

Criccieth Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council held at 7.00 p.m., Tuesday, **24 September 2019** Council Chamber High Street, Criccieth.

Opening prayer

1-09/19: Present

Chair: Cllr. Robert Cadwalader

Cllr. Eirwyn Williams; Cllr. Wayne Roberts; Cllr. Dr Ian Rees; Cllr Nan Davies Hughes

Clerk – Dr Catrin Jones.

2-09/19 Apologies:

Cllr. Sian Williams; Cllr. Dr E Tudor Jones; Cllr. Phil Jones; Cllr. William A Evans; Cllr. Robert T Price; Cllr. Dafydd Lloyd; Cllr. Angela Hughes

3-09/19: Declaration of Interest

4-09/19 Ratification of August 2019 minutes

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

5-09/19 Urgent items and for information (raised by Chair/Clerk)

Matters for information only – no decisions allowed

6-09/19: Correspondence

- a. One Voice Wales – Environment Wales Act 2016 – Community and Town Councils Duty under Section 6 –email 6 September 2019
It was noted that the Council as a public body had a duty to prepare and publish a plan setting out what the Council proposed doing to comply with the duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity within our current work areas. Gwynedd Council had a plan but did not have guidelines for Town and Community Councils – the useful guidelines provided by Carmarthenshire Council were noted. The Clerk had contacted the Biodiversity Department at Gwynedd Council who were happy to cooperate with us and to produce appropriate guidelines for Town and Community Councils in Gwynedd. Since the Clerk had spoken with the department draft guidelines on green living had been produced which were more general than for biodiversity.

Decision:

To welcome the intention of Gwynedd Council to prepare appropriate guidelines and in the meantime to prepare a draft plan for consideration by the Town Council which outlines the Council's work and plans within our current work areas.

- b. Request for support from Ffrindiau Gardd Natur Criccieth – email 13 September 2019
A request had been received for support by the Town Council from Ffrindiau Gardd Natur Criccieth to extend the licence or lease by Gwynedd Council which would enable the development of the following:
 1. The Nature Garden

2. The Butterfly Garden – currently in a state of neglect and inaccessible due to brambles.
3. The Field – which is currently mown by the Bowling Club in order to maintain it.

Decision:

To welcome and support the application and to send a letter of confirmation from the Town Council.

- c. One Voice Wales Training Sessions North Wales – email 16 September 2019
Information about the courses had been circulated.

Decision:

To receive the information

- d. One Voice Wales – Conference and Annual General Meeting 05/10/19 – email 30 August 2019

Decision:

The Chair to attend

- e. Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference – e-mail 18 September 2019- chance to present matters for discussion by the train operator, Network Rail or the Committee in general.

Decision:

To present the following matters: to request an update from the train operator regarding Criccieth station; the need to improve the maintenance of pathways: y narrow path from the car park to the station and the initial twenty yard of pathway 1 in the direction to Ysgol Treferythyr.

- f. Royal Airforce Valley Community Councils Visits 9 and 29 October – letter 12 September 2019

Decision:

To receive for information

7-09/19: Planning Applications

- a. C19/0844/35/CC Felling of trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order – Ty'n Ffrwd, 4, Wern y Wylan, Criccieth LL52 0LF

Decision: No objection

8-09/19: External Audit of Town Council Accounts for 2018-19

The Clerk had been in touch with the office and was expecting confirmation of completion of the audit by the end of the week.

Decision: To receive the information

9-09/19: Financial Update 2019-20

- a. A financial report which had been circulated by the Clerk to all members was received. This showed Income and Expenditure against the budget up until the end of August 2019 and the bank reconciliation for the period.

It was noted the £20,640.36 had been spent (including VAT) out of the £80,160 which had been allocated in the general budget. There was a sum of £45,228.46 in the 'Community Account' and £30,463.62 in the 'Money Manager' account.

For Commemorating Criccieth's Contribution project, the spend on the project had been completed and the project closed by the Lottery Office – the total spend had kept within the £10,00 awarded to the Project in 2017-18 and the final spend in the 2019/20 financial year amounted to £768.40.

In early September the second half of the precept had been paid by Gwynedd Council – this would appear on the next spreadsheet.

Decision:

To receive the report and agree to hold a meeting of the Finance, Policy and Management Committee on Tuesday evening 26 November.

b. Complaint to the HSBC

A complaint letter dated 21 September to the bank had been circulated and a subsequent email from a member of HSBC staff dated 23 September who had been dealing with the matter. This matter related to the "safeguarding" verification process and information required by the bank. Despite the Town Council completing the process on 12 August the bank still had not completed the process and they had threatened to close the account. This was a totally unacceptable situation which had taken a substantial number of hours of work in order to try to conclude.

Decision:

To receive the report and thank the Chair and the Clerk for their work. Permission was granted to the Clerk and Chair to act as necessary in the meantime before the next meeting of the Town Council. The possibility of banking with the Post Office should also be explored.

10-09/19 Criccieth Community Plan – update

a. Feasibility Study Old Library

The consultation day on 4th September at the Memorial Hall had gone well. A report on the study would be available by the end of October in time for the November Town Council meeting. The Chair and Clerk had met with an Officer from the National Lottery to discuss possibilities about making a big grant application for the work – Source "People and Places". There was a staged application process and it was important that it was people led and consultation with groups/businesses/organisations as the Council had already done up until now. It was also possible to look at other sources of funding. However, the first step was for the Town Council to carefully consider the Feasibility Report to see what was possible. It was essential to secure a viable business case for the building and to resolve legal matters relating to the building with Cyngor Gwynedd. Without a legal agreement on the ownership of the building, it will be difficult to progress this development.

Decision: to receive the information and note that the Feasibility Study Report would be available for the next meeting. discuss at the next meeting of the Town Council.

b. Unique Streets

The next event would be the unveiling of the sculpture by Howard Bowcott on the Maes at 3 pm on the afternoon of 2 November. A risk assessment for the event had been circulated and needed approval by the Town Council. It had been presented to the Fire Service and Police and

a response received from the Fire Service confirming that they had no comments. A book on the history of shops in Criccieth was being prepared by Cllr. Robert Cadwalader.

Decision

To receive the report and approve the risk assessment for the event on 2 November.

- c. **Needs assessment affordable housing** – it was noted that the consultation had been held at the Memorial Hall on 4th September and that a report was being prepared. 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. Community Plan

At the last meeting it had been agreed 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. A petition for signature had been commenced and was still open and the Clerk had e-mailed the officer at Gwynedd Council.

A response had been received from the Officer at Gwynedd Council which stated that he did not think it would be practically possible to ban them and also noting that a number of local businesses depended on the industry for their livelihood. It also noted that the Maritime and Rural Parks Unit was intending to undertake a review of the laws relating to power boats on the Gwynedd coast during the next year. The Officer also suggest that a review of the sub-laws would be the best and most constructive way to strengthen their management on all power boats on the Gwynedd coast. Also, as there was a substantial use of power boats launched within the waters of Porthmadog harbour it may be possible for this matter to be discussed at the next meeting of the Harbour Committee being held on 9th October 2019. The Officer would discuss that matter further with work colleagues in order to ensure that the necessary procedures were followed relating to the Town Council's request.

Decision

The response was noted. The Town Council did not see it appropriate to refer to local businesses and their livelihood as part of any debate on this very serious matter. The incidents over the summer were matters of primary health and safety concerns which need attention and resolving as a matter of urgency. The behaviour and actions had endangered the life of users of local sea waters. Are there sufficient arrangements in place to monitor use and behaviour by the appropriate authorities? The Town Council requests that this matter is discussed at the meeting of the Harbour Committee as a first step.

11-09/19 Future of Criccieth Town Council Building and Library

A response was awaited from Gwynedd Council.

Decision To receive the report.

12-09/19 Groynes and Sea Defences Criccieth

A report was awaited from Gwynedd Council

Decision:

To receive the information

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

- a. It was noted that the report by the Officer from Gwynedd Council regarding the traffic from the direction of Pwllheli had been received. The monitoring of speed on the road by Gwynedd Council had identified that vehicles were travelling at speeds much higher than the speed limit of 30mph. The data had been transferred to the police, and they were hopeful that attention would be given to enforce the speed limit in the area. As a first step, Gwynedd Council intended to change the signage to make them much more visible with a yellow background to emphasise the 30mph speed limit. The intention was to have these signs in place within the next six weeks.

Decision:

The Town Council welcomed this report and that Gwynedd Council had acted on the request of the Town Council.

- 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 had been received to confirm that Gwynedd Council would continue to monitor the situation following the placing of the yellow lines and would consider other measure if necessary.

Decision:

To receive the report noting that the Town Council was still not happy with the situation and proposed that Gwynedd Council consider placing a zebra crossing in an appropriate place.

14-09/19 Grass and hedge cutting in the town

Nothing to report

15-09/19 Parking in Criccieth

A response from the officer at Gwynedd Council was received to confirm that new signs would be placed directing traffic to the car park adjacent to the High Street.

Decision: The Town Council welcomed this action by Gwynedd Council.

16-08/19 Tree felling Criccieth

Nothing to report.

17-09/19 Benches in Criccieth

The good work by Criccieth in Bloom to renovate over 30 benches around town was noted – this work had also been acknowledged on Criccieth Hub’s facebook.

Decision:

To write a word of thanks to Criccieth in Bloom.

18-08/19 Public Footpaths – including Path 11

The Clerk had written again to the Officer at Gwynedd Council. A response had been received confirming that a meeting had taken place with the lawyer and other officers recently and as a result would try to meet with the owner to offer one more chance to for cooperation before taking matters further.

Decision:

To receive the report.

19-09/19 Receipts

Gwynedd Council – second half of precept £20,000

20-09/19: Payments

• HMRC (PAYE)	£34.09 (cheque 101355)
• Clerk’s Wages (September)	£755.66(cheque 101356)
• Gwasg Cymru	£441.20 (cheque 101357)
• Clerk’s Costs	£82.10 (cheque 101358)
• One Voice Wales	£100.00 (cheque 101359)

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

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on **Tuesday evening 12 November 2019**.

****The agenda will close 4 November 2019****