

# Criccieth Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council held at 7.00 p.m., Tuesday, **11 February 2020** Council Chamber High Street, Criccieth.

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## **1-02/20: Present**

Chair: Cllr. Robert Cadwalader

Cllr. Phil Jones; Cllr. Wayne Roberts; Cllr. Dafydd Lloyd; Cllr. Angela Hughes; Cllr Nan Davies Hughes; Cllr. Dr Ian Rees; Cllr. Eirwyn Williams; Clerk – Dr Catrin Jones.

## **2-02/20 Apologies:**

Cllr. Robert T Price; Cllr. Sian Williams;

## **3-02/20: Declaration of Interest**

## **4-02/20 Ratification of January 2020 minutes**

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

## **5-02/20 Urgent items and for information (raised by Chair/Clerk)**

*Matters for information only – no decisions allowed*

- a. Signs for New Housing by the George – advertisement by the Development Company – email by the Planning Enforcement Officer – 30 December and petition by residents – it was noted that Gwynedd Council was investigating the complaint. In the meantime a number of boards had been damaged by the storm over the weekend.

## **6-02/20: Correspondence**

- a. Gwynedd Council– Playgrounds in your Town/Community – letter 10th January 2020

A letter had been circulated which explained that it was not the intention of Gwynedd Council to close the playgrounds and that in contrast to the Public Toilets Plan the savings plan had been approved on condition of transferring responsibility only. This matter of taking responsibility for playgrounds had been discussed by the Town Council in November 2019 when it had been agreed that the Town Council did not have the capacity to take responsibility for the playgrounds.

### **Decision:**

To confirm the earlier decision that the Town Council did not want to take responsibility for the town's playgrounds due to the reasons noted and to confirm this with Gwynedd Council.

- b. Consultation on Local Government and Elections Bill (Wales) – One Voice Wales Response – 3rd January 2020

The response of One Voice Wales to the consultation had been circulated – there were a number of obligations for Town and Community Councils.

**Decision:**

To receive for information

- c. BT Kiosks – Consultation January 2020

The consultation paper have been circulated – none of the kiosks involved directly affected Criccieth.

**Decision:**

To receive for information.

- d. Betsi Cadwallder Stakeholder Reference Group – 17 December 2019

The report had been circulated.

**Decision:**

To receive for information

**7-02/20: Planning Applications**

- a. C19/0992/35/AM Outline application with all matters reserved to erect a domestic dwelling and garage

**Decision:**

No comments

- b. C20/0047/35/DT Application for the provision of a bay window on the ground floor of the property ; Harlech View, Wellington Terrace, Tanygrisiau, Criccieth, LL52 0DB

**Decision:**

No objection

- c. C20/0072/35/DT Application to demolish existing extensions and the erection of a flat roof rear extension with balcony above and the provision of a dormer window along the rear elevation of the property; Tir Uchaf, Lôn Ednyfed, Criccieth, LL52 0LE

**Decision:**

No objection

- d. C20/0075/35/CC Felling of tree within a Preservation Area: Lion Hotel, Y Maes, Criccieth, LL52 0AA

**Decision:**

To submit comments: The Town Council does not accept that trees are felled in a conservation area without good reason – there is insufficient reason to support this application.

- e. C20/0084/35/LL Application for the erection of a dwelling; Modwenna, Lôn Geraint, Criccieth, LL52 0HR

**Decision:**

No objection

### **8-02/20: Filling of Vacant Seats on Town Council**

It was noted that the notice of the two vacant seats on the Town Council had been placed on the Town Council's noticeboard and website noting the intention of the Council to co-opt to the vacant seats – the dated for receiving applications to the Clerk: 29 February 2020.

#### **Decision:**

To receive for information.

### **9-02/20 Christmas Lights 20220**

#### **a. Column Lights**

At the last meeting it was decided to allocate around £8400 to buy new Christmas column lights for Christmas 2020 due to the condition and age of the current lights. The condition report from the electrician confirmed that 7 of the 14 current column lights were in very bad condition and that it was not economical to repair them. There were 7 in good condition or need of minor repair.

#### **Decision:**

To agree to buy 14 new column lights for the High Street – Aura £570 each + VAT and delivery costs (around £50). For 2020, to place the 7 remaining column lights on Caernarfon Road from the crossroads on the Maes. This would result in extra fitting costs in the first year.

#### **b. New tree lights**

At the last meeting it was agreed to request the price for purchasing new lights for one tree on the Maes – the cost for 4 sets of 50 with an appropriate driver was £2382+ VAT and delivery costs.

#### **Decision:**

To postpone purchasing these new lights due to the decision to invest in the column lights.

### **10-02/20 Town Council Website**

Due to new Government legislation, namely "The Public Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 it was necessary to ensure that the Town Council's Website complied with requirements by 23 September 2020. The brief received from the National Associations of Councils (NALC) has been circulated. The cost of testing the accessibility of the current website was thousands of pounds and the current service provider for the Town Council was not able to offer adjusting the current Website or creating a new one. An accessibility statement was also required.

The Clerk had written for a quote from a number of companies.

#### **Decision:**

To invest in purchasing a new Website which meets the new requirements by the specified date and to delegate responsibility for selecting the appropriate company to undertake this work to the Finance, Policy and Management Sub-Committee on behalf of the Council.

### **11-02/20 Criccieth Community Plan – update**

#### **a. Jet skis**

The Clerk had written following the last meeting to ask Gwynedd Council for an update and their plans for the next season and had also presented the petition in support of banning jet skis. The

response received noted that it was unlikely that Gwynedd Council would have the authority or the resources to ban the use of Personal Water Boats on the sea between Pwllheli and Porthmadog. The officer was confident that the review of the maritime sub-laws would strengthen their management of them. For the new season rapidly approaching, the Council's staff would police the most popular areas of the coast and harbours during the main summer season. This would include Criccieth beach. The officer also commented that the Council over recent years had introduced specific regulations for the use of Personal Water Board and Power Boats on the coastline and that these regulations had been effective and that most users complied with these regulations.

Although the registration and regulation of the coastline was a significant cost to tax payers the officer was confident that the plan was effective and due to this it was intended to continue with the registration requirements and the management of popular areas of the coast. He noted that only a small number of complaints and incidents had come to light and agreed that the incident in Criccieth in 2019 was not acceptable and that only a small number of users failed to conform with regulations and responsible use. He noted that the Council would continue with the current management and registration of power boats in 2020 despite cuts in the funding of Local Authorities. He stressed that it was only in relatively short periods of the calendar year that staff supervised the beaches. It was also inevitable that it was not possible to supervise beaches for the number of hours that it was possible for individuals to launch boats. The request from the Town Council to place Speed Buoys before the Easter holidays had also been considered. Unfortunately, this would not be possible due to that fact that Gwynedd Council had a large number of Speed Restriction Zones on the coastline and it was necessary to maintain these during the busiest times of the year. During high winds the buoys moved and therefore it was necessary to reduce the period when it was possible that strong winds brought the buoys to the shore. He stressed that staff would ensure that the number of buoys placed in Criccieth this year would be increased, hoping that power boat users would interpret the purpose of the buoys and comply with the speed restrictions within the zone. He offered to discuss that matter with members of the Town Council.

**Decision:**

Agreed to write again to the officer thanking him for the response and to note that the Town Council was far from happy with the situation. The Town Council was very unhappy with the current arrangements which was not in the opinion of the Council sufficient to protect the public, particularly so after five pm as a result of office closure. Gwynedd Council was responsible for the safety of residents and the Town Council was very worried about public safety. The Officer would also be invited to attend a meeting of the Town Council.

**b. Needs assessment affordable housing –**

Waiting for a report.

**c. Feasibility Study Old Library**

The finalised report had been circulated.

**Decision:**

To acknowledge and thank the company for the report and to arrange a special meeting of Council to consider it when the legal situation of the building was known.

#### **d. VE Project**

It was noted that the community poppy project had commenced. Workshops at Treforthyr School would commence after half term. The idea of moving the exhibition from the Memorial Hall to encompass Criccieth High Street had been suggested due to the Memorial Hall being unavailable on the weekend following the 8<sup>th</sup>. There was a meeting to discuss with shop owners on the 25 February.

#### **Decision**

To receive for information and to welcome the idea of moving the exhibition to the High Street.

#### **12-02/20 Future of Criccieth Town Council Building and Library**

Awaiting a response.

#### **13-02/20 Groynes and Sea Defences Criccieth**

The significant damage to the prom due to the storm over the weekend was noted and Cllr. Eirwyn Williams had contacted Gwynedd Council regarding this. The Council had commenced on restorative work.

#### **Decision**

To receive for information.

#### **14-02/20 Transport in Criccieth**

Nothing to report. Unfortunately the new signage was not yet in place and the Clerk had written again to the officer at Gwynedd Council.

#### **Decision:**

To receive for information.

#### **15-02/20 Grass and hedge cutting in the town**

The Clerk had contacted Gwynedd Council to request permission that the Town Council arrange and pay for the hedge cutting on Pathway Number 1. A positive response had been received from Gwynedd Council agreeing that the work could proceed soon and should be completed before the end of March. The Council had requested to be informed of the decision of the Town Council regarding the supplier chosen to undertake the work and also the timetable for being on site.

The Clerk had invited three suppliers to present prices for undertaking one cut of the hedge on Pathway No 1 and three cuts a year of Pen y Maes Cemetery for a period of 3 years. Consideration was given the prices presented for this work.

#### **Decision:**

It was agreed to grant this work to the company of J.H. Williams.

#### **16-02/20 Parking in Criccieth**

Nothing to report.

#### **17-02/20 Tree felling Criccieth**

It was noted that Cllr. Phil Jones had arranged a meeting with the tree assessor.

**Decision:**

To receive for information

**18-02/20 Benches in Criccieth**

Nothing to report

**19-02/20 Public Footpaths – including Path 11**

The Clerk had written again to the Officer at Gwynedd Council and had received an apology for the delay

**Decision**

That the Clerk should write to the Officer at Gwynedd Council to invite one of the officers to meet with Cllr. Wayne Roberts and that his item should appear sooner on the Council's agenda at the next meeting.

**20-02/20 Pensions Regulator**

It was noted that the Clerk had re-stated its position with the Pensions Regulator. A letter had been received to confirm this.

**Decision:**

The receive for information.

**21-02/20 Receipts**

Nothing

**22-02/20: Payments**

• HMRC (PAYE)	£34.09 (cheque 101379)
• Clerk's Wages (January)	£755.66 (cheque 101380)
• Cwmni Drama Llanystumdwy	£200.00 (cheque 101381)
• Criccieth in Bloom	£492.26 (cheque 101382)
• Criccieth Tennis Club	£357.60 (cheque 101383)
• Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru	£2500.00 (cheque 101384)
• Criccieth Memorial Hall	£5000.00 (cheque 101385)
• Clerk's Travelling costs	£19.00 (cheque 101386)
• Dr Catrin Jones (VE project costs)	£119.99 (cheque 101387)
• Atkin Groundworks Ltd	£380.40 (cheque 101388)

**Decision:**

Permission was granted to the Clerk to pay the bills.

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The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on **Tuesday evening 10 March 2020**

**\*\*The agenda will close 2 March 2020\*\***