



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

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 7pm at Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre.

PRESENT

Cllr P Evans– Chair
Cllr T D’Anna
Cllr Davies
Cllr S Evans
Cllr Goodman
Cllr Gruffydd

Cllr Jeremiah
Cllr Hall
Cllr Masefield
Cllr McInnes
Cllr Morgans
C Beatty – Clerk

6358: Apologies for absence

None

6359: Declarations of Interest

Cllr Masefield declared an interest in item 6369 relating to the Crickhowell Food Festival.

6360: Questions from the public

None

6361: Approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19 November 2024.

Some typing errors were amended, as well as item 6347 which should have read Hay on Wye have trained facilitators to share Hay’s experience on community self-sufficiency. The minutes were then approved.

6362: Receive an update on actions arising from the December minutes, Action Log and other ongoing projects:

Acquisition of QEII field. Cllr Gruffydd reported that the process of acquisition may become complicated and felt that the Council should seek legal advice on hidden liabilities, memorial benches etc. It was agreed that setting up a ‘Friends of Top Park’ would help get the community on board and show that the Council is acting on Place Plan recommendations.

The following motion was agreed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JAS'.

That the Council submit a more detailed Expression of Interest to Powys County Council regarding transfer of the Queen Elizabeth II Park to Crickhowell Town Council, to include:

- a) The appointment of legal representation to ascertain maintenance responsibilities, rights of access and public utility infrastructure;
- b) The publication of intent to acquire the park and seek interest from the wider local community to form a Friends of Top Park group to implement the acquisition, development and ongoing maintenance of the park.

ACTION: Cllrs Hall and Gruffydd to set up a group of 'Friends of Top Park'.

Place Plan: Council was updated that the Crickhowell Place Plan is going to be on the March meeting agenda with Civic Society it was agreed that the Away Day will focus on Place Plan projects.

Town Clock: scaffolding is required to repair the clock. Cllrs Davies and McInnes will arrange either this or a 'cherry picker' in order for the contractor to complete the work.

Toilet repairs: Cllr McInnes is meeting with the contractor regarding fixing the issues.

Tree planting: Cllr Gruffydd has met with 2 residents to get recommendations on which trees would be best planted in the designated area.

Maintenance of the Castle: Will Davies from CADW has replied to a social media post about work required. It was agreed that an ongoing maintenance plan is required.

Car park: Cllr Hall reported that the cost of feasibility study will cost around £2500 to look at a new layout, resurfacing etc.

Empty shops: County Cllr Hall has made contact with the agent of the former Bidmead shop. Ideas of things to go in the window included items about the Place Plan, school art work, items from Crickhowell and District Archives.

6363: Receive a report from the County Councillor

The County Councillor had circulated a written report. Highlights mentioned in the meeting included:

Bus service consultation: A six-week online consultation on changes to the local Powys bus services has begun. Councillors encouraged to complete the survey.

Budget Setting for 2025/26: Fully funded plans to deliver vital public services Powys will be considered by the Council's Cabinet on 28 January including a proposed council tax increase of 8.9%. Despite a 3.3 per cent Revenue Support Grant increase in funding from the Welsh Government, the Council is still facing a £22million shortfall in its budget. Savings of £12.3m are proposed along with a council tax increase to ensure the Council can deliver a legally required balanced budget.

Creative Directory: Cllrs Davies or McInnes asked to send on details to the Clarence Hall Trustees

Mayors Initials: 

6364: Discuss and agree responses on planning applications received since the last meeting

24/23371/FUL: 52 Oakfield Drive, Crickhowell: Adding in extra space for a driveway. **No adverse comments but would be desirable if the surface is porous or permeable.**

24/23477/FULL: 33 High Street, Crickhowell: Single storey extension to extend a flat roof and put in a skylight. **No adverse comments**

25/23500/FUL: 31 Oakfield Drive, Crickhowell: Alterations to veranda. **No adverse comments**

24/23450/LBC: 50 High Street, Crickhowell. Reinstate the Bank House sign. **No adverse comments**

Council moved into closed session

6365: Receive and agree applications to fill 1 x casual vacancy

The Council noted the process of advertising the vacancy and considered the three strong candidates who had put themselves forward. It resolved that Lyn Baber of Bridge Street be co-opted as a member of Crickhowell Town Council.

6366

New cemetery: Chair of the Burial Board explained that there is around 7 to 10 years of burial spaces left and that rather than seek land for a new cemetery, the Council should consider re-use of plots once the exclusive right of burial expires. *Resolved:* That following a review by the Burial Board, this Council agrees that the search for a new cemetery site should be postponed indefinitely and the ring-fenced reserves set aside for this purpose should be reviewed by the Burial Board and Finance Committee.

ACTION: The Burial Board and Finance Committee take note of changes to the ring-fenced reserves.

ACTION: The Burial Board consider mending the roof of the shed as it appears to have a leak.

Finance

6367: Review and approve the Council's budget for 2025-26

The Chair of Finance had provided a written report summarising the position. Highlights included

- that income from burial fees seems to be declining year on year which is making it more difficult for the cemetery to be self-financing

Mayors Initials: 

- the free-parking initiative would be good for business' but the machines cannot be easily altered to accommodate changes to different ticket types. It was agreed to postpone any action in financial year 2025-26.
- The request from Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau. Councillors acknowledged that the work of CVB was important for the town but agreed that the request should be considered as a grant application and go under the same scrutiny as other requests. It was agreed to increase the budget for grants to community groups from £2,000 in the current year to £5,000 for 2025-26.

6368: Review and approve the Precept request for 2024-25

The Council reviewed the revised budget and *resolved* to request £81,500 precept for 2025-26.

ACTION: To communicate to residents the reasons for the precept request and its impact on the Council Tax charge.

6369: Consider the request for a subsidy of £900 to the inaugural Crickhowell Food Festival and a motion to approve this in principle for the next financial year

The Chair commented that the plans for the food festival were ambitious. *Resolved:* That the Council commit up to £900 in FY 2025-26 for the road closure.

6370: Consider any grant applications received

Three community organisation grant applications had been reviewed by the grants panel. The following grants were approved:

- Llangattock Litter Pickers £500 for winter jackets.
- St Davids Hospice Care £100 to fund the volunteers thank you event

6371: Monthly bank reconciliations

These were approved.


6372: Payment and receipts

These were approved.

Regular items

6373: Discuss any Correspondence items of interest

- Cllr P Evans had completed the Aberystwyth University survey on the work of community councils

Mayors Initials: .....

- Cllrs Masefield and Gruffydd had registered for the biodiversity training modules
- Cllr Goodman had prepared an application for the Asda Grant asking for £3000. The application was approved for the Clerk to transmit.
- It was agreed that the Council should ask Will Davies, CADW for a written report from him on what maintenance or repairs were needs to be done in the Castle Park.

6374: Receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors

Cllr Morgans will meet with Gareth Rowe from the Dragon Inn to consider the path from the High Street to Castle Park.

6375: Exchange of information

None

6476: Comms from this meeting:

Cllr Gruffydd and Hall to begin the communication with residents about Top Park before the minutes go out.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.00 pm.

The next meeting will be on 18 February 2025

Signed.......... Date: 18.2.25.....