

## Liskeard Town Council

**AT A MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty – in the chair  
Councillors – Graham Berry, Sylvia Berry, Rachel Brooks, Kerry Cassidy, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling, Jane Pascoe Lori Reid and Naomi Taylor.  
Town Clerk – Steve Vinson.

Members of the Public – Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey Liskeard Central, Sean Barbery – Boyfriend and Personal Assistant – Councillor Annette Lee.

422 / 25                    **APOLOGIES** – Councillor Simon Cassidy.

423 / 25                    **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – The Mayor indicated they were the recipient of cheque 346 on the Schedule of Payments Agenda Item 10.

424 / 25                    **MAYOR'S REMARKS** – The Mayor updated on the following:

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 – The Mayor attended the Saltash Civic Service.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - The Mayor and Deputy Mayor assisted at the Lions Panto as both are Lions members.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – I attended the Music Bingo. If you have never been to one try and go it is great fun.
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – I attended the Johnny Cowling event. Both the Bingo and the Johnny Cowling event were organised by our Town Council staff. Both Mandy and Zoe worked extremely hard organising these events. We owe them our thanks. Several members of the public mentioned to me what a lovely building we have. These events are constantly showing what can be done with our beautiful building.

425 / 25                    **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING** – Councillor Reid proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 meeting. It was agreed that the impact of Devolution on the budget and precept setting of the Town Council was significant and ongoing which had occurred over several years and that was not fully reflected in the budget and precept setting discussions at the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Town Council meeting.

426 / 25                    **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Police Update – Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey passed on the apologies of the New Sector Inspector Jamie Musgrove whom he had met at a Police Panel meeting. There were no Members of the Public who wished to speak. There were no grant applications.

427 / 25      **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE** – The draft “5year Precept Strategy” recommended by the Local Council Consultancy (LCC) and “Devolution Assessment Templates” would be circulated for consideration and adoption to assist with budget and precept setting.

428 / 25      **COMMITTEE MEETING – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Lee proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communication & Engagement Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.
- b. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

429 / 25      **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES)** – The Council noted the report.

430 / 25      **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – With regards, to events in the Public Hall organised by staff. There should be a break-down of the costings “income and expenditure”. That, to include whether staff hours are part of normal duties or is an additional cost. Also, whether this encourages the use of the Public Hall. On the water rates bills why is Sun girt toilets subject the only one subject to VAT. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Lee seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments totaling £56,807.27.

431 / 25      **AGED DEBTOR** – Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Reid seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive the report and agree the action.

432 / 25      **BUDGET MONITORING 2025/2026** – Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and **ACCEPT** the budget report to 31 January 2026 for monitoring purposes.

433 / 25      **ELECTIONS OFFICE, CORNWALL COUNCIL LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL – CENTRAL WARD VACANCY (ATTACHED A)** – a). To note that the Elections Office, Cornwall Council has received a valid petition requesting the holding of an election. A “Notice of Election” (a) has been received indicating the arrangements. (If contested the election would be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026). b). To note should there be a contested election, the Elections Office, estimate of £14,000 with Poll Cards and Postage and £9,000 without Poll Cards, the decision required by the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026, the Town Council confirmed by e-mail poll not to use Poll Cards.

434 / 25      **HM GOVERNMENT – CONSULTATION ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING DEVELOPER COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENTS** – Following discussion, it was agreed to include the impact of costs and issues faced by the private sector residential developer which impacted their capacity and ability to be involved, Councillor S Berry proposed Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **RESPOND** to the Government consultation and outline the Town Councils own experience in dealing with and trying to adopt play areas, footpaths on green spaces, new and replacement grit-bins, allotments and sports-pitches and associated toilet and changing facilities.

94/25

435 /25 **GRIT BINS – REQUEST FOR JOINT PROVISION ON BOVEWAY DRIVE (FACILITIES COMMITTEE 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 MINUTE 373 /25 – The Committee requested further information from the Town Clerk regarding the Town Council’s legal obligations in relation to the provision of new grit bins, as well as guidance on how to request that developers install grit bins on new estates and housing developments)** – It was reported that no other Town Council appears to have undertaken the direct provision of grit bins on new housing developments. When other Town Councils have considered the issue they have been deterred by the lack of legal powers, the financial impact especially if carried out across other sites in the Town. One Council has a policy of encouraging Housing Associations and Residents Associations to take on the role. Treveth Holdings did not have an existing template agreement. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor G Berry seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the report and the implications and risks of providing on entire new sites and maintain support for the current topping up and replacement of existing grit bins.

436 /25 **SANTANDER – NOTIFICATION OF BRANCH CLOSURE – 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026)** – It was noted that it is claimed that Banking Hubs improve footfall in towns. They do not provide cash but banking services. Liskeard already has a Post Office which provides both cash and banking services. It was considered that there are a number of locations where cash might already be available. It is accessibility after the business is closed for the day that is the issue. Councillor K Cassidy proposed, Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **WRITE** to the Post Office and request their inclusion of an ATM facility preferably on the outside of the building.

437 /25 **CORNWALL COUNCIL – LI26/000481 APPLICATION FOR A PAVEMENT LICENCE – BEAN CAFÉ SHOP, 6 FORE STRETT, LISKEARD (ATTACHED)** – Councillor Craker proposed Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application for a pavement license.

438 /25 **LISKEARD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (BOARD) (A.B.C.)** – Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to a). to note the update and approve b). the revised Terms of Reference c). the updated Membership.

439 / 25 **COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** – It was noted that Councillor Nick Craker has stood down from the Communications & Engagement Committee. He was thanked for all of his work with that Committee including his being Chair.

440 / 25 **CORNWALL HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – FORE STREET BOLLARDS** - In the discussion on the possible support for the submission of an application it was noted, that the expensive solution would be competing against better projects from the town already well supported and bidding into a limited budget. It became clear that at this and other locations there was an enforcement issue. Councillor Reid proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to look at the issue of enforcement as part of wider consideration.

441 / 25 **CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATES**  
**Cornwall Councillor Report Liskeard South and Dobwalls - Councillor Jane Pascoe - Winter Storms** - have created many problems mainly blocked drains, floods, power and broadband outages and many falling trees. I wish to thank you all for your understanding and patience whilst the Highways Teams and Utilities services have worked tirelessly to restore power and clear the highways.

Cornwall Council Budget - I did not support the increase in the Council Tax by 4.99% for 2026/27. Cornwall Council has to make savings and cuts of £59 million this year and up to £154 million over the next 3 years due to a reduction in funding from Central Government who have turned their back on rural areas.

It is reassuring that Cornwall Council is in a better financial position than many Councils. It does have a debt but it is well secured by assets. Any reduction in funding will put a burden on the local people and may mean cuts to services.

However, I was pleased to join with others to keep the 24/7 free bus pass for pensioners and disabled residents. The proposal to restrict the times of use, would have meant that disabled people and pensioners would no longer be able to travel free before 9.30am on week days. I do thank the administration for listening and agreeing to retain the original terms of the passes, it is vitally important to so many of our local residents.

Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry - Recently, I was appointed by the Leader of the Council to become a member of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee. At a meeting on 12th January, the committee agreed not to increase the Tamar Tag administration fee to £2 and it will remain at 80p per month. A consultation will be sent out to the public about any future increase. I will strongly represent all residents who use the crossings and aim to work towards a no toll crossing in the future.

Santander Branch Closing - Despite campaigning hard to keep Liskeard Post Office open, It is disappointing to learn that Santander, the last bank in Liskeard is closing in May.

I believe the banks have let local communities down very badly, especially the elderly and vulnerable, and in addition the towncentre is faced with empty buildings and a reduction in footfall and linked visits. The availability of cash is not the same as the availability of banking services.

Rural Transport - Last Friday week I attended a meeting in Saltash about rural transport. Facilitated by the MP, attendees included the MDs of the bus companies, business owners and Cornwall Chamber of Commerce. We talked about the poor connectivity of the rural areas to essential destinations. The sustainability of community buses and my campaign to restore the route to Derriford Hospital.

I voted against a proposal to increase by 8% the License fees to Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Operators. The taxi trade is a lifeline to many people living in the villages with no other means of public transport.

Dog Attack on Livestock - I have been shocked and saddened to learn about incidents of dogs attacking sheep in the nearby Parish.. Please keep your dogs contained, under control and on leads in the countryside. Lambing season has just begun in the countryside and it is heartbreaking for any farmer to lose his livestock stock in this way."

Cornwall Councillor Report Liskeard Central – Councillor Kevin Grey.

Police and Crime Panel – There had been discussion regarding the Government's proposed changes to the Police and Crime Commissioners set up nationally. In particular, how the changes might be rolled out locally.

20mph Speed Limits – the rollout is proceeding. There needs to be an acceptance by the public and enforcement by the Police when necessary.

Councillor Kevin Towill – saddened to hear of the death of this young Councillor.

Bubble Retail Park – there was still much work being done on trying to maintain the developer contribution benefits from the Ten creek site. It was asked that a Highways consultation should take account of the cycling priorities.

442 / 25 **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – Noted.

443 / 25 **CORRESPONDENCE** – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Pulse Hub – Ollie Smith – It was felt that the Town Councils support for the principle of the roll out of the “Pulse Hub” in Liskeard and the Planning Committee’s observations on the Planning merits and issues were consistent with the different roles and responsibilities Town Council and Planning Committee.

444 / 25 **DIARY DATES FOR COUNCIL EVENTS** – To note the dates of forthcoming Council events – 6<sup>th</sup> March Cancer Research Exhibition Official Opening 7.00pm Public Hall, Community Fair Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026. 10.00am – 1.00pm Public Hall. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 at 7.30 pm Council meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Annual Town Meeting 7.00 pm Public Hall. “Beating the Bounds” 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 all day.

445 / 25 Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to go into **PART II**

#### **PART II - 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, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business:

26. **Sports Pitches and Associated Infrastructure Project at Roundbury** – To receive and update and propose the next steps.

27. **Employment Tribunal – (Notice of Claim - attached)** – To note the receipt of the claim and the advice of the solicitor regarding the next steps.

28. **Staffing Review – Job Evaluation (Phase 1 Report – attached)** – To receive and approve the timetable (page 9) for the job evaluation exercise being undertaken by the Local Council Consultancy (LCC) the recommendations of which would go to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 Council meeting.

29. **Civic Regalia Policy (attached)** – To review and amend the existing policy to meet the new arrangements for the transportation and storing the regalia in accordance with specialist advice and maintain and meet the requirements of the Council’s insurers.

30. **Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group** – To note the attached minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025 meeting.

#### **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, the Press and Public were readmitted to the meeting.

446 /25 The Mayor proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the resolutions made in PARTII.

97/25

**26. Sports Pitches and Associated Infrastructure Project at Roundbury – To receive and update and propose the next steps. – That the Town Council go out to tender to retain a consultant to develop the project to the submission of an initial planning application.**

**27. Employment Tribunal – (Notice of Claim - attached) – To note the receipt of the claim and the advice of the solicitor regarding the next steps. – That the Solicitor be appraised of the view that it is timed out and was not an employment contract in any case in considering the next steps.**

**28. Staffing Review – Job Evaluation (Phase 1 Report – attached) – To receive and approve the timetable (page 9) for the job evaluation exercise being undertaken by the Local Council Consultancy (LCC) the recommendations of which would go to the 31st March 2026 Council meeting. – That the Town Council approve the Local Council Consultancy (LCC) Phase 1 Report which time table would report to the Town Council on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 on the job evaluation exercise.**

**29. Civic Regalia Policy (attached) – To review and amend the existing policy to meet the new arrangements for the transportation and storing the regalia in accordance with specialist advice and maintain and meet the requirements of the Council’s insurers. – That the amended policy for the storage and transportation of the regalia is approved.**

**30. Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group – To note the attached minutes of the 16th December 2025 meeting. Noted – That the use of the new name for the Integrated Service Hub is sufficiently similar to the Liskerrett Centre to cause possible issues to both.**