

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT A MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 15 April 2014 at 7.30 pm there were present:

The Mayor - Councillor Sue Pike - in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Phil Seeva

Councillors: - Rachel Brooks, Ian Goldsworthy, Adam Hodgkins, Roger Holmes, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe, Anne Purdon, James Shrubsole, Lorna Shrubsole, Hella Tovar and Christina Whitty

The Town Clerk - Mr Andrew Deacon

Minute Clerk - Mr Stuart Houghton

Members of the Public - Ray Meadows, Denise Larnar and John Tovar

Photographer Stephen Tolfrey from Studio Wallop.

Michelle Richards representing Cornwall Housing Ltd and Victoria Regan from Cornwall council

Members of the Press - Viv Twornicki, Cornish Times

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor invited Councillor Purdon to lead with prayers

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

940/13 OPEN SESSION

No members of the Public present wished to address the Council.

The Mayor introduced Victoria Regan and Michelle Richards who had attended to inform the Council of how Cornwall Council was addressing its affordable/social housing needs and how this would affect Liskeard. The presentation included;

- How the provision of affordable homes would be funded
- The number required throughout Cornwall
- The number required for Liskeard
- Affordable housing was rented at 80% of the commercial rate
- Social housing rents were lower
- For value for money, locations owned by Cornwall Council were being considered ie car parks and open spaces
- A desk top study had identified that seven houses could be provided on the upper section of Rapsons car park
- The design would consider the location and surrounding Henry Rice buildings
- Current requirements consider that overlooking the car park adds security for parked vehicles

Responses to Councillors questions included;

- The desk top study had not identified any ground contamination from the use of the area as a car park. This would probably not be identified until the SI was done if the scheme was confirmed.
- Cornwall Council car parking team had identified that only half of the car park was occupied during the day
- Central Government set the required standards which Cornwall Council had to meet. The right to buy still existed and people had problems in obtaining mortgages
- Cornwall Housing is a part of Cornwall Council, therefore no monies would change hands for building on Cornwall Council land
- The site was not large enough to keep parking spaces after the houses were built, but the car park on the opposite side of the road would still be available
- Please take time to consider the scheme, don't rush into a decision tonight

A member of the public, Allan Hartridge a retired Planning Officer, urged the Town Council to take caution on this matter. He stated that public open spaces were not a waste of space, they were required by Planning Rules. He did not think this was the right site for housing, the local residents have no other parking facilities, this car park was the only area for them. The purpose of car parks was to reduce the amount of on street parking, not to raise revenue.

Councillors made further comments;

- They were of the opinion that this area had been donated to the Council for public use, not for building.
- A search of the old Borough Council minutes was being made for reference to this gift
- Land Registry Charges Register would show if there was a restrictive covenant on this land
- The need for the affordable/social housing was acknowledged. It was suggested that they should be spread out throughout the town and not provided as a high density development
- It would be preferable to build in the Town, not on green field sites
- The Neighbourhood Plan will describe the need for mixed housing
- Concern about cars parking in the lorry park were expressed

Councillor Hawken referred to the car parking trial currently underway at this car park. Although use had increased revenue in this car park other car parks had fallen due to the users relocating to Rapsons, therefore an adjustment in charges could be expected.

Councillor Pascoe added that this trial had taken place in a period of very inclement weather and would like to see it extended through the summer to get more meaningful data about its use.

It was agreed that Councillors would send their comments to the Town Clerk for collation and that this item be added to the agenda for the next Planning Meeting.

941/13 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Tony Powell and Nick Mallard.

An apology was also received from Cornwall Councillor Mike George.

942/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON REGISTERABLE

No declarations of interests were made.

943/13 MAYORS REMARKS

The Mayor announced that this would be her last meeting as Chairman of the Council. She thanked all Councillors for their support through the year, it had been an incredible experience.

During the last month she had attended many sporting and charity events and was impressed by the energy in the Town for residents to improve the Town and their lives.

Over the last two weeks she had assisted to distribute many Neighbourhood Plan leaflets and would be in Fore Street this Saturday morning to meet the public. The Planning Application for the granite plinths was being prepared, and she had attended meetings with Malcolm Mort for Clean Liskeard.

The Catholic Church Service would be held on Sunday 18 May 2014, she would like as many Councillors as possible to attend this friendly service.

944/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 18 MARCH 2014

Accuracy

Communication and Engagement Committee Meeting 4 March 2014 (Minute 862/13e)

Councillor Holmes mentioned that he was unhappy about Minute 862/13; in his opinion the minute did not fully explain the discussion. Councillors had differing opinions about this discussion and thought that the comments were more of matters arising. The Town Clerk stated that the minutes correctly recorded the discussion and a vote had been taken on the motion, therefore this matter could not be discussed again. Councillor Hawken agreed with the Town Clerk and thought this was the problem when trying to summarise discussions.

Correction

Verbal Report on the Planning Meeting held Earlier this Evening (Minute 870/13)

Councillor Purdon stated that her suggestion had been Trevethan Meadow, therefore “Meadow” should be added after “Trevethan”.

Councillor Hodgkins proposed, Councillor Purdon seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 18 March 2014, with the above amendment, be adopted.

945/13 MATTERS ARISING

Communication and Engagement Committee Meeting 4 March 2014 (Minute 862/13e)

Councillor Brooks reported that she had fully discussed this matter with the Town Clerk after the last meeting. She felt that the circumstances around the production of the leaflet had been misunderstood; the leaflet had included for many organisations in the Town and had not favoured any particular group.

The Town Clerk agreed with this statement and said that on reflection the advice he had given at that time was incorrect.

946/13 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014

Councillor Purdon proposed, Councillor Tovar seconded and the Council noted the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2014.

b) FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014

Councillor Hodgkins proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Council noted the Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2014.

c) PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2014

The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded and the Council noted the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 April 2014.

d) COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2014

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Council noted the Minutes of the Communication and Engagement Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1 April 2014.

Councillor Brooks reported that good progress had been made on the design for the new Websites, designs had been firmed up and the Town Clerk had seen some results of this.

e) PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 8 APRIL 2014

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Hodgkins seconded and the Council noted the Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 April 2014.
Resolution

1. Repair to the Council Chamber Roof

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the contract for the repairs to the Council Chamber Roof be awarded to KWRS.

The Town Clerk reported that he was considering that whilst the scaffolding was in place on the front of the building the building should be repainted. Councillors were in agreement with this.

Councillor Goldsworthy raised the issue of the hanging guttering on the adjacent premises, it was a danger to the public.

The Town Clerk said that he had written regularly to the owners of this shop but had never received a reply, he would now inform Cornwall Council Environment Health Department of the problem.

2. Public Hall Room Letting Rates

Councillor Goldsworthy reported that he had compared the hire rates with those of other establishments in the Town. Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Hawken seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the discounted hire rates for rooms in the Public Hall Complex should be increased by £1 per session.

3. Block Booking Discretionary Discount

Councillor Goldsworthy reported that the office had been asked to give discount on the hire rates for block bookings. Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Hodgkins seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the office staff be allowed to offer a discretionary discount to hire rates for bookings of twelve weeks or more.

f) NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

The Town Clerk had received two nominations; he opened the envelope containing the nomination for Mayor for the year 2014/2015. Councillor Seeva was nominated for Mayor.

There being no other nominations Councillor Seeva was unanimously elected as Mayor for the year 2014/2015.

The Town Clerk then opened the envelope containing the nomination for Deputy Mayor. Councillor Pascoe, as the only nomination was unanimously elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2014/2015.

947/13 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY

Councillor J. Shrubsole gave an update of the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee.

There would not be a formal report for every month, in the last period the team had;

- Been delivering the Neighbourhood plan leaflet, many thanks to the helpers
- The teams website was up and running
- Details of the scoping survey will be on the website and in the next issue of the Town Crier newsletter which would be delivered by Councillors
- A Public Engagement Day is arranged for Thursday 29 May 2014 in the Long Room to receive the views of the public
- Cornwall Council have accepted the intention to produce the Plan
- A presentation had been made to the Looe Valley Rotary Club about the Neighbourhood Plan
- It was intended to repeat this at other clubs

Councillor Hawken added that the Neighbourhood Plan was also listed on Facebook and Twitter

948/13 TRAVELLERS SITE

The Mayor said that, although the proposal was not in this Parish, she had visited the Public Exhibition in the Long Room and thought the proposal had been well developed. The proposal was for a transit site that had many controls and would be manned by Cornwall Council.

Councillor Pascoe said she had many concerns about the proposal that were not in keeping with the following Travellers Policy Document requirements;

- The site was more than 3 miles from the community centre, shops, hospital and schools
- The site was adjacent to a Trunk Road
- The site was adjacent to a main line railway
- The site was adjacent to a land fill site

Councillor Pascoe was of the opinion that were better sites in Cornwall for this facility. Other comments included;

- Although the proposal was not in our Parish it would be in order for this Council to comment
- Many Travellers children received home education
- Travellers generally use transport to deliver children to school
- There are various types of Traveller, don't lump them all together
- The proposal was for a managed site which would be good for the wider community

- Was the proposal acceptable to the proposed users

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Tovar seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the proposal by nine votes for, three against and one abstention.

949/13 CC PLANNING DECISIONS

The decisions as Addendum 1 were noted.

The Town Clerk commented that Cornwall Council had been in agreement with our comments

950/13 ACCOUNTS

The Accounts as Addendum II were noted.

Councillor Goldsworthy declared an interest in item 100953 and took no part in the discussion.

In response to her question Councillor Purdon was informed that the new vacuum cleaner for the museum contained extra fine filters to prevent dust recirculation.

The Town Clerk replied to a question that membership of CALC was worthwhile. The subscription was based on the population of the Town and the Council received free legal and other advice as legislation changed. A recent example was the advanced notice of changes to the audit procedure which helped the council prepare for the change. Any training undertaken by CALC was subsidised.

951/13 OTHER REPORTS

None

952/13 VERBAL REPORT ON THE PLANNING MEETING HELD EARLIER THIS EVENING

Councillor Purdon reported that there had been two applications to consider which the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council **SUPPORT**

953/13 CORRESPONDENCE

The Correspondence schedule was circulated and items discussed.

1. The Council agreed to join the World War I procession to the Drum Head Service in Westbourne Gardens arranged by the Royal British Legion for Sunday 3 August 2014.
2. The Council agreed that the Town Clerk should send a no comment reply to Mr Dutnall.

3. The Council agreed that the Town Clerk should reply to Mrs Ormerod to note her suggestion.
4. The reduction in NHS contributions notified by 10 Downing Street did not apply to Councils.
5. Councillors noted the open day notification from CHICKS.
6. The Town Clerk had started the Planning Application for the granite plinths.
7. The Town Clerk had met with South West Water to discuss their planned work in Sun Girt car park and at New Road. This work would reduce the local discharges to water courses in storm conditions and was required under the bathing Waters directive. South West Water would hold a public consultation in the car park at the end of this month.

954/13 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.

955/13 ITEMS REFERRED FROM THE MAIN PART OF THE AGENDA

To approve the minutes of the confidential section of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2014.

956/13 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.

Members ratified the discussions held in closed session.

957/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council would be the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Long Room, Public Hall, West Street, Liskeard.

CORRESPONDENCE SCHEDULE

TOWN COUNCIL 15 APRIL 2014

- a. Letter from the Royal British Legion informing that they are holding a Parade and a Drum Head Service in Westbourne Gardens on Sunday 3 August 2014. Members of the Council are invited to process from Westbourne Car Park to Westbourne Gardens.
- b. e-mail from Graham Dutnall informing of his intention to hold an event to celebrate the 2nd birthday of the PL14-Cornwall.co.uk website in late June. They intend to construct a 20m high tower, on private land in the Town Centre, to broadcast Cornish Music and themes for 4 to 5 hours at 85-90db. They are requesting outline guidance for the event.
- c. Letter from Mrs E. Ormerod who was inspired by the Curling at the Winter Olympics and suggests that a Curling Venue be provided at the old Summerfield building.
- d. Letter from Cornwall Council Planning in response to our enquiry. If the land where the proposed granite plinths is owned by the Town Council Planning Permission would not be required.
- e. Letter from 10 Downing Street informing the council of the new tax cuts for businesses and charities that could take £2000 off our NIC.
- f. Letter from CHICKS informing the Council of their open day on Friday 16 May 2014 and requesting that the Council support them.
- g. Letter from FIR (Fields in Trust) asking that the Council hold a Have a Field Day. Events have included teddy bear picnics, sports days, music evenings, village fetes or wildlife walks and pond dipping. Downloadable toolkits are available.
- h. Letter from South West Water informing of their intention to construct holding tanks at Sun Girt car park and New Road, Liskeard. These tanks will reduce the volume of storm overflow into the receiving watercourses.

CIRCULARS

1. The Cornish Visitor Spring & Summer 2014. Liskeard is on page 8.
2. EU panorama inforegio