



**CRICKHOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
CYNGOR Y DRE CRUG HYWEL**

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20 January 2026 at 7pm at Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre.

**PRESENT**

Cllr P Evans – Chair  
Cllr L Baber  
Cllr M Clark  
Cllr A D’Anna  
Cllr D Davies  
Cllr S Evans  
Cllr J Gruffydd

Cllr M Goodman  
Cllr C Hall  
Cllr A Jeremiah  
Cllr H Morgans  
C Beatty – Clerk

**6676: Apologies for absence**

None.

**6677: Declarations of Interest**

None

**6678: Questions from the public**

None

**6679: Casual vacancy**

The Council noted the process of advertising the vacancy and considered the candidate who had put himself forward. It was resolved that Jon Leighton be co-opted as a member of Crickhowell Town Council

**6680: Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16 December 2025**

The minutes were approved.

**6681: Quick updates:**

**Christmas Tree:** All generally agreed that the Council should have a Christmas Tree again next year, but that the power must be fixed before then.

**Biodiversity Action Plan:** thanks was given to Cllr Gruffydd for her work preparing this and also for sharing the useful checklists with the Environment Committee.

**Transforming Towns grant:** a meeting of the County Councillors, Mayor and Prosperous Development Officer at PCC recently took place. A quote is being sought for a specialist to put the bid together, which will see improvements made to the High Street.

**Place Plan:** Cllrs Gruffydd, Goodman and Hall along with Chris Jones and Chris Gentle, having won the Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru award for Best Practice in Place Making in 2025, were asked to present at their webinar series to launch this year's awards. The presentation focused on the development of the Crickhowell Place Plan, lessons learnt etc, and what receiving the award meant to them.

Mayors Initials:  .....



**QEII Field: the Friends of Jubilee Park met this week.** Presentations were made by the working groups on proposals for a multi-wheeled skate area and on the playing field. Objections outweighed those in favour on the multi-wheeled skate area so that will go through to public consultation. There was consensus about the football pitch proposals. The next step is for the Town Council to fund a design study and then the community to lead on the outputs. Councillors agreed that it was important to maintain a balance between what is already available in Castle Park versus new ideas for the QEII Field.

**A40:** The Council has seen the designs of the resurfacing work on the A40 between the Post Office and The Bear and gave feedback on the first draft proposals which were taken on board. The project has now gone to public consultation. Work may start in March. The road section from The Bear to New Road is the next phase. There will be further opportunities for the Council to be involved in the discussion about pedestrian crossings in that zone.

**Castle repairs:** In the December meeting Cllr Gruffydd had reported the outcome of the bat survey and that further surveys needed to be done in May. The Clerk wrote to CADW before Christmas to request a delay to the grant until the new financial year. There has been no response to date. He has advised that we should not make a second funding application and instead go ahead with the bat surveys and claim back the costs. Council agreed to go ahead with the best value quote. It was suggested that an education piece around the bat survey may be of interest to local students.

**Soft pour repairs:** the quote has been accepted and we are waiting for the contractor to do the work as soon as the temperature is regularly about 5 degrees.

**Post 16 Review:** in December Cllr Baber met with Jake Berriman, Leader of PCC to ask about the evidence underlying the initial report. The action group will meet again soon to consider whether there is any legal basis to challenge the results of the consultation.

**Library:** County Cllr Hall reported that there needs to be plan for medium to long term management. There is a commitment to keep it but the community needs to come up with a sustainable model.

**ACTION: Friends of Jubilee Park group to bring quotes for professional advice on site usage to the next Town Council meeting.**

**ACTION: Clerk to accept quote from Just Mammals.**

#### **6682: Budget for 2026-27**

The revised budget had been shared with Councillors. The following points were raised:

- Toilets: the Chair and Clerk had met with the CRIC Manager and Finance Officer this week. There were some accounting issues to be addressed, but the running costs are unlikely to increase next year. It was also noted that the water rates are paid by CRIC and do not therefore need to be listed separately on the Town Council budget. It was noted that the public toilets need a major refurbishment – new floors, drainage fixed etc. it was therefore agreed to keep the budget for toilet repairs at £1500, but noted that if it is not used this year for ad hoc repairs it should go into long term reserves for the refurbishment.
- There is an increase in sums set aside for grants to £3,500

Mayors Initials: 



- £9,000 as yet is unallocated for Place Plan projects
- Projected income from burial fees has been increased to £7,500 from £4,000 on the basis of receipts so far this year
- The scattered provision for “contingency” are now all wrapped up under a single figure of £1000
- Separate maintenance budgets have been rationalised into one budget for all assets
- The headline budget worked out at £102,000 gross and £90,000 net (after subtracting the anticipated burial fees and VAT rebate, neither of which are entirely certain), so the precept request would be £90,000 if the budget remains unaltered. The precept last year was £78, 850 (a 20% increase on the previous year of 23/24). Its been 20% increase for the last few years. We are now suggesting 15%.
- Council notes its responsibility for balancing the cost of living for the community versus community initiatives led by the Council and having to be mindful of all other areas of the economy.

The budget for 2026-27 was approved.

**6683: Precept request for 2026-27**

A precept request of £90,000 was unanimously agreed.

**6684: Report from the County Councillor**

A written report had been provided. Items of note included:

- The Active Travel Plans for Llangattock would be starting soon which may cause traffic problems for both Llangattock and Crickhowell during the work period.
- It was noted that the new Powys Town and Community Resource Site did not currently have much useful content on it.
- The Clerk was asked to see if it is possible to get the bus timetable in larger print.
- The County Councillor was asked to check if there would be a physical bus shelter on the westbound side of the A40.

**ACTION: Cllr Leighton offered to gather views of the Council on the Active Travel Plans.**

**ACTION: The Clerk see if it is possible to get the bus timetable in larger print.**

**ACTION: County Cllr Hall to check if there will be a bus shelter on the westbound side of the A40.**

**6685: Council’s IT, email accounts, and website**

The Clerk updated Councillors on the issues with the new Office 365 account and explained that some IT support is required to get everyone set up. It was agreed that once it was working for everyone, a small working group would be set up to agree the format of the Sharepoint files too.

On the website, Cllr Goodman needs a few people to still send their photos to him and it could then go live. Cllr Clark and Goodman will work together to write some content for the News section of the website and a summary report of the 26-27 budget.

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**ACTION: Clerk to arrange IT support to set up O365**  
**ACTION: Cllr Goodman to speak to the website designer re switching it on.**

Finance

**6686: Monthly bank reconciliations**

Approved.

**6687: Payment and receipts**

The payment and receipts were approved.

Regular items

**6688: Correspondence**

Corres 21: Business Network event on 27 January - Clerk to share with the business association

Corres 30: Clerk to send a response. relating to the state of the A40

Corres 35: The Council will express its willingness to support the second food festival in 2026.

**6689: Communication items**

The Clerk was tasked to update the noticeboards in the Park

The Clean and Green posters are being shared

**6690: Reports of meetings/exchange of information**

- Cllr S Evans reported that Rob Howells was looking at replacement clocks still
- Cllr S Evans has also talked to the businesses regarding hanging baskets and some are interested. Watering to be discussed.
- Cllr Morgans is in the process of arranging signs for the Dragon Path.
- It was agreed at the last Five Councils meeting that the Chairs would write a joint letter ~~regarding ??~~ *the Sixty four at Crickhams High School.*
- The town wifi is progressing slowly.
- The funeral of former Councillor Vivian Peter Games will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm at St Johns Church in Tretower.

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.00 pm.*

Signed.....*ASW*.....Date: *17 February 2026*