

Liskeard Town Council – Facilities Committee – CCTV Working Party

Notes of the CCTV Working Party Meeting Held on 19th July 2023

1. Those Present:

Cllr Julian Smith – Chair of Facilities Committee in the Chair, Steve Vinson – Town Clerk, Cllr Richard Dorling – Vice Chair Facilities Committee, Jacqui Orange – Facilities Manager (Cllr Smith also represented the Chamber of Commerce)

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Christina Whitty – Deputy Mayor & Cllr Naomi Taylor

3. Notes of Previous Meeting 1st June

The notes were agreed as an accurate record of the last meeting. Matters arising were all on the Agenda

Issues Arising

- a. The investment in new cameras covering Castle Park and Sungirt Carpark had been put on hold while the Police Station monitoring system is sorted out.

4. Police Station Link

There had been no further update on the progress of installing the screens, though we had received confirmation that the process had been restarted by the new Inspector in charge of Liskeard police station. The Mayor and Town Clerk were chasing for an update on progress. There is concern that the funds put aside by the Council would prove insufficient because of the delays and rising costs.

5. Quarterly Monitoring Report from Tolvaddon

There was no further Monitoring report to consider, we are waiting for the quarter end June 23 report.

6. Tolvaddon Monitoring.

A Fire Service Working Party has been formed to consider options to the Tolvaddon monitoring Centre of which Cllr Smith is a member, along with some representatives of other Towns including Cambourne, Bodmin and Penzance. Cllr Smith reported on their work in considering 3 options set out on a paper presented by the Fire Service:

- i) Additional Grey Book staff to carry out monitoring – this was seen as unviable due to cost and also problems in using the Airwave service
- ii) Employment of a new team under Green Book conditions, probably needs 5 persons to provide supervision and cover for holiday's sickness etc., using existing equipment and based at Tolvaddon in a separated room for security. It would be expected that the Green Book personnel would be able to be appropriately security vetted to enable the to use the Airwave network and have direct contact with the police. Costs for Liskeard were projected at around £21K on a per monitoring hours basis. However a re-working of the spreadsheet provided by the Fire Service indicated that if additional cameras were included and some further towns, like Falmouth has, left the scheme monitoring costs could rise to nearly £30K.

The Working Party considered this to be the most workable system as it protected the infrastructure and would reduce overall costs.

- iii) Forming a CIC Company to run the service in a new location, maybe hosted by one of the Councils in the scheme. This was not considered viable by the working party at this time.

Investment in additional Cameras

This working party had previously agreed to recommend to Facilities Committee and Full Council the investment in 2 additional cameras in the vicinity of Castle Park and in Sungirt Car Park at a cost of £7,882 and £8,773 respectively. This had previously been postponed over concern about progress of the Police Station Screen link and the Tolvaddon monitoring service.

The Town Clerk voiced concern that the SSE quotes may become invalid shortly and that a new quote could be significantly higher. A question about the need for a new light pole at Sungirt had received the answer that it was necessary as the existing pole was too short. Cornwall Council Highways had also refused to contribute as the pole was still serviceable. The new cameras had been specifically requested by the police.

Taking the view that a longer-term monitoring solution was in sight – see above and below – the Working Party agreed to recommend to Council the investment in these additional cameras, partly funded from a revenue provision and the council general reserve. The Town Clerk agreed to place this item on the next Full Council Agenda.

7. Alternative Monitoring solutions

Meetings had been held with Falmouth Town Council who are now operating their own CCTV monitoring facility with full Airwave capability in conjunction with a local company Infinitus Security & Training Ltd who have also had a meeting with the Town Clerk and Facilities Manager. They have capacity to include several additional towns into their service, subject to those towns investing jointly into the equipment need to set up an additional monitoring room. Liskeard have added their name to the list of interested Towns. The monitoring cost should be similar to the current Tolvaddon cost according to initial information provided by Falmouth Council. We, through the Town Clerk, are seeking to advance negotiations with Falmouth as soon as they are clear of their major summer events.

8. Other CCTV Issues

Attention of the working Party was drawn to a hole in the coverage of Fore Street because of the gentle curve of the street, which has resulted in a central section of the street not being covered. This was especially of concern because of the recent assault in that part of Fore Street. The Working Party agreed to invest further and consider an additional camera to cover this gap in surveillance.

9. Date of Next Meeting – Wed Sept 6th, 2023 @ 4pm – Public Hall (or earlier if significant developments arise.)

Interested Parties who are invited to attend:

All Town Councillors
Cornwall Divisional Councillors
Safer Liskeard
Liskeard Police
Liskeard Traders Association
Liskeard Chamber of Commerce
Liskeard Town Forum

CLlr Julian Smith – Chair
20/07/2023