

Council Chamber Furniture (Item 11) – Cllr. Dorling requested some further information from the museum regarding the provenance of the large table in the Council Chamber on 30 March 2023. Brian Oldham (Museum volunteer and President of Liskeard Old Cornwall Society) responded on 6 April as follows:

Hi Richard, first of all I have to say that the Volunteers and the Coordinator are not qualified to comment on the financial aspects of disposal or conservation of the table. We can however confirm that, primarily due its size, it would not be suitable to become part of the Museum's collection. I have delved into the archives of both the Museum and Liskeard Old Cornwall with the aim of establishing its historic importance, if any. Firstly, was it in use in the Guildhall when Council meetings were held there? The Cornish Times, on October 1st 1859, reported extensively on the 'Opening of the New Town Hall' giving a detailed account of the merits of the design of the building, but no mention of furniture. Again, on October 16th 1860, they reported on the 'Renovation of the New Town Hall', again with no mention of furniture. As you can see from the attached Guildhall photo of c1954, there is no sign of the table where you would expect it to be located. When the Public Hall opened on November 6th 1890 Edwin Spurway, Freeman and Mayor of Liskeard, noted how each room would be used, but no mention of the furniture. The attached Council Chamber photo of c1984 has no sign of table. The result is that I haven't been able to establish when, or by whom, it was built, nor where and when it was in use. Whether the lack of any provenance is relevant to the fate of the table, the Council will have to decide, Brian.

Guildhall photo, 1954:



Council Chamber photo, 1984:

