

## **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 22 May 2013 there were present:

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Christina Whitty - in the Chair

Councillors: Rachel Brooks, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Roger Holmes, Jane Pascoe, Susan Pike, Anne Purdon, Phillip Seeva, James Shrubsole, L. Shrubsole and Hella Tovar

Town Clerk - Mr A J Deacon

Minute Clerk - Mr Stuart Houghton

Town Crier of Liskeard - Mr Chris Smirthwaite

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

Visiting Mayors - Deputy Mayor of Lostwithiel, Councillor Mrs G Parsons and Consort Mr D Parsons, The Mayor and Mayoress of Bodmin, Councillor and Mrs K Stubbs, Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash, Councillor M and Mrs D Yates, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Launceston, Councillor D Gordon and Councillor B Hogan, Mayor and Mayoress of Torpoint, Councillor and Mrs M Pearn and The Portreave of Callington, Councillor D Winfindale and Consort Mr M Winfindale.

The Mayor invited her Chaplain Major Pamela Smith to open the meeting with prayers

### **1/13 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

Honoured Burgesses Mr J Glanville and Mr D Howlett

Councillor Tony Powell and Mrs Janet Powell, Councillor Nicholas Mallard and Mrs Anne Mallard, Councillor Katrina Dawe and Mr S. Barrett

Canon Tony Ingleby

Mrs Sheryll Murray MP

The Mayor and Mayoress of Looe and other invited guests.

### **2/13 DECLARATIONS BY THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

1. Having being elected at the Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2013, the Mayor, Councillor Susan Pike, took the Oath of Allegiance, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the Maces.

2. Having being elected at the Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2013, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Phillip Seeva 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.

### **3/13 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN SERGEANT AND MACE BEARER**

The Mayoral Procession returned and the Mayor then appointed Mr David Ambler as Town Sergeant and Sergeant of Mace, Mr Thomas Howarth as Mace Bearer and returned the Maces to them.

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy was appointed as Deputy Sergeant of Mace.

### **4/13 APPOINTMENT OF MAYORS CHAPLAIN**

The Mayor appointed Major Pamela Smith as her Chaplain.

### **5/13 VOTE OF THANKS BY THE RETIRING DEPUTY MAYOR**

The retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty, thanked the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Tony Powell and Councillors for their help and enthusiasm during the previous year, which had been very busy. Two memorable events were held, the Olympic Torch relay and the Queens Jubilee together with the opening of the fortnightly Produce Market and the taking over of the public toilets. This was all recorded in the latest edition of the Town Crier Newsletter which was available in the Town Council office.

She also expressed her thanks to the Town Clerk, Andrew Deacon. He had been a Town Councillor and the Deputy Mayor, he understood the problems of being a Councillor and of managing the Council's business. Her thanks were also expressed to the Council's staff for their help in the last year.

### **6/13 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

The new Deputy Mayor said that he was grateful for being asked to take on the role and that he took it seriously and considered it to be a genuine honour.

He thanked the retiring Deputy Mayor for her work and added that it had not been an easy year considering the many highs as well as the occasional lows which had been well documented. His hope was that he would be able to meet the very high standard that she had set and trusted that he could rely on her for any advice and steering. He also congratulated her on her ability to find something to wear that actually matched the Deputy Mayor's chain ... something that he felt that he clearly had some work to do on.

He saw his first role as being in support to the new Mayor, someone that he considered to be a fine, upstanding, decent and trustworthy member of the community in Liskeard. He said that she deserved respect, not just because she was the Mayor but more importantly because she had earned it.

His second role was to his fellow Councillors. He felt that the days of 'them' and 'us' were over and that the Council could not be distracted from the work that had to be done. Lastly he felt that he had a duty to the people of Liskeard, not just the 389 who voted for him, but just as importantly the people that didn't vote for him and, in fact,

the people who didn't vote at all.

He hoped that during his term of office his actions might encourage more people to vote in the future. He explained that he did not want to fall into the trap of believing that the Council was only about the fifteen people that sit round the table; it was more about engaging with the people that lived in Liskeard, the people that lived in the surrounding villages and the people that visited South East Cornwall every year on holiday.

He thanked close friends who had encouraged him during the election and his wife Jo, who jokingly admitted on the day of the election that she had not voted for him. He also thanked his two six year old sons Charlie and Freddie who had helped deliver election leaflets. He admitted that during one such day, one of his sons, who was eye level to the letterboxes, had put a leaflet through a door and had come running back to him shouting, "Daddy, there's a naked man in that house".

Although that probably didn't make him the world's best dad, he hoped that he would at least be a decent Deputy Mayor. He repeated that he felt honoured to take on the role and would do everything possible to meet the standard required.

### **7/13 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR**

The Mayor expressed her thanks to those who had elected her as Mayor. It was an honour that she had never expected. She explained that she was a relatively recent recruit to Liskeard Town Council, co-opted less than two years previously and then returned in the last election. As a Councillor, she was still learning her way. She promised that she would do her utmost to meet the responsibilities of the role and in this she knew she would have the support of a wonderful team - not only the Councillors, but also the dedicated and hardworking Council staff.

She admitted that Councillor Powell would be a hard act to follow. His drive and energy had focused on the creation of the Market, the rescue of Sungirt and Westbourne Toilets, the taking over of Westbourne Park for the use of the Town and the never-ending, it seemed, battle for reasonable parking fees. He also had worked tirelessly for a range of developments for the Town.

She felt that she could not offer that sort of experience or expertise, but would, of course, endeavour to build on what he had achieved, knowing that he would be a valued member of the new team of Councillors.

The day prior to the Mayor Choosing, when she had been talking about her speech with Councillor Goldsworthy, he had said, "Don't worry. Just share your vision!" Now there was nothing more frightening than the word 'Vision' when one was just about to embark on a year which could perhaps be the most important of one's life, because of the way that one could publicly impact on the life of one's Town and fellow citizens.

She confessed that she didn't have a vision as such. She couldn't promise a miracle of employment or housing or development. Like any small Town, Liskeard could not

whisk in a Waitrose or a big cinema chain. The team could attempt to entice some of those big money boys and could try to negotiate a fair deal. Her focus would be on making the very best of what Liskeard has and what its people are.

Many of the Council had been voted in on the Open Liskeard ticket. As an Open Liskeard candidate she had wanted an election. It wasn't that the previous Council members were in any way lacking. They had all worked incredibly hard, for no pay and no reward, for the Town. It was just that it seemed a travesty that there had not been contested elections for twelve years. She felt that the Council needed to know that it had the support of its citizens.

Open Liskeard promised openness, a new way of looking at things. Change. The Council had started by looking at the procedures and committee structures. The new members had no quarrel with the existing protocols; they were just seeing whether they could be improved.

Liskeard appeared to want change. As she understood it, citizens wanted to be part of change, to be part of making things different and better. They didn't just want the Council to do things for them or in their name; they wanted to be involved and consulted. She knew that, as elected Councillors, her team had a mandate to act for the people, to involve the electorate in a more dynamic way.

What she would focus on would largely be to energise people to act for themselves, consult with people and take up their suggestions, wherever possible. For this reason, it would be a priority of hers to re-invigorate the Town Forum, the talking shop of this Town, in order to reconnect the people with the Council. The Council needed to hear from Liskeard.

She would also be looking to consult, through the Town Forum, on a new Neighbourhood Plan, to build on the information the Council had garnered from the Community Strategic plan of 2008, since when the Town had changed a great deal. She would focus on employment and leisure as well as housing.

She also proposed, during her term, to move the Mayor's consultations away from the Mayor's Parlour into the various communities - from Pepper's Park to Lanchard - to hear of and hopefully help with issues of concern to residents. One of the saddest things she had heard when she was canvassing was the number of people who said, almost as a matter of pride, 'I don't vote.' Maybe they were just being polite. Maybe they didn't like to say they weren't voting for her. Fair enough. But actually, she thought it was more likely that they were thoroughly disaffected by the democratic process. As a person who had lived half her life abroad in Zambia and Nigeria, countries where she could not vote, she treated voting as an almost sacred responsibility. She hoped that, by encouraging greater participation, she would see greater numbers of voters taking part in elections, because they believed that they could change things, because they felt more empowered. Voter numbers had been up in the last election, which was a promising sign.

She would also be looking at the formation of a Youth Council or Youth Forum. These were beginning to be formed throughout the Country, they not only gave

young people a voice, they gave them an opportunity to build the skills of debate, research and planning.

She felt that people in Liskeard were so lucky in their young people. Our local school had just come through an excellent Ofsted. It had one of the best sixth forms in the county – and what was more, it was a school that was totally inclusive. It was a Cooperative Trust, linking in with neighbourhood primary schools, and based on the ideals of cooperation, collaboration, and opportunity for all, where every student undertook a community project. The audience only had to look at the two wonderful representatives there, Reece Devaney who had been playing for us on the day – despite the fact that he was in the middle of his A level exams - and Tom Howarth the new Mace bearer, a teenager who was undertaking a civic role. What wonderful young men! Liskeard should be proud of its young people - and perhaps should offer them more. What could teenagers do together in the Town? Where could they go? The Council needed to address the needs of its young citizens.

Returning to the topic of change, she added that the bid process for the Portas money had really energised so many citizens. It hadn't been easy. There had been disagreements. Big ones. Because change was hard. But what for her came out of it was a realisation of the tremendous creative energy that existed in the Town. A tiny glimpse of that had been captured in the TV programme the night before: the basic niceness of people; the tremendous love of everyone for their Town; the potential! And that's what she and her Councillors had to tap into.

The Town needed to look at itself and see what it had, not dwell on its shortcomings. That weekend there was the Relay for Life and the Bodmin Moor Poetry Festival. That Saturday the new Pannier Market was opening. They would all support Katrina and Steve who had put everything into this new venture. During May and June the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project would be running a series of excellent creative workshops at the Liskerret Centre. From the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July they were starting a fascinating Geo Physical survey of Castle Park to find exactly what had been there in Medieval times. The Museum was launching a new Geology and Mining exhibition on June 15<sup>th</sup>, opened by MP Sherryl Murray. In December there would be a Woman in War exhibition focusing greatly on Emily Hobhouse of Boer War fame. On July 13<sup>th</sup> it would be the Liskeard Show. September would see the new Liskeard Festival. There was so much going on in the Town, generated by ordinary and extraordinary Liskeard citizens. If anyone had forgotten what was happening they could log on to the website or visit the Tourist Information Centre in the Museum where Vicky, the Manager, was ready and waiting to update the clash list.

To sum up, all the Mayor had to guide her, was an overwhelming belief in the goodness of all of us. Because she was a teacher, she believed, like all teachers, in the ability of everyone to improve, to be better than they believed they could be. And that's what she hoped to encourage by harnessing the collective energies of the whole town in working for the common good.

## **8/13 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Mayor then called upon the Council to appoint the Committees and Representatives for the forthcoming year as per the attached list. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Members as listed represent the Council on outside bodies for the ensuing year.

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

### **9/13            STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Lorna Shrubsole proposed, Councillor James Shrubsole seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders as adopted by the Council on the 10 May 2011 stand in accordance with the Model Standing Orders published by the National Association of Local Councils in 2010, and shall remain unaltered except by due process.

### **10/13            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 9 June 2013 at 11.00 am.

### **11/13            STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk announced that the meetings of the Town Council would be held fortnightly whilst the Committee Review was being undertaken. There would be no meetings in August apart from Planning.

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

## **APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES.**

### **Association of Larger Local Councils of Cornwall (ALLCC)**

Councillor James Shrubsole

### **CATS**

Councillor Hella Tovar

### **Community Network Area**

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and other members as required

### **County Association of Local Councils (CALC)**

Councillor James Shrubsole

### **CCTV**

Councillors Nick Mallard and Ian Goldsworthy

### **Elliot Exhibition**

Councillor Tony Powell

### **Emergency Planning Co-ordinator**

Councillors Nick Mallard and Ian Goldsworthy

### **Footpaths and Rights of Way Co-ordinator**

Councillor Hella Tovar

### **Liskeard and District Sports Association**

Councillor Phillip Seeva

### **Healthy Living Forum**

Councillor Hella Tovar

### **Looe Valley Line**

Councillor James Shrubsole

### **Police**

Councillors Nick Mallard and Ian Goldsworthy

### **Stuart House Trust**

The Mayor

### **Town Forum**

Councillors Lorna Shrubsole, Rachael Brooks, Roger Holmes, Nick Mallard and Jane Pascoe.

### **Twinning Association**

Although the Twinning Association had not met for four years the Mayor would continue to be President.

### **United Charities**

Councillor Whitty and the current Mayor.

### **Town Team**

Councillor Rachel Brooks

### **Liskeard Lights Up Committee**

Councillor Jane Pascoe

### **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**