

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT THE MAYOR CHOOSING CEREMONY of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Public Hall, 3 West Street, Liskeard at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 20 May 2015 there were present:

The Mayor - Councillor Phil Seeva - in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Jane Pascoe

Councillors: Rachel Brooks, James Shrubsole, Christina Whitty, Roger Holmes, Hella Tovar, Sally Hawken, Ian Goldsworthy, Anne Purdon, Tony Powell, L. Shrubsole, Adam Hodgkins and Sue Pike.

Town Clerk - Mr Steve Vinson

Minute Clerk - Mr Stuart Houghton

Mayors Chaplain - Rev Mark Pengelly

Town Crier of Liskeard - Mr Chris Smirthwaite

Honoured Burgesses of Liskeard - Mrs C Hallam, Mr & Mrs J Jackson, Mr J. Rapson, and Mr A. Wood MBE

Mace Bearers - Mr D. Ambler and Mr G. Field

Visiting Mayors - Mayor & Consort of Lostwithiel, Councillor Mrs P. Jarrett and Rev G. Jarrett, The Mayor and Mayoress of Bodmin Councillor Mr A Coppin and Ms Selina Eells, Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Mr B Phillips & Mrs J Phillips, Mayor and Mayoress of Launceston, Councillor B Hogan & Mrs A White.

The Mayor invited his Chaplain Reverend Mark Pengelly to open the meeting with prayers

1/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Sheryll Murray, MP

The Mayor of Looe, the Mayor of Torpoint, and the Mayor of St Columb Major

Honoured Burgesses Mr N Pampling and Mr J Goldsworthy

Councillor Joe Poulson and other invited guests.

2/15 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

The Deputy Mayor called upon the Council to elect a Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Goldsworthy nominated, Councillor Powell seconded and the Council elected Councillor Phil Seeva as Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the year 2015/2016

3/15 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Having being elected, the Mayor, Councillor Phil Seeva, took the Oath of Allegiance, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the Maces

4/15 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN SERGEANT AND MACE BEARER

The Mayor then appointed Mr David Ambler as Town Sergeant and Sergeant of Mace, Mr Garion Field as Mace Bearer and returned the Maces to them.

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy was appointed as Deputy Sergeant of Mace.

5/15 APPOINTMENT OF MAYORS CHAPLAIN

The Mayor appointed Rev Mark Pengelly as his Chaplain.

6/15 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

The Mayor called upon the Council to elect a Deputy Mayor and Deputy Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Tovar nominated, Councillor L. Shrubsole seconded and the Council elected Councillor Jane Pascoe as Deputy Mayor and Deputy Chairman of the Council for the year 2015/2016

7/15 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Having being elected the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jane Pascoe took the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Town Clerk then announced the interval whilst the Mayoral Procession retired for robing and photographs.

8/15 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Mr Mayor, honoured burgesses and guests, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, Freddie and Charlie.

First of all I want to congratulate Councillor Seeva on his re-election as Mayor and Chairman of this Council. A well justified recognition of the energy, enthusiasm and leadership he has applied to the role in the past year, and on behalf of my fellow councillors, thank you Phil for leading us through the last twelve months, we know we are in safe hands for this next year.

May I thank my fellow Councillors for re-electing me as Deputy Mayor, I will continue to do my best to justify their confidence in me, support the Mayor whenever called upon, maintain my pledge of openness and to consult and listen to the wishes and concerns of the community that I represent.

It has been a busy year for the Council, many hours of work have gone in to progressing the Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan. This has been made possible by the residents of Liskeard, the expertise of our voluntary project manager, Steve Besford Foster, our very patient Chairman, Councillor James Shrubsole, and so many volunteers in our community giving their time so generously. Some of them are here tonight and we most sincerely thank you all for your hard work.

The Neighbourhood Plan public consultation asked the residents of Liskeard how they wanted the land used in the future years; they said that they wanted jobs before houses, and houses to be built on brown field sites. I can now tell you, that this Council recently considered and recommended to support a hybrid application for 60% employment use and 40% residential on a brown field site. This was the first application for employment use in Liskeard since 1990, an example of how the Neighbourhood Plan will and can work.

With help from other partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, Town Forum and other stakeholders, we will continue to promote Liskeard to attract inward investment, create employment opportunities and, most importantly, we will listen and hear what you say.

As Chairman of the Planning Committee may I thank the members for their hard work researching and visiting the many sites we have had to consider throughout the year, and also a personal thank you to the Town Clerk, Assistant Clerk and the office for their support.

We are so lucky, In Liskeard we have so many people who give up their time in service for our community. Looking around tonight I can see faces that have worked tirelessly for many years for the various causes, charities and organisations, and also our wonderful musicians and choirs. We in Liskeard owe them all a great debt.

You may have noticed the forget-me-nots around the hall and on the tables. They are the emblem of the Dementia Society, and this week is National Dementia awareness week, a charity that our previous Mayor Sue Pike and my friend Denise Larnar hold dear to them. This Council has three representatives on the Committee and I am pleased to inform you that Liskeard is a recognised Dementia friendly Town. The Liskeard dementia action alliance committee has members who train retail assistants, businesses and organisations in Liskeard to engage with and to help sufferers feel safe to continue to use the Town and stay fairly active in their community.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past year as Deputy Mayor and have met some truly remarkable people. One memorable evening was to represent Liskeard at HMS Drake for the occasion of pickle night, which is a celebration of the victory of the Battle of Trafalgar. Lieutenant Lapenotiere the Captain of HMS Pickle brought the

news to King George who rewarded him with the silver Muffineer, which is now part of the civic treasure of Liskeard and is on show here tonight The Muffineer was presented to the Town Council by his family and I am particularly happy to welcome, as guests here tonight, Anne Lapenotiere Maddever and her brother Geoffrey Maddever, who are direct descendants of Lieutenant Lapenotiere.

Finally, may I thank you all for joining us tonight and wish you an enjoyable evening, and thank again my fellow Councillors for their tremendous support, you are an amazing group of people to work beside, and I know you will continue to be responsible, reliable and capable caretakers for the future generations of Liskeard.

9/15 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor started by thanking the Deputy Mayor for the help and assistance she had given to him in the past year, it had been invaluable.

Being Mayor last year did not just involve himself, it had included his whole family and the year had been a roller coaster ride. They had enjoyed many great experiences but they had also had to deal with difficult family circumstances. Mayor Choosing was to close one door and to open another; it was time to move on.

Welcome everyone.

The Mayor said that he remembered how he had felt last year, he had not eaten all day and by the time he got to the buffet there were two vol-a-vonts, one of which was vegetarian. By the end of the evening he was feeling rather tired, thanks to Councillor Hodgkins, Rev Pengelly and Alex at the Albion. He promised Sergeant Williams that there was not a lock in!

He had received much advice from other Mayors, but they had not prepared him for the amount of time he would spend in Church; he had spent more time in Church in the last twelve months than he had in the previous twelve years.

He had also had to get used to be asked to say a few words everywhere he went, he had not found this to be too difficult, but would have to find new material for the next year. There were two events that were to the fore of his memory, one was playing the tambourine with the Silver Band at the Carol Service, the other being kissed full on the lips by a man, dressed as a woman, he still had nightmares about that.

Apart from the comic memories there were many poignant and important moments. On Remembrance Day he had felt under pressure but was pleased that he had said what he did.

The family had also visited the retirement homes in the Town at Christmas. He was reluctant to go as he had no real experience of this but Jo, his wife, had insisted that they made the visits as a family. The boys, Freddie and Charlie, made a condition that they would go if they could dress as Batman and Robin.

As Mayor had had grave concerns about this, how would the elderly and frail residents receive them? Was it a suitable thing to do?, but he had no cause for concern, the boys had made the visits a great success, and had received many compliments.

He had often wondered why he wanted to be Mayor and had many reasons, civic responsibility, a call of duty, an honour, but his main reason was Pride.

Pride in himself, pride that he has been asked to be Chairman by a group of very talented people, pride in the job. It was not always easy to make decisions that affected people's lives and finances, but they had to be made, and every effort was made to make the right decision. Then there was pride in the Town, he had recently seen the Guildhall and Clock tower in sunlight and was struck by their appearance and the fact that they belonged to the Town. The most important pride was in the people of the Town, it was about serving the 9500 residents, irrespective of their views and opinions, and the many characters that lived in the Town.

He wanted to thank Councillors Goldsworthy and Powell for nominating him to be the Mayor for a second term, it had meant something to him that these two Councilors had made the nomination. He also thanked the Council for their dedication, with the Neighbourhood Plan, Devolution of Services from Cornwall Council and Planning Matters the only day off was on Fridays, when preparations for the weekend events had to be made. He also wished to thank the Office Staff for their hard work throughout the year, and he promised to stop calling Steve Vinson the new Town Clerk.

He also wished to make a personal thank you to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jane Pascoe, they had started the year as friends, but were now very close. She had supported him whenever needed, but there had been one occasion when she had complained about standing in for him. He had been asked to attend a Charity Fashion Parade and act as a model. He drew the line on this and asked the Deputy Mayor to stand in for him, which she readily did, however, after the event she complained and said that she would not stand in at this event again; they had made her model a yellow dress, which did not suit her complexion!

The final thanks were to his family, his wife Jo and the two boys Charlie and Freddie, without their support he could not have completed the year. Jo could not get used to being the Mayoress, just because her husband was the Mayor, she felt that she had not earned the title, but he wished to assure her that she had, she had gone the extra mile to make the year a success and should be knighted. Likewise with his two boys, they had attended many events in the year and many people had commented about how well they had behaved, he was very proud of them.

Finally he wished to mention Liskeard and its residents; this was the best Town in South East Cornwall and he asked the visiting Mayors to remember this when they returned home.

As his last item he presented a bouquet of flowers to the Deputy Mayor

10/15 AWARD AND PRESENTATION OF HONORARY BURGESS

The Mayor said that the Council had a system of reward for people who had done outstanding work for the Town and awarded them Honorary Burgess status, the last award had been made in 2007 and he was pleased to announce that an award was to be made now.

The Town Council had discussed this matter and had made its first unanimous decision of the year, that an award should be made this year. The second unanimous decision had been to agree the recipient of the award.

This person had a career in the Royal Navy and had lived in Liskeard since 1977. Without him the Town Forum would not exist, the Liskerrett Centre would not be the success it was and Christmas would not be the same, therefore the Town would not be the same.

The Mayor was honoured to present the Honoured Burgess award to John Lennon.

John Lennon accepted the award.

He said that all his life he had been told, first by his mother, then when he joined the navy, then when commissioned that he would soon be one of these, but he had never known what one of these was.

His service history was an active one, he had not been a desk bound sailor, he had been in Borneo and had his life saved by a Gurkha, he had not accepted any medals, this was the first he had accepted.

He had moved to Liskeard to be within travelling distance of the Dockyard so that he could easily join his ship, and had raised his family here. When he left the Navy and his family had grown up and flown the nest, he had realised what Liskeard meant to him, it had been a lovely place to live, so he had not moved away. It was an active Town with good schools and many active clubs which he had enjoyed.

He believed that the work he did was for himself, he did not want any reward, but he had great honour in accepting to be an Honoured Burgess of the Town he believed in.

Thank you.

11/15 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

The Mayor called upon the Council to appoint the Members of Committee and the Outside Bodies for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Hodgkins seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the members listed on the attached list are to represent the Council on outside bodies for the ensuing year.

12/15 TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN MUSEUM

The Mayor confirmed that all Members of the Town Council were Trustees of the Town Museum.

13/15 STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Whitty proposed, Councillor Purdon seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders shall remain unaltered except by due process.

14/15 CIVIC SERVICE

The Mayor invited all those present and the bodies that they represent to attend Divine Service at the Parish Church of St Martin's on Sunday 14 June 2015 at 11.00 am.

15/15 STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The Town Clerk announced that the meetings of the Town Council would be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

The Town Crier then closed the meeting and invited guests to meet the Mayor and dignitaries and to partake of refreshment.

COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS

PLANNING

Councillors Jane Pascoe, Adam Hodgkins, Joe Poulson, Tony Powell, Anne Purdon, James Shrubsole, Lorna Shrubsole and Christina Whitty

FINANCE AND STRATEGY

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Communication and Engagement Committee, Property Committee and Museum Management Committee and up to two Councillors, one of which is Councillor James Shrubsole.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Councillors Rachel Brooks, Roger Holmes, Sue Pike, Joe Poulson, Anne Purdon, James Shrubsole, Lorna Shrubsole and Hella Tovar

PROPERTY

Councillors Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Adam Hodgkins, Sue Pike, Tony Powell, Hella Tovar and Christina Whitty

MUSEUM

Councillors Rachel Brooks, Ian Goldsworthy, Roger Holmes, Anne Purdon, Hella Tovar, Sue Pike, Museum Curator, Representative of the Old Cornwall Society, 3 Museum Volunteers, Representative of Stuart House and Stephanie Meads of Cornwall Council

STAFFING

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chairmen of the Communication and Engagement Committee, Property Committee and Museum Management Committee

Meeting Times:

Planning Committee	1 & 3 Tuesday of the month 6.45pm
Communications & Engagement Committee	1 Tuesday of the month 7.30pm
Property Committee	2 Tuesday of the month 7.30pm
Museum Management Committee	A Monday at 6 week intervals 7.30pm
Finance & Strategy Committee	4 Tuesday of the month 7.30pm
Town Council	3 Tuesday of the month 7.30pm after Planning

APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Association of Larger Local Councils of Cornwall (ALLCC):

Councillor Sue Pike

Clean Liskeard

Councillor Sue Pike

Community Network Area:

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other members as required

County Association of Local Councils (CALC):

Councillor Sue Pike

CCTV:

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy

Elliot Exhibition:

Councillor Tony Powell

Emergency Planning Co-ordinator:

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy

Footpaths and Rights of Way:

Councillors Hella Tovar and Sue Pike

Liskeard and District Sports Association:

Councillor Phillip Seeva

Liskeard Dementia Action Alliance:

Councillors Jane Pascoe, Sue Pike and Sally Hawken

Healthy Living Forum:

Councillor Hella Tovar

Looe Valley Line:

Councillor James Shrubsole

Police:

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy

Stuart House Trust:

Current Mayor

Town Forum:

Councillors: Roger Holmes, Jane Pascoe and Lorna Shrubsole

Twinning Association:

Although the Twinning Association has not met for five years the Current Mayor would continue to be President

United Charities:

The Current Mayor and Councillors: Sue Pike, Anne Purdon and Christina Whitty

Liskeard Lights Up Committee:

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy

Safer Liskeard:

Councillors: Sally Hawken, Roger Holmes, Sue Pike and Hella Tovar

SECTA:

Councillor Lorna Shrubsole

The Mayor for the current year and the Town Clerk are both Trustees for the **Philip Blamey Trust** and the **Eve Bowles Memorial Fund**

The Mayor for the current year is a Trustee of the **Alex Page Trust**