To receive for information

- b. Request to support the Local Electricity Bill – email 29 November 2019
A request to support the Electricity Bill had been circulated.

Decision:

Not to support at this time but to keep an eye on developments.

- c. The Police and Crime Commissioner – Opportunity to Have your Say about Policing – email 2 December 2019

The details had been circulated and also placed on the Town Council's website.

Decision:

Councillors to respond individually if they wished to do so.

7-12/19: Planning Applications

- a. C19/1100/35/CC– Application to undertake works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order – Tŷ Clap, Lôn Fêl, Criccieth, LL52 0LL

Decision: To submit comments to ensure that the work on the trees kept to the recommendations in the report.

- b. C18/0698/35/LL Application to extend the nursing home and car park and to confirm the current location of the biomass unit – Pines Residential Home, Mona Terrace, Criccieth, LL52 0DE

Decision: To reject the application due to over-development of the site and that the facilities of the local Health Centre would not be able to cope. The Council had already rejected the application in October 2018, noting then the strong local objection to this application and that a letter had been received by the Chair and Clerk and also that a number of individuals had been present at that meeting to voice their objection.

8-12/19: Filling of Vacant Seats on Town Council

It was noted that there were currently two vacant seats on the Town Council. Very sadly one vacant seat had resulted from the passing of Cllr Tudor Jones. The resignation of Cllr. William Evans had been received by letter in which noted that it had been a privilege to serve as a town councillor for over twenty year. The Clerk would now report to the officer in Gwynedd Council in order to follow the appropriate procedd to fill the vacant seats.

Decision:

To receive the information and thank Cllr William Evans for his service on the Town Council.

9-12/19: Town Council Bank Account

Complaint to HSBC – still awaiting a response from the HSBC.

Decision:

To receive the information.

10-12/19 Finance, Policy and Management Sub-Committee – meeting 27 November 2019

It was necessary to receive an update on finances for 2019-20 and also to consider the recommendations from the meeting held on 27 November:

1. 6-11/19 Finance Report 2019-20

Decision: To receive the report and agree to review the spreadsheet including information on committed spend (Cllr Dr Ian Rees and Clerk)

2. 7-11/19 Draft Budget 2020-21

a. The Draft Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for Community and Town Councils

- i. Councils had to repay the care costs of dependent children and adults in order to enable members to undertake their duties and also an allowance of £150 for each member (councillors did not have to claim this allowance).

Councillor Cost for the above allowance of £150 per member = 12 x £150 = £1800

ii Chair of Council's Fund Criccieth Town Council

At present Council grants £200 a year to the Chair of Council Fund and also repays travel/costs parking. The Council was allowed to pay up to £500 for up to 5 individuals for specific duties. This was in addition to the £150 allowance.

Decision: to continue to pay the £200 to the Chair's fund and repay travelling and overnight costs and any financial loss incurred by Councillors when attending Council duties when the loss had been incurred as a result of being present to undertake approved duties: Up to £55 for each period not more than 4 hours and £111 for each period more than 4 hours and not more than 24 hours..

b. Costs of running public toilets in Criccieth £6k

The Town Council had already committed to continue to contribute towards the running costs of public toilets to Gwynedd Council in 2020/21.

c. Grass cutting costs £5k

Decision: to continue to contribute towards the costs of extra grass cutting by Gwynedd Council.

d. Budget for Community Plan

The Council had allocated £29k for the Community Plan – it was unlikely that this would all be spent this year – therefore it was necessary to carry over the unspent sum over to 2020/21 and any some over and above this.

Decision: Agreed

e. Christmas Lights

The condition report on the column displays were discussed and the need to place new ones for 2020. The cost of placing the lights and removing in 2019 was likely to be around £3500. There was £5,000 in the budget. It was noted that some of the column lights had been purchased for 2007 (9 of them) and 5 dated from 2013. The manufacturers expected the lights to last 10 years but due to the town's coastal location 7 years was more likely. On this basis and due to expected underspend in the budget this year (including translation, councillor's allowances, project and Christmas lights, there was an opportunity to invest in buying 14 column lights (at a cost of around £600 each) out of the 2019-20 budget for Christmas 2020.

Decision – to allocated around £8400 to buy Christmas column lights from the 2019-20 budget which meant an overspend on the agreed £5000 budget set for Christmas lights. To allocate a sum of £5,000 for 2020-21.

- f. Spend under section 137(4) of Local Authority Act which allowed spend on activity which the council did not have specific powers to do for charity and other purpose £8.32 for each elector in 2020/21– on the basis of 1278 electors in Criccieth (current as of 1 December 2018) this meant £10,632.96

Decision: - to continue to allocate a sum of £5k to the Memorial Hall (under power S145) and add £5k for other contributions under 137(4).

Decision: to approved the draft budget (see annex 1). It would be possible to adjust the budget and to agree a final budget in March/April.

- g. It was necessary to decide on the precept for 2020-21 – an e-mail had been received from Gwynedd Council on 21/11 requesting details by 24 January 2020. It was noted that the Basic Tax Rate for Criccieth was £944.20. If it was intended to collect and demand a precept of £1,000 this would be at a cost of £1.06 from Council Tax Band D for this community (that is £1,000/944.20)

Therefore, for every £1,000 increase the cost for houses in Band D would be an additional £1.06.

Decision – On the basis of the discussion on the draft budget members did not see a reason to raise the level of the precept in 2020-21 and that the current level of precept of £42,000 should be retained. It was noted that consideration had been given to the money in reserves which the Town Council had in ‘Money Manager’ as a matter of good practice in order to be able to deal with unexpected urgent costs.

3. 8-11/19 Financial Regulations of the Town Council

Consideration was given to revised Regulations for the Town Councils based on the Wales 2019 model regulations which had been circulated by One Voice Wales. The changes to the current Regulations were noted in the draft regulations which had been circulated.

Decision

To adopt them.

4. 9-11/19 Biodiversity – draft Town Council Plan

The plan had been circulated.

Decision

To adopt it

5. 10-11/19 VE Day 8 May 2020 – draft plan for community activities

The Town Council had agreed to work in partnership with the Memorial Hall – draft details on the project and costings had been circulated as a project under the Community Plan. This would include a community felt/knitting activity, sessions in Ysgol Treferthyr by Ffion Gwyn and an exhibition in the Memorial Hall led by Cllr Robert Cadwalader, Ffion Gwyn and the Clerk. The emphasis of the project would be on peace. Monies were available in the budget and it was possible to do this under power S145 of the Local Authority Act 1972 which included development and improving knowledge, understanding of the arts and practices and also exhibitions and food/drinks in this context.

Decision

That the Town Council contribute a sum of £1360 for this project by using power S145.

11-12/19Criccieth Community Plan – update

a. Unique Streets

Noted the success of the Croeso Dolig evening on 28 November and the unveiling of the mural of Criccieth shops by children as part of the project. Unfortunately, since that evening a problems had arisen as someone had been tampering with the Christmas lights on the Maes. It was a shame to note this unsociable behaviour which spoilt the community spirit which had been so evident during the Croeso Dolig evening. The matter had been reported to North Wales Police and the electrician had fitted new locks.

Decision

To receive the report

b. Jet skis

The Clerk had written following the last meeting to ask Gwynedd Council for an update and their plans for the next season

Decision:

To receive the report.

c. Needs assessment affordable housing –

Waiting for a report.

d. Feasibility Study Old Library

The draft report had been circulated.

Decision:

To receive for information and wait for the final report.

e. Application to the Lottery for Funding.

It was confirmed that the Clerk had submitted an application to the Lottery for funding to hold a Community Festival for the whole family in the Memorial Hall Criccieth in September 2020.

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

The Clerk had written to the solicitor to convey the decision of the Town Council.

Decision

To receive for information.

13-12/19 Groynes and Sea Defences Criccieth

Awaiting a report from Gwynedd Council.

14-12/19 Transport in Criccieth – complaints and serious incidents

Nothing to report

15-12/19 Grass and hedge cutting in the town

Nothing to report

16-12/19 Parking in Criccieth

Nothing to report.

17-12/19 Tree felling Criccieth

Nothing to report.

18-12/19 Benches in Criccieth

Decision:

To consider prices to place new benches in town at the next meeting..

19-12/19 Public Footpaths – including Path 11

The Clerk had written again to the Officer at Gwynedd Council - awaiting a response.

Decision

To receive for information

20-12/19 Chair's Allowance 2019-20

By request of the Chair the Council was asked to permit the payment of the Chair's allowance (£200) this month directly to good causes of his choice.

Decision:

To pay £100 to each of the following:

Cylch Meithrin Criccieth

Cyfeillion Ysgol Trefferthyr

21-12/19 Receipts

22-12/19: Payments

• HMRC (PAYE)	£34.09 (cheque 101368)
• Clerk's Wages (November)	£755.66 (cheque 101369)
• Clerk's Costs (Office)	£289.28 (cheque 101370)
• Wales Audit Office	£252.70 (cheque 101371)
• Gwynedd Council	£6020.27 (cheque 101372)*
• R.J. Electrics	£3163.30(cheque 101373)*
• Cylch Meithrin Criccieth	£100.00(cheque 101374)**
• Cyfeillion Ysgol Treforthyr	£100.00 (cheque 101375)**

* Correction to the cheque numbers published on the agenda.

** Additional payments to good causes from the Chair's allowance (see 20-12/19)

Invoices submitted after the publication of the agenda

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

23-12/19: Reserved Matters (for members only)

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on **Tuesday evening 14 January 2020**

****The agenda will close 6 January 2020****

Annex 1 Draft Budget 2020/21

Income

Precept	£42,000
Other (transfer from reserves)	£29,660
Total	£71,660

Spend

Wages	£9,800
Translation	£1,000
Insurance	£1,800
Path maintenance	£600
Grass cutting	£5,000
Room Rent	£1,000
Stamps	£150
Office costs	£100
Membership	£400
Accounts (audit) £700
Courses £700
Christmas	£5,000
Remembrance Sunday£25
Data Protection£35

Office Costs Clerk £850
Travel Costs Clerk £500
Toilets	£6,000
Miscellaneous/other	£3,000
Contribution Memorial Hall	£5,000
Other Contributions	£5,000
Projects	£25,000
TOTAL BUDGET	£71,660