

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

The **MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of **LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 18 November 2014 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

The Mayor - Councillor Phil Seeva - in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Jane Pascoe

Councillors: - Rachel Brooks, Ian Goldsworthy, Roger Holmes, Sue Pike, Anne Purdon, James Shrubsole, Lorna Shrubsole, Hella Tovar and Christina Whitty

Cornwall Councillor - Mike George

Town Clerk - Steve Vinson

Minute Clerk- Stuart Houghton

Mayors Chaplain - The Reverend Mark Pengelly

Member of the Public - Ray Meadows, Denise Lerner

Members of the Press - Viv Twornicki

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor invited his Chaplain to lead with prayers

The Mayor then convened the Council and informed as to Housekeeping matters

433/14 OPEN SESSION

The Mayor asked if any members of the public wished to address the meeting. The invitation was not taken up.

434/14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Councillors Tony Powell, Sally Hawken and Adam Hodgkins.

435/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON REGISTERABLE

None.

436/14 MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported that he had attended the reopening of RIO in Fore Street after its refurbishment, and he, and Councillors, had taken part in a Swimathon, bike ride and a skittles match for Children in Need. He was pleased to report that the Councils teams had not been last this year. He had met with the new Head Teacher at the Secondary School and wished to thank Councillors for their support at the Field of Remembrance dedication, and the Remembrance Day Parade and Service.

Forthcoming events included the High Sheriff of Cornwall's Legal Service, at Truro, when Chains, but not Swords, would be worn. Our Mayors Carol Service would be on 14 December 2014 in the Public Hall, and arrangements were being made to visit local care homes on Christmas Day.

437/14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2014

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council, held on Tuesday 21 October 2014, be adopted.

438/14 CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerks report had been circulated and was noted

Co-option of Town Councillor

The report contained a suggested format for the interviews and proposed questions. Comment was made that questions 5 and 1 could be amalgamated as question 1 and that questions 2 and 3 should be transposed.

Members agreed that with these changes the format and questions should be used at the co-option interviews.

439/14 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2014

Councillor Brooks stated that she did attend this meeting but not as a member of the Committee.

Comment was also made that the sentence in the third line of page 2 should be amended to read "It would also make driving into, or from, property more complicated for residents".

The Deputy Mayor proposed, Councillor Purdon seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 October 2014 with the above amendments.

b) FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2014

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 28 October 2014.

Comment was made that the disposal of the old display cabinets from the Museum was in progress.

c) PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2014

The Deputy Mayor proposed, Councillor Whitty seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2014, be adopted.

d) COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2014

Councillor Brooks proposed and Councillor Tovar seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes of the Communication and Engagement Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2014 and to **APPROVE** the resolution to go to tender in the Spring 2015 for the Autumn 2015 planting in the Town.

e) PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2014

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Whitty seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Minutes of the Plholders and Property Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2014.

440/14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Councillor J. Shrubsole reported that after much consultation and effort to assess the information received progress on the preparation of the Plan should now “take off” with the formation of working groups for the four main themes identified in the consultations. They were;

- Employment
- Housing
- The Town Centre
- Leisure and Green Spaces

He paid tribute to the many volunteers who had assisted, 600 surveys had been returned and 20 events and venues visited resulting in a total of more than 1500 comments being received that have had to be recorded. This information was being assessed by the Business School at Plymouth University under the four main headings, which were included in 75% of the responses.

An initial report from the University said;

“...what was of particular interest was the way in which respondents had developed the core themes and identified approaches to solving some of the issues relating to them”

It continued;

“People acknowledged that there were opportunities, and indeed a need to develop Liskeard on several fronts; any developments should not be at the expense of Liskeard’s considerable attractiveness in terms of its current facilities and size, it is rich in architectural, agricultural and mining heritage and its proximity to open countryside”

“...housing as a priority...was linked to the creation of employment”

The vast majority recognised that the Neighbourhood Plan was about land use.

So far the volunteers had saved expenditure; this saving and the receipt of a grant for £4.5k from the Locality Fund, would cover the cost of consultation, research, training and policy recommendations. It would also enhance the status of the Plan, make the budget go further and allow professional advice to be sought in preparing the Plan.

The Cornwall Rural Community Council had given input into the demographics, statistical analysis, a review of background documents and provided training.

A recruitment evening was arranged for 7.00 pm Thursday 27 November 2014 in the Refreshment Room when the four working groups would be set up and a training morning, by Cornwall Rural Community Council, for Team members, would be arranged for December 2014.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Shrubsole for the work on the Plan and wished his thanks to be conveyed to the volunteers.

Reverend Pengelly left the meeting at this point.

441/14 CAR PARKING REPORT

The Town Clerks report contained a copy of a letter from Cornwall Council giving details of their proposal to increase car park income. The Town Clerk tables a draft response to this proposal which was agreed with amendments (copy attached). Comments included;

- No data about car park usage had been provided, how could the Council make informed comment?
- Cornwall Council should increase the income by increasing the use of the car parks, not by just increasing charges
- Cornwall Council understood that changes to shopping habits and the increased use of the internet was reducing car park usage
- An initial 30 minute parking period would increase usage of the main car park
- An increase in charges would decrease usage, when would the tipping point be reached?

- The current charges should be sufficient, Cornwall Council had the second highest income from car parks outside of London, yet it is one of the poorest areas of the country

Members disagreed with the approach made by Cornwall Council, they felt that a disproportionate increase would have a negative on the viability of the Town Centre and instructed the Town Clerk to convey these opinions to Cornwall Council.

442/14 CORNWALL COUNCIL - PLANNING DECISIONS – FOR INFO ONLY

Noted.

443/14 ACCOUNTS – TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AS PER ADDENDUM NO.2 – AS CIRCULATED

A Declaration of Interest was expressed by the Mayor in item 101300

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the accounts for payment.

444/14 OTHER REPORTS

None

445/14 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

446/14 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it was **RESOLVED** that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of Business.

Staff Committee Meeting Tuesday 30 October 2014.

447/14 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 it was **RESOLVED** that the members of the Press and Public be re-admitted to the Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations made in closed session that:

1. that the Terms of Reference for the Staff Committee be revised
2. that available training provision from CALC be obtained
3. The Town Clerk would obtain details of the recent national pay award

448/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council would be on Tuesday 16 December 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Public Hall, West Street, Liskeard.

Car Park Council Agenda Item 11 – 18th NOV 2014

In the light of Cornwall Council's financial position, we understand the need to increase income from car parks. With Help from Cornwall Council's car parking trials, we have been trying to do that locally by increasing usage rather than by increasing car parking fees.

At the moment there is limited data to indicate how successful this has been.

However, we still believe that this is the right approach especially as it also supports increased foot fall in town centres, in line with national planning guidance on prompting sustainable transport.

We are concerned that a disproportionate increase is likely to impact on foot fall in the town centre and consequently its viability.

We would be keen to carry on working with you around parking.

One of the initiatives in Liskeard has been the Parking Refund Scheme provided by local businesses. Over 1,000 vouchers for this were redeemed in the first two and a half months of operation. We suggest that Cornwall Council could promote the adoption of this by other towns.