



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

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 September 2025 at 7pm at Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre.

PRESENT

Cllr P Evans– Chair	Cllr C Hall
Cllr M Clark	Cllr A Jeremiah
Cllr A D’Anna	Cllr H Morgans
Cllr L Baber	C Beatty – Clerk
Cllr D Davies	Matt Perry, Chief Officer – Place, Powys County Council
Cllr J Gruffydd	15 members of public were in attendance
Cllr M Goodman	

6598: Apologies for absence

Cllr S Evans

6599: Declarations of Interest

Cllr D’Anna declared an interest (non-financial) in the grant application from Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau as his spouse is the Vice Chair.

6600: Questions from the public

15 members of the public were in attendance. The following question were asked:

- *Crickhowell Town Council has budgeted £5000 for the QEII Field this financial year. Will the Council continue to pay these costs; or will the Crickhowell & District Partnership have to raise funds in future?*
- *Who will have title to any of the equipment purchased?*

The Mayor explained that currently the QEII Field is owned by Powys County Council. The Council has expressed an interest in taking over ownership of it, in due course. If the ownership is transferred, then the Council will pay for the running of the park and insurance as part of its annual budget. The Council already has a good model as it has been running the Castle Park for many years.

The Mayor went on to explain that the Council doesn’t expect any play equipment to be introduced in the near future. If any is purchased, it will belong to the freeholder who is PCC. If the Council then takes over the park then the equipment will belong to the Council from that point onwards.

6601: Approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15 July 2025

Approved.

Mayors Initials: 



6602: Quick updates and reports on ongoing projects including:

Castle works: Cllr Gruffydd has been in contact with Will Davies of CADW, he will chase up the grant application. The Clerk explained that there had been issues with the bank details shared with CADW needing to be verified.

QEII Field: Cllr Gruffydd reported on the recent meeting of the working group. There was still lots of enthusiasm from those involved. The sub-group was working on ideas for possible improvements to the facilities with a view to submitting a grant application with the agreement of the owner of the field, Powys CC. No decisions had yet been made.

Town Wifi: Cllr Goodman is in touch with John Williams from PCC about arranging a switch on date with the installers.

CTC Website: Photos are needed from Cllrs Baber and Clark. Text is required from Cllr P Evans.

Resurfacing work on the A40: The Mayor reported on the positive response received from the Trunk Road Agency on the siting of the proposed new crossing (which would be zebra rather than pelican) and the bus stops when the resurfacing work takes place.

ACTION: Cllr Goodman to follow up on wifi switch on

ACTION: Cllrs Baber and Clark to submit photos for the website. Cllr P Evans to draft text for the page regarding the public toilets.

6603: Receive an update from Matt Perry, Chief Officer – Place, Powys County Council

Matt Perry explained that he is the lead senior officer within PCC that represents Crickhowell, acting as a conduit between the Council and PCC. His areas of responsibility include travel, recycling, planning. On the Active Travel consultation he confirmed that the maps shared are 'in principle' maps about joining up communities. It was agreed that Mr Perry would be invited to meet councillors quarterly, and he expressed a willingness to be available at other times if required.

6604: Receive an update from the County Councillor

A written report had been shared with Councillors. The following items were discussed:

- The home energy checks available to people aged 65+ in Powys.
- The ongoing consultations about hospitals and transport between them have now closed and we are waiting for the recommendations.
- Some residents have commented that the guidance about the new charges for Blue Badge holders is not clear. It was suggested that the old noticeboard from the carpark has disappeared. Could a new noticeboard be installed and notices about parking be put in?
- It was agreed that the Council could ask the Volunteer Bureau whether health equipment items could be collected by them and then arranged to go on to Newtown, rather than residents taking items individually.
- Feedback on the household recycling services has been generally positive
- The timetable is now up in the bus stop, but it was suggested that a bigger font would be useful. It was noted that the new timetable includes later buses to and from Abergavenny and Brecon. An electronic indicator board may eventually be installed. Information about the bus-checking app

Mayors Initials: 



- Empty properties – problems can be report to PCC.
<https://en.powys.gov.uk/emptyproperties>
- The new parking charges are now in force. Thanks was given to Matt Perry and CTC for successfully lobbying for the 1-hour option to be reintroduced.
- Capital grants for business – if anyone knows any suitable organisations or a small business they can be match funded for £25,000. All to pass on.

Councillors discussed whether a newsletter would be a good addition to the Council's communication channels. Cllr Hall and Morgans agreed to consider and report back.

ACTION: Blue Badge / noticeboard

ACTION: Cllr Hall to discuss health equipment with CVB

ACTION: Clerk to ask bus timetable company for bigger print timetables

ACTION: Cllrs Hall and Morgans research other council newsletters and report back.

6605: Discuss and agree responses on planning applications received since the last meeting.

25/23942/FUL: 3A Oakfield Drive, Crickhowell. Rear and side extension to existing bungalow. **No adverse comments.**

24/23281/FUL: 45 Ffynnonau, Crickhowell, NP8 1DB. **Withdrawn.**

25/24015/FUL: Danycastell Presbyterian Church, Castle Road, Crickhowell NP8 1AP. Conversion of main chapel building to provide 4-bedroom accommodation to the ground floor and kitchen-dining-living area at first floor level as well as conversion of chapel annexe into 1 bed granny flat and including services and landscaping. **No adverse comments.**

25/24053/TPO: Behind CWCW 16 High Street Crickhowell Powys NP8 1BD1. Pine tree in serious decline from unknown disease, due to proximity of other buildings the owner would like to fell it. **No adverse comments.**

6606: Post 16 Review

Receive an update from the community steering group

Cllr Morgans reported that the group meet regularly, the banners throughout the summer got wider attention for the issue, and the group have recently launched a social media drive for further community engagement and are considering arranging a few different actions – pupil protest, legal avenues, all ways to protect the 6th form. There are FAQs on the website that can be put on the new campaign Facebook page. There are other schools that feel the same as Crickhowell and are similarly threatened. Working with them will help to provide a united front.

There have been some changes within PCC for those involved in the Review and decision making. The Post and Pre 16 portfolios have now been put together. It feels like a number of Cabinet members are in favour of closing Crickhowell.

Mayors Initials: 



Other councils in the Five Councils group are now more active in the process. Some have asked for a community meeting to explain the issue to residents.

The next phase of the consultation includes pupils and the parents/carers of existing high school students. Cllr Hall has asked this be extended to other cluster heads of primaries. In the new year there will be another review of findings and PCC will rationalise options for discussion, then do community engagement.

It was agreed that the Contingency budget could be used this year for printing and other costs associated with the action group, and next year's budget would include a new Communication budget to cover such projects.

County Cllr Hall explained that public questions would be answered live in the meeting, so there could only be 1 or 2 questions and to the point.

Separately, FOI requests relating to the evidence and costings underlying the review report would be submitted.

6607: Consider the request for the Council to write to the First Minister regarding lack of funding for cross-border health services and treatments for the residents of Powys County Council

The Council has received a request to lobby the First Minister on equitable treatment for health services. Welsh patients are being set targets that are the Welsh ones rather than English ones in the hospitals they are being sent to, even if those hospitals are in England. It was agreed that the Mayor would draft a letter to the First Minister.

ACTION: Mayor write to First Minister regarding equity of targets in health services

6608: Discuss the potential siting of a mobile dental unit in Crickhowell.

It was noted that Crickhowell lost one of our NHS dental services recently. There is a proposal to bring a medium-term mobile dental unit to the area and site it in Crickhowell. It will need water and electrics and parking. Council felt that Cwrt y Gollen is the preferred site. County Cllr Masefield is leading on the issue.

Events

6609: Remembrance Day

Cllr Morgans reported that he was at the early stages of contacting the normal organisations. Rotary are helping again and the Council's radios will be used to aid communication.

Getting a bugler was unlikely and it was therefore agreed to use a recording of the Last Post and Reville. Deputy Mayor, Cllr Goodman, will attend as representative of the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to invite Chairs of the Five Councils to Remembrance Day service

Mayors Initials: 



6610: Christmas in Crickhowell.

At the moment there was not a volunteer to organise the Christmas Fair on the High Street. A plea had gone to the community for someone to step forward. The Council agreed it would request the road closure, as the deadline was Monday 29 September and if no one came forward to organise would retract the application.

6611: Christmas lights

Cllr Baber reported that 3 organisations had quoted for the banner lights to go across the High Street but that the cost was very high and beyond this year's budget. Lighting would likely be restricted as usual to the Lucas Fountain.

ACTION: Clerk to put in the request for the electrician and the bunting licence.

6612: Christmas Tree in Castle Park

Cllr Baber reported that the cost of flagpole tree of around 9 feet would cost around £17,000, so again out of budget. Councillors discussed the possibility of buying an artificial or real tree instead.

ACTION: Cllr Baber was mandated to make further enquires as well as explore projection options if a tree was unlikely to be possible.

6613: Agenda items to be proposed for the next Five Councils meeting, hosted by Cwmdyffryn & District on 13th November

Council agreed to propose the following agenda items:

Clustering – the One Voice Wales conference had made recommendations about clustering between local councils. Can we share services and put in place some more formal arrangements?

6th Form – Cllr Morgans to lead.

The following councillors plan to attend: Cllrs Jeremiah, Hall, Goodman, Clark and Morgans.

ACTION: Clerk to inform clerk of Cwmdyffryn Community Council of attendees and agenda items

Finance

6614: Local Government services pay agreement 2025/26

It was agreed to increase the Clerk's remuneration in line with the new nationally agreed pay scales and pay back pay from 1 April.

6615: Soft pour in various areas of Castle Park.

Thanks was given to Cllr D'Anna for requesting quotes from local contractors to repair the soft pour. It was agreed that Cllr Davies would repair the holes in the short term, whilst we waited to see if we had been successful with a grant application to fix the soft pour.



ACTION: Cllr Davies to repair the soft pour.

6616: Budget report Q1 & Q2

The Council noted that expenditure against budgets was generally on track.

6617: Timeline for budget setting 26-27

The RFO ran through the timeline, noting that committees needed to meet to discuss their budgets ahead of the November meeting.

ACTION: RFO share budgets with committees

6618: Grant applications

One grant application had been received from Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau, for defibrillator provision and maintenance of £3000 - £1500 for maintenance and £1500 to install another one for Llanbedr Road Council agreed the grant for the replacement parts and the new defibrillator, but would ask CVB that the one currently on the police station should be moved to a place nearer the bridge in view of the possible over-concentration in the town centre already. Council noted that there are defibrillators owned by other organisations which do not get support with funding.

ACTION: Clerk arrange payment of the grant.

6619: Monthly bank reconciliations

Deferred to next month.

6620: Approve the payment and receipts sheet

Approved.

HR

6621: Receive the resignation of Cllr Masefield and agree recruitment processes

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

Regular items

6622: Correspondence items of interest

Draft replies to correspondence have been circulated. These were approved and will be sent. No other items of correspondence were discussed.

6623: Communication items

- Nature trail
- Repairs and work completed by Cllr Davies
- 6th form

6624: Reports of meetings/exchange of information

Cllr Jeremiah suggested that the Council write to Billy Dunne who has retired.

Mayors Initials: 



Cllr Goodman planned to attend the OVW conference on 03 October.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Signed.....*AKmo*.....Date: *21.10.25*.....