

Criccieth Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council held at 7.00 p.m., Tuesday, **14 January 2020** Council Chamber High Street, Criccieth.

Opening prayer

1-01/20: 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.

2-01/20 Apologies:

Cllr. Robert T Price; Cllr. Sian Williams;

3-01/20: Declaration of Interest

4-01/20 Ratification of December 2019 minutes

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

5-01/20 Urgent items and for information (raised by Chair/Clerk)

Matters for information only – no decisions allowed

6-01/20: Correspondence

- a. Request to scatter ashes at Penymaes cemetery– consideration of letter to the Chair of Council, December 2019
A written request had been received to scatter ashes and place a plaque by a member of the public who had been brought up in the town and whose parents were buried there.

Decision:

To approve the request and send a written confirmation on condition that the arrangements for scattering the ashes and placing of the plaque was undertaken by a funeral director. The Clerk to write on behalf of the Town Council.

- b. Signs for New Housing by the George – notices by the Development Company – emails from Planning Enforcement Officer-30 December 2019 and petition by residents.
Information had been circulated about the concerns of the enforcement officer regarding the signage due to reference to holiday flats and a concierge services and also a petition by residents due to the poor quality of the signage and that it reflected badly on the High Street.

Decision:

To support the concerns raised by the Enforcement Officer and also the petition by residents and that the Clerk should write to confirm this and present a copy of the petition to Gwynedd Council.

- c. Insufficient Bus Service to Alltwen Hospital– email by the Clerk of Porthmadog Town Council– 18 December 2020
A letter had been circulated noting the concern of Porthmadog Town Council Council regarding the infrequency of buses to Alltwen Hospital from Porthmadog town. The Town Council was content with the service from Criccieth.

Decision:

To receive for information and to respond to Porthmadog Town Council acknowledging its concerns.

- d. One Voice Wales Awards Conference – Thursday 26 March 2020 – email by One Voice Wales 17 December 2019
Information had been circulated – an invitation to apply for awards under a number of categories by members of Council or external groups/individuals.

Decision:

To consider applying.

- e. Consultation document – Changes to Planning Fees and associated applications – email 18 December 2019
Information had been circulated regarding changes to the fees for planning and applications, in addition to including a fee for Appropriate Development Certificates. It offered a fee system which would recover the full costs for County Councils

Decision:

To receive for information.

- f. Wales and VE Day – email 3 January 2020
Information regarding a request to recognise the role women played in WW2 during VE Day remembrance had been circulated.

Decision:

To receive for information, noting that the role of women would be recognised in the arrangements for the day at Criccieth.

- g. Owl Cymru Service – email 18 December 2019
Information had been circulated on options to keep the OWL Cymru service operating and which would transfer the cost to Town and Community Councils.

Decision:

Not to support the funding of the service.

7-01/20: Planning Applications

- a. C19/1154/35/DT– Extension to existing garage and external alterations in order to use the building as rooms incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house – Bron y Foel, Radcliffe Road, Criccieth, LL52 0LB

Decision:

No objection

8-01/20: 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 for the specified period in order to give electors the chance to exercise their right to request an election. If a request was not received by the closing date, namely 20 January the Council would be able to co-opt to fill the vacant seats.

Decision:

To receive the report and if a request for an election was not received that the Clerk should post the appropriate notice of the intention of the Council to fill the vacant seats by co-option, inviting applications by 29 February 2020.

9-01/20: Town Council Bank Account

Complaint to HSBC – it was noted that the Clerk was still awaiting a response from the HSBC but that £300 had appeared in the bank account from the HSBC without a letter of explanation.

Decision:

To receive the information.

10-01/20 Financial Update 2019-20

The Clerk had circulated the financial report to all members. This showed Income and Expenditure finances against the budget up until the end of December 2019 and bank reconciliation for the period.

It was noted that £42,819.68 had been spent (including VAT) from the £80,160 which had been allocated for the general budget. A sum of £44,349.13 was available in the 'Community Account' and £30,494.01 in the 'Money Manager'.

Decision:

To receive the report.

11-01/20 Precept 2020-21

It was noted that the Town Council had decided to keep the precept at the same level as the current year, namely £42,000 and that the Clerk would be writing to Gwynedd Council to confirm this.

Decision:

The Clerk to write to Gwynedd Council to confirm a precept of £42,000 for 2020-21.

12-01/20 Christmas Lights 2020

At the last meeting it was decided to allocate 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.

Decision:

To agree that the lights be purchased from RJ Electrics who store these lights annually and who offer an excellent service to the Town Council and that there was no need to follow the Financial Regulations to ask for 3 quotes by different companies as the prices were standard catalogue. It was agreed also to request a price for new Christmas lights on one of the trees as these were old lights.

13-01/20 Applications For Financial Contributions

- a. Decisions on applications by the following for contributions considered under Section 137 (4) (a) Local Authority Act 1972 power 137

Theatr Bara Caws – no contribution

Llanystumdwy Football Club – no contribution

Cwmni Drama Llanystumdwy - £200

Criccieth in Bloom - £492.26

Criccieth Tennis Club - £357.60

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru – Local Appeal Committee - £2500

- b. Decision on an application for a contribution under power S145

Criccieth Memorial Hall - £5000

14-01/20 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. The response received referred to the minutes of the Harbour Committee 8 October 2019 (which had been circulated) and which referred to the need for the public to report any matter of concern to them and also that the regulations were being reviewed. The response did not refer to Gwynedd Council's plans to improve the regulation of the waters.

Decision:

Agreed to write again to the officer to note that the Town Council was very disappointed in the response to the very dangerous incident which had happened in Criccieth in August 2019 and the need for better regulation of the waters including improvement in the buoys and also ensuring that they were in place earlier in the season and definitely by Easter. A copy of the petition would also be sent.

b. Needs assessment affordable housing –

Waiting for a report.

c. Feasibility Study Old Library

It was noted that the final report would be available by February. .

Decision:

To receive for information.

A meeting of the Steering Committee would be held in due course.

15-01/20 Future of Criccieth Town Council Building and Library

Awaiting a response from Gwynedd Council.

16-01/20 Groynes and Sea Defences Criccieth

Awaiting a report from Gwynedd Council.

17-01/20 Transport in Criccieth

The new sign for the car park was not yet in place

Decision:

The Clerk to write to the Officer at Gwynedd Council

18-01/20 Grass and hedge cutting in the town

Concern was expressed about the condition of the hedge from the station, past the wild garden and towards Hen Bont Road due to the quality of its maintenance by Gwynedd Council.

Decision:

The Clerk to write for three quotes for the cost of cutting the hedge and to report back to the Town Council.

19-01/20 Parking in Criccieth

Nothing to report.

20-01/20 Tree felling Criccieth

It was noted that Cllr. Phil Jones would contact the expert to arrange for an assessment of trees in the town as previously agreed.

Decision:

To receive for information

21-01/20 Benches in Criccieth

Nothing to report

22-01/20 Public Footpaths – including Path 11

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

Decision

That the Clerk should write another letter to the Officer at Gwynedd Council.

23-01/19 Opening Prayer

Whether or not to continue which the Opening Prayer at the commencement of each meeting was discussed.

Decision:

Agreed by a majority vote to discontinue with the Opening Prayer but to refer to the Members Code of Conduct at the start of each meeting.

24-01/19 Pensions Regulator

It was noted that the Council needed to re-state its position with the Pensions Regulator.

Decision:

The Clerk to complete the process on behalf of the Town Council.

21-12/19 Receipts

HSBC - £300

22-12/19: Payments

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • HMRC (PAYE) | £34.09 (cheque 101376) |
| • Clerk's Wages (December) | £755.66 (cheque 101377) |
| • R.J. Electrics | £360.00(cheque 101378)* |

* Additional invoice submitted after the publication of the agenda

Decision:

Permission was granted to the Clerk to pay the bills.

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on **Tuesday evening 11 February 2020**

****The agenda will close 3 February 2020****