

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held in the Public Hall on Thursday 25 April 2019 at 7.00 pm there were present:

The Mayor - Councillor Christina Whitty - in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor David Ambler

The Town Clerk - Mr Steve Vinson

Councillors: - Ian Barlow, Tyler Bennetts, Rachel Brooks, Simon Cassidy, Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Sandra Mitchell, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, Susan Shand, Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor

Deputy Town Clerk – Yvette Hayward

64 Members of the Public

The Mayor advised of housekeeping matters

1. APOLOGIES

Karen Coleman (Young People Cornwall), Merryn Doidge, Missy Kerr (Army Cadets), Alex McKay, Rev Steve Morgan (St Martin's Church), Brian Oldham (OCS), Rev Mark Pengelly (Methodist Church) James and Lorna Shrubsole (Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group) and Hella Tovar.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE PUBLIC HALL ON THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2018

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Public Hall on Thursday 19 April 2018 were noted.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty welcomed everybody and gave the following report:

I have enjoyed my 2 years as Mayor of Liskeard. It has been an honour and a privilege and very rewarding. However, I will shortly be handing over my chain to Councillor Brooks.

Over the last 12 months I have attended over 184 civic functions and meetings where Terry and I have been made very welcome. Many of the events involved the Lions, the RBL, Scouts and the Liskeard Silver Band and I believe we should all be supporting one another and even without my chain of office I will carry on supporting these organisations. One of my memorable civic duties was helping a couple celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary at the Highwayman Dobwalls a venue where I once worked.

As a Council we have 15 councillors all of whom are unpaid volunteers. These also include 2 Cornwall Councillors, Jane Pascoe and Sally Hawken, which are paid posts, and we all strive to work together to serve the community of Liskeard.

Last year we saw the resignation of Sue Pike, and Simon Cassidy was co-opted to fill her position on the council. Then at Christmas, Roger Holmes retired after serving 50 years on the Town Council. He also served on the District, the Borough and Cornwall Council. While he was on the Town Council, he was Mayor twice and Deputy Mayor. Recently there was an article in the Cornish Times about him and everyone who knew Roger will miss him. But like me I'm sure they all wish him well for his new life in France. In February Ian Barlow was co-opted to take his place on the council.

Another change for the council is Councillor David Ambler retiring as Sergeant of the Mace, a role he has held for 13 years. David maintained this role with dignity and protected the Mayors. David has been a Councillor for just under 2 years and has been my Deputy Mayor for the last year. I would like to thank David for all the support he has given me and the council and for his role as mace barer. We will be holding interviews shortly to fill this post.

Like most places of employment staff changes are a frequent occurrence and the Town Council is no different. We have recently held interviews to fill a caretaker vacancy. Other changes that have occurred in the office are changes in roles. Yvette has passed her clerk course and is now our Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and Deputy Town Clerk. Congratulations must go to Yvette for all her hard work in passing her clerk course and for her promotion. Mandy has had her hours increased to cover events management and Erin has taken on the Safeguarding role. Steve, having passed the RFO responsibilities to Yvette has freed up some of his time to work on the economic development responsibilities which will come forward from the Neighbourhood Plan and Cattle Market work space projects and Liskeard Together.

In October last year our Neighbourhood Plan went to a referendum and it received a "YES" vote from 91.5% of those who voted and will be our Plan until 2030. It took 4 and a half years of hard work by a small group of councillors and volunteers lead by James and Lorna Shrubsole, for whom we owe a great deal of thanks for without their hard work we would probably still be working on the Plan. Now that we have the Plan, we must start looking on some of the projects.

The Cattle Market which is owned by Cornwall Council is one of the projects the Town Council is working on with Cornwall Council and the Liskerrett centre. Recently a charrette was held where the community were invited to come forward with their ideas for the cattle market redevelopment. We are also working on having an Agri Hub. There have been two sheep auctions at Bolitho Farm as well as the Annual Fat Stock Show being held there and some of us believe Liskeard is still a prime site for some sort of market. We are surrounded by farms. A demand study has been carried out. This site would create much needed employment for Liskeard.

Growth of the Town is a topic that often comes up in conversation. We now have Wetherspoons which opened in June last year after a wait of 9 years, and we have lots of houses being built, we even have Costa being built out near Morrisons but what about the Town Centre? We still have 4 banks, but we have empty shops. Liskeard in Bloom and the Town traders are working very hard

to make the town look attractive and encourage visitors and have won awards on behalf of the Town, but there is still work to be done to encourage business to locate to Liskeard.

The Planning Committee has had a busy year looking at many plans. Most of which the committee approved. The committee looks very closely at all plans before submitting their decision to Cornwall Council. We are only consultees and it is Cornwall Council who make the final decision but if we object it goes to the planning committee in Bodmin. Their decision would be final unless it went to an appeal.

The Communications and Engagement Committee also had a busy year working on Nadelik Lyskerrys (Cornish Christmas) and Liskeard Unlocked (National Heritage Open Days) as well as trying to relocate a new town sign at the entrance to Liskeard from Plymouth. The committee is also continuing to support production of the Lyskerrys community magazine, and the Council has granted up to £12.000 for this.

The Facilities Committee have been working on a Public Hall refurbishment project for a few years and in August last year work started on the refreshment room. A new kitchen was put in, the centre beam has been reduced, a changing place toilet was installed, 17 new fire doors have been replaced, 2 lifts have been installed and the ceiling in the long room has been lowered. This work was finished just before Christmas with only minor issues needing to be sorted in the New Year. This work cost the council just under £300.000. The council have decided to change the names of the Long room and Refreshment room to the “Emily Hobhouse” and “Wheal Phoenix” rooms and next week there will be a Launch Opening. The community are invited to view the alterations and enjoy a cream tea. This was the biggest investment in the Public Hall meeting rooms since the mid 1990s. The Facilities committee have also signed a 10-year joint lease with Cornwall Council for the running of Westbourne Gardens and are looking into putting in water and electricity which will hopefully encourage wider use of the gardens.

The finance committee has given out several grants over the last 12 months and this year we have increased the budget. Over the winter months each committee look at their budget for the forthcoming year and after several meetings and discussions a final draft was presented to Full Council in January. The Council set this year’s precept at £438,960 which was submitted to Cornwall Council. This means that a D band resident’s yearly council tax bill would increase from £139.42 to £141.08 an increase of 3 pence per week. Residents can access information on the Council from our website, including agendas and minutes of meetings, and details of forthcoming events, a lot of information is also sent out via social media and we thank Mandy for her hard work involved in this.

Once again, I would like to thank the council for allowing me to be the Mayor of our fantastic town of Liskeard. I have attended over 384 civic functions and meetings in my two years as Mayor, but myself and Terry have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been an honour and privilege to have been your Mayor, and I wish Rachel and Rod good luck in their mayoral year.

4. 1387 LISKEARD AIR CADET SQUADRON - How they used a grant from Liskeard Town Council

The Air Cadets had a strong local group of boys and girls aged 12 – 19. They had received a grant of £1,400 which they had used to purchase radio equipment. The radios were essential when participating in activities such as Duke of Edinburgh awards to keep the young people safe. They also helped them to learn more about wider communication and develop these skills for everyday life.

The cadets also supported other local community events such as parking cars at shows for which the radios could be used.

5. LISKEARD SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE GIRLS U15 CRICKET TEAM – To receive a grant for £450 to assist them attending the regional finals in Southampton

Emily Geach, Kensa Bennallick, Emily Joyce and Chloe Penhaligan received the cheque on behalf of the team. The girls said the monies would help them with travel to the event and kit, which would make them feel more confident when representing Liskeard and Cornwall. They all loved cricket, particularly for the team spirit, and hoped their achievements would encourage other students to play cricket.

6. TRUST REPORTS

The Town Clerk reported that Liskeard Town Council had increased its grant budget to £10,000 for the 2019/20 financial year. The Grant Awarding Policy had recently been updated, and full details including the application form could be found on the Town Council website at www.liskeard.gov.uk

In addition, the Town Council administered the following trusts for which details could also be found on the website:

Philip Blamey Trust

The trust was established '*For the educational benefit of such boy or girl as the Mayor and Town Clerk for the time being shall consider, such income will be of the most use and benefit for such educational purposes aforesaid*' (Area of Benefit – Liskeard)'.

The Mayor and Town Clerk were trustees of the Trust which had funds of £3,124.76 after making a grant a £500 in the last year.

Eve Bowles Memorial Fund

The Eva Bowles Memorial Fund was established to help local young people in Liskeard to take part and enjoy music making in all its various forms. Grant eligibility:

- Available to students up to and including age 18 who live within Liskeard town boundaries and who are devoted to the study of music.

- Students anticipated progress must be vouched for by a professional tutor or school music teacher.
- Grants will be made, in normal circumstances, following a personal interview.

The Mayor and Town Clerk were trustees of the fund which had £2,317.68. No applications had been received this year.

King George V - Thorn Park

This fund had £2,325.68 available.

Alex Page Trust

The Trust aims to help young people who want to learn a skilled trade but find the low income and financial outlay for professional tools or training a positive disincentive. Open to anyone below the age of 21 at the time of application and resident in the Liskeard area (PL14 postcode). Applicants must be pursuing a nationally recognised qualification (e.g. Modern Apprenticeship or NVQ), or a qualification which is recognised by a trade organisation appropriate to the career concerned. No minimum or maximum limits. Generally, relatively small 'one-off' awards will be available rather than continuous funding for any individual applicant.

Jane Page reported that over the last year, the Trust had raised £504.79 and made two grants totalling £1,772 leaving a balance at the year end of £11,025.96.

Jane read a report from Merryn Doidge, who had received grants from the Philip Blamey and Alex Page Trusts to assist her in attending Exeter College and pursuing her aspirations to play professional rugby. Merryn was now being picked regularly for Bristol Bears Women's Rugby and had also played international games for the England Women's National Academy and the England Women's U20's.

The grants received had helped with Academy fees, kit and assisted with travel to camps and matches sometimes 3 – 4 hours away. She had finished her last year of academic study with distinctions and hoped to do the same this year. Lecturers had been supportive in helping with the challenges of balancing study with sport. England Senior Ladies was her next aspiration.

7. LILY CROCKER (DEPUTY MEMBER OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT)

Since becoming a member of the Youth Parliament, Lily had taken part in several local events such as the former cattle market charrette process, the Community Fair and the town litter pick, while at the Youth Parliament current topics such as Brexit and global warming were being debated. Lily will also be championing causes she is passionate about such as mental health issues for young people.

8. SAFER LISKEARD – Insp. Rupert Engley, Sgt James Drake and Community Safety Officer Lucy Allison

Safer Liskeard formed in April 2018 and is managed by Safer Cornwall. Liskeard is one of ten priority towns that has been identified as a Safer Town initiative based on population figures, crime data and the residents' views on crime and disorder in that area. It is a multi-agency initiative to improve community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the town through multi-agency working. Safer Liskeard has identified the following community safety priorities for the Town:

- Problem drug use, dangerous drug networks/county lines/cuckooing and the associated violence
- Domestic abuse
- Taking pride in Liskeard and improved feelings of safety
- Comms, community engagement and building community resilience

To date several initiatives have focused on improving community safety and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour including;

- Safer Liskeard has made an evidence-based decision to purchase a needle disposal unit to be located outside the Town Council owned Sungirt Toilets
- Safer Liskeard supported National Domestic Abuse week and held a successful public engagement event at Liskeard Community Hospital
- Replacement Public Space Protection Order signs have been fitted at various locations across Liskeard, which provides Police and council with powers with regards to prohibiting alcohol consumption in specific areas of the town. Safer Liskeard have also agreed to part fund an ASB body worn camera for the local ASB caseworker.
- CCTV for the Town is also being explored by Liskeard Town Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

9. LISKEARD'S MUFFINEER – Terry Whitty

The muffineer was a cinnamon shaker on King George III's breakfast table when news arrived of victory at the battle of Trafalgar. The captain who delivered the news used the cutlery on the table to demonstrate how the battle progressed. The knives represented the English fleet, the spoons the Spanish and the forks the French. Queen Charlotte asked which HMS Victory was, and the King handed the Captain the muffineer, which he placed at the head of the knives. It was later given as a gift.

The muffineer is now part of the town silver, and regularly loaned to Terry when teaching naval history to new recruits at HMS Raleigh to enable them to see a valuable piece of naval history which now continues to inspire young sailors. Terry thanked the Town Council for permitting naval history to be brought to life in this way.

10. LISKEARD LIGHTS UP – What’s happening this year and how you can help

Jenny Foster reported that this year’s events would take place on Saturday 30 November. Many organisations were already involved but there were room for more. Their mission was to be an inclusive event. To provide the fantastic display of lights and flowers for the festive season lots of work is required in the lead up.

For the last 2 years they have worked with Golden Tree Productions, which has introduced a Cornish language dimension to events, which will continue this year. The first planning meeting will be on Friday 3 May and all are welcome, or if you can’t make the meeting send in your ideas.

Assistance with fundraising, putting up/taking down lights, creating flower displays is always needed, but specific requirements for this year were a large Christmas tree and a marquee which could be used to house activities on the former cattle market site. Anybody who can help with these was asked to make contact via the town council office.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Neighbourhood Plan

Q - The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Liskeard was approved by Cornwall Council in November to guide planning decisions to the year 2030. One of the Plan's objectives was to attract high quality Employment to Liskeard and the surrounding area to match the house building and ensure the long term sustainability of the town.

As the Plan has a timescale of only 11 years, can I ask what the Town Council is doing, or plans to do, to attract new businesses to establish in the town, to provide fresh opportunities for local employment?

A – The Town Council were a partner in the development of the NDP. They were now working jointly with Cornwall Council on the redevelopment of the former cattle market and offering a possible investment of £100,000 to provide office and workspace. The NDP included three projects around an innovation/business support hub, training and development hub and IT technology which were being combined into a single project to take forward. The Town Council had formed a partnership to fund an employment land demand study, which showed that factory type accommodation within the town was needed. These enquiries were being used to attract private investment and provide employment. The Town Council now had an Economic Development working party and had directed more officer resource to this task.

Liskeard in Bloom

There is a pop-up shop in Barras Street this week to raise money. Please donate any unwanted bric-a-brac, come and buy a bargain, or talk to us about the project.

Peppers Park

Q - The estate has been built over the last 20 years over several phases and has reached a point where traffic is a significant problem, all converging on a single entry/exit point. What is being done to alleviate this?

A – The Town Council planning committee had made strenuous representations to Cornwall Council in connection with new development off Charter Way, and would like the highways safety team to look at this area, however data currently shows that the junctions off this road are safe, and therefore at present there were limitations on what could be done.

Q – Between 6 and 9am traffic is especially heavy on Peppers Park Road, and the bus stop almost opposite the junction can add to difficulties at this time. What can be done to alleviate this?

A – The Highways and Environment Manager from Cormac Solutions Ltd is monitoring this situation and has asked for photographs of any obstructions at the junction.

Q – When will the bridge to nowhere be removed and what is the future for connectivity between sites north and south of Lake Lane?

A – Councillor Hawken offered to meet with residents and discuss this further in another forum.

12. COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS

The Awards were made to people who have made a positive difference to life in Liskeard. Following some amazing nominations, Awards were made to:

Individuals

- Billy Hillson for bringing the community together at Melbourne Road with a garden project and tidy ups
- Tony Ball for service to many local causes including schools, United charities, Stuart House and the history of the town
- Thomas Remnant for 10 years volunteering at the Liskerrett Centre
- Martin Gilbert for over 30 years work on Lights Up, spending countless hours behind the scenes checking bulbs, ordering replacements and being on call for repairs
- Doris Lobb for 22 years supporting Eventide home
- Mark Brown for setting up support groups at Addaction

Young People

- Ellie Brunt for outstanding support for CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably)
- Harry Carnegie for amazing fundraising for Relay for Life and Tic-Tac

Groups

- 1387 Liskeard Air Cadet Squadron for providing amazing opportunities, inspiration and support for young people

Unable to attend but also receiving an award:

- Alex McKay for great service to local rugby, the town centre and local fundraising.