

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held in the REFRESHMENT ROOM on Wednesday 11 May 2016 at 7.30 pm there were present:

The Mayor - Councillor Phil Seeva - in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Jane Pascoe

Councillors: - Roger Holmes, James Shrubsole, Lorna Shrubsole, Hella Tovar and Christina Whitty

The Town Clerk - Mr Steve Vinson

Minute Clerk - Mr Stuart Houghton

Member of the Public - Peter Murnaghan and V. L. Lockwood

Member of Devon & Cornwall Police - Inspector Julian Morris

Alex Page Trust - Jane Page and Ian Page

Housekeeping; the Mayor informed all of the emergency exits and asked for all phones to be turned off.

1018/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Adam Hodgkins, Sally Hawken, Sue Pike and Anne Purdon.

An apology was also received from Sargeant Williams.

1019/15 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE LONG ROOM ON WEDNESDAY 12 May 2015

The Mayor proposed, Peter Murnaghan seconded and the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Long Room on Wednesday 12 May 2015 were adopted.

1020/15 MATTERS ARISING

None.

1021/15 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Mayor opened by saying that he had enjoyed his terms as Mayor, it had been very busy but rewarding; however, he was looking forward to handing the chain to Councillor Pascoe who would take on the role. He had served his time.

In the last year, he had attended 130 functions/meetings; this was down on the previous year as the Deputy Mayor, Jane Pascoe had shared the work with him.

The highlights of his term of office this year included;

- i. The increase to the Precept this year was only 2%, compared to the 30% last year. He had been a worried man when the budget was set last year, this year he had slept easier as the Town Precept actually reduced due to the number of new homes built in the last year
- ii. The revenue that the Council received from it's properties in rent and hire charges for the public rooms had also increased and was proving to be a good income from these investments
- iii. The Communications and Engagement Committee had published a Town Map in collaboration with other organisations in the Town. The final two plinths, at the Railway Station and Morrisons Supermarket were, at last, in place. Thanks to Rachel Brooks and the Committee for the hard work they had put in during the year
- iv. The Property Committee had a waiting list of ploholders who wished to take up an allotment and was working on plans to refurbish the Refreshment Room and its kitchen, and was looking to replace the stair lift with a hydraulic lift. This work should be completed in the next year and would increase the returns that the Council receives from its property. Thanks to Ian Goldsworthy and the Committee for all their hard work
- v. The Museum Management Committee had seen big changes in the last year. Following the resignation of the Curator, the management structure had been changed; last year the Museum had 4 volunteers, this year there were 22 and this number was increasing. The displays had also been changed, the Toy Exhibition loaned by a local resident, had been a big success. Thanks to Hella Tovar and the Committee for all the hard work and the improvements to the Museum
- vi. The Planning Committee had met every two weeks through the year and had some difficult decisions to make that had included the large developments at Addington and Ten creek, although technically, the Ten creek development was in the Menheniot Parish. The Planning Committee was very pleased when the developer of the Old Magistrates Court site agreed with the request of the Town Council and increased the allocation of land for employment at the site. This was a procedure that the Council was keen to continue. Thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Jane Pascoe and the Committee for their work through the year
- vii. The Neighbourhood Plan was ongoing and had faced many complications; Councillor J. Shrubsole gave details of the moving goal posts with changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan was dependant on these documents and was now being drafted with anticipated completion next year. The Mayor then thanked James Shrubsole and Steve Besford-Foster for the dedication and hard work they had given to the Plan
- viii. The development of the Cattle Market was an ongoing project; Councillor Pascoe was a member of the consultation committee with Cornwall Council to develop ideas which would be subject to public consultation before being implemented

- ix. The Council does not own any car parks although, in collaboration with other organisations, they had implemented the free parking initiative at Christmas. The Council continued to monitor the car parks in the Town to try to keep charges as low as possible
- x. Councillor Martin Menear, had been co-opted to the Council this year. Next year all Councillors would have to be re-elected, he hoped that there would be an election
- xi. Finally he wanted to report on the Mayor's expenses which had not been increased. In the last year he had received £1.6k which had been used as 20% for travel, 29% for clothes, 10% for gifts and donations and 50% on hospitality. The gifts and donations were mainly raffle tickets; it was surprising how many had to be bought when attending functions. The main expenditure was for hospitality, this included official Christmas functions, the drinks at the Mayor Choosing Ceremony and refreshments after Council Meetings. Very often the meetings started at 6.00 pm and continued to 9.00 pm. Most Councillors worked and rushed to get to the meetings without stopping for food. This was also a bonding exercise that offered regular informal meetings of Councillors. This allowance was taxable and had to be declared.

1022/15 REPORTS

Philip Blamey Trust

Philip Blamey set up the Trust in 1975 to assist in the education of young people. The Mayor and Town Clerk were trustees of the Trust which had funds of £3624.76. No applications for grants had been received this year.

Councillor Menear asked if this Trust would award grants for apprenticeships, the Town Clerk said that he would try to find any rules relating to this. The Alex Page Trust representative said that their Trust could be used for apprenticeships.

King George V- Thorn Park

This fund had £2325.68 available.

Eve Bowles Memorial Fund

Eve Bowles was a famous musician who died in her 97th year. The Fund was set up to assist musicians up to 18 years of age to further their musical education. The Mayor and Town Clerk were trustees of the fund which had £2317.68. No applications had been received this year.

The Mayor said that the Council would make more of an effort to publicise the availability of the grants in the coming year, he thought that the Silver Band might need assistance for their young musicians.

Alex Page Trust

Jane Page reported that the Trust had been set up to assist young people in the PL14 area to achieve their qualifications which could include apprenticeships. In the last year the Trust had raised £444.10; the balance of the Trust was now £11331.97.

She thanked the Council for continuing to support the Fund to give help to young people.

Liskeard Town Forum

The Town Forum was funded by the Town Council; following advice from the Cornwall Association of Local Councils, as best practice, the Town Council was reappraising how this was provided and had asked the Forum to produce a programme and budget for the forthcoming years. This would then be included in the Town Council's 5 year plans and give visibility to the expenditure.

The AGM, and next meeting, would be held on Wednesday 25 June 2016 in the Council Chamber, Luxstowe House.

1023/15 POLICE REPORT

Inspector Morris gave an apology for Sergeant Williams who had returned to work today and was on duty.

Inspector Morris said that he had lived in the area for many years and was responsible for the South East Cornwall division, he then gave the latest crime figures;

- i. Crime in the area had fallen by 12.1% compared to a 4% increase for the whole force area
- ii. Criminal damage had increased but 25 crimes had been committed by a single group of youths, who were now known to the Police, who were interviewing the suspects and applying the Young Offenders process.
- iii. Violent crimes, both with and without injury had increased. These offences included domestic abuse and he was pleased that these events were being reported even though they showed as increased crimes
- iv. Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour in the Town was ongoing and Criminal Behaviour Orders were being issued. Dealing with crime was just a part of the Police work undertaken and special attention was now given to vulnerable children
- v. The future Police and Crime Commissioner had pledged to stop the sale of buildings owned by the Police
- vi. Liskeard Police Station would not be closed. A new Tri Service building was planned for the same site and would be built whilst the existing station operated. If the Tri Service bid failed a new but smaller Police Station would be built on the site.
- vii. The Strategic Alliance with the Dorset Police was working, many branches

- had amalgamated and about a 7% reduction in costs gained. Any officers lost to specialised sections would be replaced
- viii. Mobile Data transfer was now in operation. This had reduced the time taken to make reports, they could now be made without returning to the station

In response to questions Inspector Morris said;

- i. This sector was the 4th busiest in the Devon and Cornwall area but the figures were better than for the whole of the area
- ii. Although there had been 640 crimes in the last year this was only 12 per week, this was one of the safest areas to live in
- iii. To put this into perspective one person broke into 11 garden sheds in one night. The figures show this as 11 crimes as each one was reported individually
- iv. Inspector Morris holds weekly team meetings to detect patterns in crimes and to try to prevent them

Councillor Tovar thanked Inspector Morris for the work the police do in the Town, it was very appreciated.

The Mayor then thanked Inspector Morris for attending the meeting.

1024/15 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

In response to a question about progress by Wetherspoons proposed building the Town Clerk replied that the last information he had received was the discussion between English Heritage and the Conservation Officer about the use of a glass or wrought iron handrail to the balcony.