

18. DEVOLUTION – CORNWALL COUNCIL – LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL – RAPSON'S SKATE PARK / MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) / RAPSON'S GREEN SPACE – FREEHOLD TRANSFER (ATTACHED) – To approve that the Cornwall Council owned Green Space immediately adjacent to the current Cornwall Council owned Rapson's Skate Park / MUGA be progressed for a redesigned replacement Skate Park without necessarily the receipt of a car park in return.

Background – At the 28th July 2026 Town Council meeting there was an update on the Devolution of the Rapson's Skate Park (MUGA) along with the adjacent Rapson's Green Space for a replacement Skate Park as designed by Betongpark.

Cornwall Council were to be asked whether the adjacent concrete hardstanding outlined in black might be part of any transfer as this could be used by the Town Council accommodating a container unit to store equipment close by. That area not being within the marked pay and display section of the car park and presumably not part of income stream.



Update – since, the last Town Council meeting there has been an e-mail 28th July 2026 from TC to update a 3rd September feedback e-mail with Car Parks view. 14th September online meeting two follow up e-mails on the 15th September

28th July 2026 – Town Council – email – Town Clerk to (Cornwall Council – Community Link Officer (Devolution), Development Manager, Community Link Officer (South East Cornwall CAP) – Cornwall Councillors Jane Pascoe and Kevin Grey – Liskeard Town Council – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, RFO/Deputy Town Clerk and Facilities Manager

Hello – to update you on the Rapson's Skate Park. I attach the latest e-mail advice from the Town Council specialist skate park consultants Betongpark that there has been a delay of 18 months in which there is a risk that costs will have increased and this might put additional pressures on what was a very strong funding package. They are also mindful that a considerable amount of work has gone into community consultation and design phase and with consultation leading to further redesign of the project. This created expectations that the project is going to be delivered. The lack of progress on the issue of the land ownership is holding back a good project which has a strong funding position behind it, clear community support and the potential to provide a longstanding asset for Liskeard. Are you able to raise this the Cornwall Council end?

3rd September 2026 – Cornwall Council – e-mail – (Cornwall Council – Community Link Officer (Devolution) forwarding the response of the Cornwall Council Operational Car Parks to Town Clerk Development Manager, Community Link Officer (South East Cornwall CAP) – Cornwall Councillors Jane Pascoe and Kevin Grey – Liskeard Town Council – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, RFO/Deputy Town Clerk and Facilities Manager

“Following our last officer meeting on 20 July, CC officers undertook to make some enquiries in relation to the additional land needed in the car park area to relocate the MUGA, to extend the footprint of the skatepark into the area within the site offering this provision. This has been discussed with the Council's Car Park management team who have provided the following position statement:

The service recognises that the area identified for potential devolution currently represents the Council's only provision of commercial vehicle parking within Liskeard. While usage levels may be relatively low, should senior management and the local member determine that commercial vehicle parking is no longer required at this location, the space could be repurposed to provide additional accessible parking. This would support Cornwall Council's ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of disabled motorists. However, the service does not consider this area suitable for devolution and wishes to retain it within Council control.

Given this feedback, officers have also made some preliminary enquiries as to whether there would be a requirement to re-provide a MUGA at Rapsons, if this land was repurposed for the skate park project. It is understood that as a MUGA and skatepark offer a similar type of provision, if the outcomes of local consultation activities determine the skate park is the priority, the Town Council could take the decision not to replace the MUGA at Rapsons. This however may be a facility that you could consider relocating elsewhere in the future, subject to other provision in the area.

I know more recent emails on the skatepark project have indicated the need to make progress, given the likely capital implications of significant further delay (below/attached).

Work is still in development on the devolution policy position in relation to income generating assets. This therefore would require the Town Council to take a view on whether they want to progress the devolution of the Rapsons skate park and green space as a standalone project, or whether to defer any further activity until there is clarity on whether an income generating asset can be included in a devolution package. Clarity on this point is still some way away. If the devolution of land at Rapsons was progressed as a standalone project, we can log the benefits to Cornwall Council of this transfer, and factor into a business case for any subsequent transfers. I cannot offer any certainty on the possibility of an income generating asset, at this stage.

I can confirm that if there was agreement of the Town Council to proceed the devolution of Rapsons skatepark/greenspace as a standalone project, I can look to commission work needed with my Property and Legal colleagues and assign this as a priority case. However, we equally appreciate the Town Council may wish to defer any further activity until we can provide greater clarity on the income generating point. I trust that this can be considered and the Town Council position confirmed.”

14th Sept 2026 - on Line meeting Cornwall Council – Community Link Officer (Devolution), Development Manager, Community Link Officer (South East Cornwall CAP) – Cornwall Councillors Jane Pascoe and Kevin Grey – Liskeard Town Council – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, RFO/Deputy Town Clerk and Facilities Manager

15th Sep x 3 e-mails – that day 10.57 Town Clerk to (Cornwall Council – Community Link Officer (Devolution), Development Manager, Community Link Officer (South East Cornwall CAP) – Cornwall Councillors Jane Pascoe and Kevin Grey – Liskeard Town Council – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, RFO/Deputy Town Clerk and Facilities Manager

“That I think proved beneficial in discussing a variety of items regarding the immediate situation and the medium-term policy. There have for several years been discussions regarding whether the Rapson’s Car Park MUGA side might in fact lose money and certainly no trucks can be recalled using the concrete hardstanding going back a couple years at least. The suggestion from operational car parks that should that be the case that the truck parking is no longer required that they could be repurposed as “disabled persons car parking” does beg the question as to what the “disabled people” would be accessing as the only thing in the vicinity is the MUGA.

You kindly volunteered to forward the request to operational car parks regarding being provided with the volume and frequency and type of use and income and costs associated with the Rapson’s Car Parks. I went down yesterday and checked. They both appear to be “Rapson’s Long Stay 8303 Car 8304 Coach”. I am not sure the present figures can be broken down in that way. Although, the signs look very new. When they were changed whether the historical data might be split on that basis. In the meantime, could you ask Operational Car Parks to supply any figures that they may have. I think that might assist the Town Council and the local Cornwall Councillors in understanding the context to assist the wider Devolution package. Also, to get us to a better place of understanding with the Cornwall Council policy review on income generating assets in relation to Devolution. We would like to be copied in on this as it progresses internally.

For the next Town Council meeting 29th September 2026, with the agenda deadline 18th September 2026, I propose:

18. Devolution – Cornwall Council – Liskeard Town Council - Rapson's Skate Park / Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) / Rapson's Green Space - Freehold or Long Leasehold (length of lease sufficient for grants applications) Transfer (attached) – To note the Cornwall Council Operational Parking Service do not want to lose any of Rapson's car park for elements of the Rapson's Stake Park / Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) replacement scheme. To seek to replace that piece of land with the immediately adjacent Cornwall Council green space (*) to be added to the current Rapson's Stake Park / MUGA for a redesigned replacement Skatepark as the option for further costing and progression to assist with a replacement Stake Park. Accepting that this might well not result in the transfer of a car park asset when Cornwall Council have completed their review of the income policy review which the Town Council wish to be kept informed of.

*I think that it is Rapsons' Field U18223 on your system. Is there practically, for Cornwall Council any material difference in having a freehold or very long lease?

15th September 2026 – 12.19 - Cornwall Councillor Jane Pascoe (Cornwall Council – Community Link Officer (Devolution), Development Manager, Community Link Officer (South East Cornwall CAP) – Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey

“Thank you for your time yesterday it is always very much appreciated, and I felt the discussion considering various options was useful.

However, to get a better understanding of the issue with the car park, I would like you to request to operational car parks for a breakdown of the income generated separately from both parts of the car park. There is a machine on each side of Heathland Road serial No.8303 and I am informed that since the new type machines have been in operation, this information can be extracted from the individual machines.

I look forward to receiving this information.

Cornwall Councillor Jane Pascoe

15.49 Town Clerk to (Cornwall Council – Community Link Officer (Devolution), Development Manager, Community Link Officer (South East Cornwall CAP) – Cornwall Councillors Jane Pascoe and Kevin Grey – Liskeard Town Council – The Mayor, RFO/Deputy Town Clerk and Facilities Manager

“We have just had the agenda session for the 29th September 2026 Town Council meeting. There has been an update to the recommendation going to Town Council which is now as below:

18. Devolution – Cornwall Council – Liskeard Town Council - Rapson's Skate Park / Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) / Rapson's Green Space - Freehold Transfer (attached) – To approve that the Cornwall Council owned Green Space immediately adjacent to the current Cornwall Council owned Rapson's Stake Park / MUGA be progressed for a redesigned replacement Skatepark without necessarily the receipt of a car park in return.

That was felt to provide a sharper focus to the Town Council 's discussion of the item. The rest of the e-mail regarding the meeting and the request for info from car parking remains the same. The Town Council is looking at the freehold for both the Rapson's Play Area (MUGA) and Field."

15th September 2026 – Cornwall Council – e-mail – (Cornwall Council – Community Link Officer (Devolution) copy of the plan (attached Agenda 18) indicating the position in red of the adjacent Rapson's Green Space – Town Clerk - Development Manager, Community Link Officer (South East Cornwall CAP) – Cornwall Councillors Jane Pascoe and Kevin Grey – Liskeard Town Council – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, RFO/Deputy Town Clerk and Facilities Manager

"Thank you for this update Steve. Please find a site plan attached in support of your discussions – the red hatched area is the skate park and the red solid area is the green space. I have raised the questions on car parks shared by both you and Cllr Pascoe today, for a response from our car park service. If we can assist any further ahead of the Town Council meeting, please let me know".

RECOMMENDATION: To approve that the Cornwall Council owned Green Space immediately adjacent to the current Cornwall Council owned Rapson's Skate Park / MUGA be progressed for a redesigned replacement Skate Park without necessarily the receipt of a car parks in return.

20. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE – SCHEME OF DELEGATION (ATTACHED) – To consider and approve the alteration of the frequency of Town Council meetings from 12 to 6 per year with enhancements with the Scheme of Delegation to the current service Committees and the senior leadership team. Also, to commence the holding of 4 Finance and Strategy meetings per year.

Background – it is thought that under the current system the amount of time spent on the organising and holding of the meetings is relatively high compared with the amount of time spent trying to progress the items arising from the meetings. It is usually, the case that there is insufficient time to seek the view of a wider group of councillors beyond those immediately in the meeting. There is then usually a week taken up with actioning the decisions and minute writing. This leave two weeks to try and progress the work associated with the Council. There is also the wider range of anticipated (10 – 15 Cornwall Council related redirects). Also, the range of unplanned things that Councillors and the public might generate.

Poor Use of Time – currently about half of the time each month is spent organising and minuting the meetings (one week agenda writing, one week actioning decisions and minute writing). There is no point in trying to return a quick decision with key organisations like Cornwall Council and the Town Forum that only meet once every two months or often quarterly.

Limited Time for Councillor Involvement – currently, the short timescales mean that there is limited time to involve a wider group of Councillors in the consideration of the item. Often only 2 or 3 of our 15 Councillors might be directly involved in the meetings themselves.

Key External Partners often use a Bimonthly or Quarterly meeting system - There is no point in trying to return a quick decision with key organisations like Cornwall Council and the Town Forum that only meet once every two months or often even quarterly.

Comments There are Too Many Council Meetings – Councillors will have numerous other commitments on them for the unpaid role including, but not exclusively, in employment, running a business, being a Councillor on another Council, being a member of a group or association, having family commitments and of course dealing with members of the public .

Note Quality of the response might be improved by spending more time dealing with it.

Next Steps – if the Council were to approve the resolution to reduce the number of Council meetings from 12 to 6 per annum and set up a “Finance & Strategy Committee meeting 4 times along with approving the attached Scheme of Delegation, the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations would need to be amended to reflect this.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the frequency of Council meetings be changed from 12 to 6 per annum. That the Scheme of Delegation be approved. That the Council commence the holding of 4 Finance & Strategy Committee meetings per annum.

21. GRANTS POLICY – REVISIONS (ATTACHED) – To approve the revised Grants Policy as suggested at 28th July 2026 Council meeting.

Background – At the last meeting of the Town Council 8 items were considered by the Council. These ranged from 2 new applications forms, a poster, checklist, and not least guidance on eligibility. The intention is to try and increase the range and scope of groups applying to the Town Council’s recently enhances grants budget of £15,000.

Some comments were made by Councillors, and these have been included in the attached “Community Grants Policy” which includes the modifications (in purple) along with some possible follow on implications of changes.

RECOMMENDATION: That the revised Grants Policy is adopted to complete the set of paperwork approved at the last meeting.