



CRICKHOWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR Y DRE CRUG HYWEL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026 at 7pm at Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre.

PRESENT

Cllr P Evans – Chair
Cllr L Baber – online
Cllr M Clark
Cllr D Davies
Cllr M Goodman
Cllr J Gruffydd

Cllr C Hall - online
Cllr A Jeremiah - online
C Beatty – Clerk
Members of the public

26-7/7/01: Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs D'Anna, S Evans, Morgans and Leighton

26-7/7/02: Declarations of Interest

None

26-7/7/03: Questions from the public

A member of the public questioned why copies of the minutes were no longer available at the Library. The Chair explained that the minutes were available on the website, and that the Library and CRIC staff could both help someone get a printed version of the minutes if they were unable to access the internet.

There was a question on whether the Council had any details of the number of responses to the park design consultation. The Chair explained that the consultants would share the survey results with the Council in due course.

There was a request that the Council ensure the agenda is available on the website as well as the noticeboard. The Clerk explained that there had been an error with uploading the agenda onto the website this month but that has since been rectified and that they were usually shared on the same day in both places.

26-7/7/04: Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16 June 2026

The minutes were approved. It was noted that the hanging baskets have been purchased and installed; there had been a further meeting regarding the Fish Pass; and that the Chair had been to the library to explain the decision not to give the grant.

26-7/7/05: Quick updates and reports on ongoing projects including:

- **Defibrillators:** Cllr S Evans continues to work to find a suitable place for the defibrillator to go in the Llanbedr Road area.

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



- **Castle Park electrics:** The Trunk Road electrician planned to look at the issue next week.
- **Cemetery works:** the wall repairs are due to start in September. Cllr Davies will also look at the tree survey results so that the tree surgery work can be booked in.
- **Clock** – no update

ACTION: Cllr S Evans to work with CVB to progress installation of the defibrillator

ACTION: Cllr Morgans continue to work with the Trunk Road electricians to get the Castle Park electrics fixed

ACTION: Cllr Davies to arrange the start date of the New Road wall repairs with the contractor

ACTION: Cllr Davis to look at tree survey results and agree the priorities with the Burial Board.

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Davies to get quotes from tree surgeon contractors

26-7/7/06: Report from the County Councillor

The County Councillor had circulated a written report. Items discussed:

Council tax premium on empty properties: The Town Council did not feel that empty properties are an issue in Crickhowell so had not participated in the consultation but any individuals can complete it if they wish.

Future of Wellbeing consultation: Cllr Gruffydd had completed the survey but felt that the design of the survey was poor in terms of producing meaningful results.

26-7/7/07: Discuss any planning applications received:

No new applications were discussed. Cllr Gruffydd shared that the application has been withdrawn for The Wern as the planning officer has said they cannot accept it in its current state. It was agreed that the consultation process was good as the views shared from stakeholders will have led to the decision.

26-7/7/08: Approve statutory policies for 2026

The Clerk was tasked to ensure all the statutory policies are finalised and then uploaded to the website and saved on Sharepoint. The other policies will be shared out to councillors to review.

ACTION: Clerk to finalise and put policies on website and Sharepoint

ACTION: Clerk to set up a review system for all other policies

26-7/7/09: Community Sports Centre update

Cllr Baber explained that the school is now closed for scheduled work and the Sports Centre therefore not accessible over the summer. Behind the scenes Jane Dodds has been very active along with other MS members to continue to push for it to be available to the public and remain open longer term.

It was noted that the car park is also closed to the public over the summer because of the works. Out of hours use of the car park for the community is being discussed with the school.

Mayor's initials



The Chair reiterated that the Sports Centre does not have any funding or ownership from the Town Council.

26-7/7/10: Library update

Cllr P Evans gave an update from the community Library Working Group. They have got agreement in principle that the Town Council and Percy Davies Trust will support funding the library until 31 March 2027. The cost to the Town Council will be between £5000 and £10,000 to help keep it open for 6 months. This will give a breathing space for a long-term solution, possibly involving the four neighbouring community councils, to be worked out. The Chair has written to the other Five Council Chairs to seek support from their councils in joining financially.

The Chair reiterated that the Town Council is not taking over the Library. PCC continue to own the building and employ the staff.

26-7/7/11: Discover Crickhowell update

Cllr Clark explained that the Discover Crickhowell working group (Cllrs Clark, Goodman and Leighton as well as Drew Walters, Vern of Wildbarc and Chris Jones) had met and discussed signage and wayfinding around Crickhowell. Funding for the outputs of this project will be from the capital funding grant from PCC.

ACTION: Cllr Clark to bring an update to Full Council in September.

26-7/7/12: High Street works feasibility study

The Chair explained that the Town Council had received a Transforming Towns grant to undertake a preliminary feasibility and costing study of the works on the High Street that were proposed in the Place Plan. The feasibility study has been undertaken and estimates that the cost of the proposed works would be around £809,000. The Town Council will need next to apply for grant funding to do the work. This project has cost nothing to the council tax payers of Crickhowell so far.

Cllr Hall added that feedback had been requested from the working group members by 29 July. The Clerk was asked to circulate the material to all councillors so they can feed in.

ACTION: Clerk to share information with all councillors

ACTION: Clerk to speak to PCC about how we claim the Transforming Towns grant

26-7/7/13: Funding in relation to the acquisition of a letter from JRR Tolkien

The Chair explained that a local resident had organised the Go Fund Me campaign to buy the JRR Tolkien letter that refers to Crickhowell. The auction bid was successful and they are now trying to raise the remaining £2728. The Council discussed and agreed that the Chair would talk to the resident to see if funding was still required.

26-7/7/14: Library grant application

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County Cllr Masefield has been working on a grant relating to setting up a food hub. She has asked of the Town Council can submit the application on their behalf. All agreed that we could make the application.

ACTION: Clerk and Chair to liaise with County Cllr Masefield re the grant application.

26-7/7/15: Christmas 2026

Cllr Morgans has suggested that the Town Council could organise 'a best dressed street in Crickhowell this Christmas'. Residents would be encouraged to decorate their street, and then the Town Council would judge the streets one evening in December. Council agreed to support the suggestion.

ACTION: Cllr Morgans to set up a working group for the event organisation.

26-7/7/16: Traffic concerns on Crickhowell Bridge

The residents of Bridge Street have written to PCC about the number of people driving the wrong way down Bridge Street due to the traffic works on the High Street. Their letter has been shared with the Town Council for information.

26-7/7/17: Seek ideas for managing the maintenance of planters and other planted areas around town

Cllr Gruffydd reported that the heatwaves of the last few weeks have meant there has been a lot of watering required for the planters, young trees and other Council-owned plants. Councillors have done a great job but the community need to help too. Councillors agreed that although the hanging baskets had been welcomed, they were not a success if the businesses didn't water them regularly and they can have a negative environmental aspect too in terms of water usage and the plastics involved in their manufacture. Cllrs agreed to review the provision of hanging baskets next year. Specific actions from the discussion included Cllr Hall speaking to the fire station to water their planter; Cllr Davies to ask the Clarence Hall if we can use their tap; and the Chair to consider further the idea of a town caretaker.

ACTION: Cllr Hall speaking to the fire station to water their planter

ACTION: Cllr Davies to ask the Clarence Hall if we can use their tap

ACTION: Cllr P Evans to explore further the idea of a town caretaker

Routine finance

26-7/7/18: Receive report from Finance Committee on Q1 budget outturn and Internal Audit recommendations

The Finance Committee met last Tuesday to review the Q1 outturn and the results of the internal audit. Everything is broadly OK: the Council has spent roughly a quarter of the budget in the first quarter. Noted items from the report include:

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- That overall expenditure had been 77% of budget, which was almost exactly on target though there were some anomalies within individual cost centres
- That there was an anomaly in the Castle Park cost centre budget because the invoice for £5,240 for the softpour repairs was paid out of this year's budget, but the insurance payment to cover the cost was received in the last financial year.
- That the defibrillator grant of £1500 to the Volunteer Bureau needs to be moved from the Grants cost centre to the Community cost centre
- That the £30,000 movement in the Services cost centre reflects the transfer between current and savings bank account
- That there was a misallocation of the equipment for watering plants within the Castle Park cost centre
- That the water rates for the cemetery need to be double checked
- That there had been no claim so far for data inputting for the cemetery
- That the Councillor grant (£208 per person annually) has not been paid for this year yet
- That the insurance costs are showing as £569 less than budgeted
- That the Toilet Management Fee standing order was cancelled at the beginning of the financial year and that CRIC has not yet sent the correctly formatted invoices for them to be reimbursed.

In relation to the lease of the Garn, Cllr Baber was tasked to confirm with CDAS how frequently they are going to mow the lawn as it has been left for too long in recent months. The Council also needs them to mow the wildflowers bed before end of August.

In terms of the Internal Audit report, this was reviewed by the Finance Committee. There was no spending doubts raised, most of the recommendations relate to the Council being required to record more assiduously every time it makes a financial decision. It was noted that there were some actions relating to a VAT reclaim issue and that the clerk's appraisal for 25-26 needed to be completed.

ACTION: Cllr Baber to speak to CDAS about their lease agreement

ACTION: Clerk to sort out VAT issue and arrange for appraisal to be completed

26-7/7/19: Confirm previous decision to write off VAT errors prior to 2020

The Council confirmed its previous decision to write off VAT reclaims for 2018-19 and 2019-20 due to the impossibility of recovering records lost owing to the untimely and unexpected death of the then Clerk.

26-7/7/20: Monthly bank reconciliation

The monthly bank reconciliation for June 2026 was approved and signed.

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26-7/7/21: Payments

Payments for July 2026 were approved and signed.

Regular items

26-7/7/22: Correspondence items of interest

CORRES 09: Cllr P Evans will complete the survey on behalf of the Town Council

CORRES 19: Councillors encouraged to share views on wind energy

CORRES 21: Council noted that One Voice Wales are offering training on digital competence for councillors

CORRES 23: Council noted the resident's correspondence to the Trunk Roads Agency on the decision to not move the pedestrian crossing between Webbs and The Bear

CORRES 24: Innovative Practice Conference – the Chair requested this be emailed with the attachments

CORRES 26: Council noted the invitation from the Chair of PCC to community councillors to meet him at Royal Welsh Show.

26-7/7/23: Reports of meetings/exchange of information

- Cllr Clark reported on the meeting with Discover Crickhowell
- Cllr Gruffydd raised correspondence from a member of the public regarding the state of the waste bins in the school.
- The Clerk reported that she had been and collected the IT equipment and CTC paperwork from former councillor Peter Games's house. The next step will be to take photos of the IT equipment and Cllr Clark will advise if any of it is useful.

26-7/7/24: Communication related to the work of the Council

- Request residents to help with the watering.
- Town Council is working actively with PCC to secure the future of the library and sports centre
- An update about the Town of Culture.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Signed.......... Date: 15 September 2026

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