

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty – in the chair

Councillors – Graham Berry, Sylvia Berry, David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Simon Cassidy, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling Jane Pascoe Lori Reid and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson.

Responsible Financial Officer / Deputy Town Clerk - Yvette Hayward.

Members of the Public – Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey Liskeard Central, Angela Gibbon – Consultant Physiotherapist (Neurological Rehabilitation) – Honorary Research Fellow – Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Agenda Item 19 – ECHO Centre) – Lorna Searle – Team Leader - CorServCare – (ECHO Centre), Rob Snyed – member of public - Roz Hurley WILD Families Worker (Agenda Item 6), Gin Hiscott – (WILD Project), Elsie Whiting – (Local Liskeard Mum WILD Project).

367 / 25 **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Annette Lee, Kerry Cassidy and Tony Powell.

368 / 25 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – None.

369 / 25 **MAYOR’S REMARKS** – The Mayor updated on the following:

- Sunday 21st December 2025 – The Mayor and Deputy Mayor Councillor David Braithwaite attended the Christmas Carol Service in St Martins’ Church.
- Monday 22nd December 2025 – The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and three other Councillors attended the Carols around the Christmas Tree. This was well attended.
- Friday 9th January 2026 – The Kyiv Tango Orchestra Concert was held in the Public Hall and attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillors Pascoe, K Cassidy, Dorling, and both G Berry & S Berry. It was extremely well received by those who attended, and it was also live streamed with several watching the performance. We owe a great deal of thanks to our Council staff for putting all this together, especially with the Christmas closure and the sound and lighting on the night was superb. We had 163 people attend. Tatiana was extremely pleased with our piano and even more so with the baby gifts she received from the Deputy Mayor. Nazar played a Double Bass which was borrowed from the Liskeard School and Community College. He went to school with Bogdan the Mayor of our twin town of Kopychyntsi so this concert cemented even more closely our twinning ties. We must also say a big thank you to Councillors, Jane Pascoe and Richard Dorling for hosting the musicians while they were here in Liskeard.
- Friday 16th January 2026 – I had the honour and privilege to have lunch with the new Captain of Ralieggh who is Liskeard born and bred.
- Thursday 22nd January 2026 – The Town Clerk and I went to St Ives for the Cornwall Association of Local Council’s (CALC) large Council’s meeting.
- Sunday 25th January 2026 – The Deputy and Mayor went to the Salvation Army for a service and the launch of the new programme to help with those suffering abuse.

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370 / 25 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 16TH DECEMBER 2025 COUNCIL**

MEETING – Subject to the following, it was noted that Minute 338 / 25 should be St Anthony’s. Minute 347 / 25 – include “with regards the Devolution of assets from Cornwall Council, the Town Council had previously indicated that there should be an early release of income generating assets, such as, car parks and an in any in case there should be no unforeseen costs”. The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 16th December 2025 meeting.

371 / 25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Roz Hurley – WILD Families Worker – Spoke in support the grant application in conjunction with input from Gin Hiscott – WILD Project) and from Elsie Whiting – Local Liskeard Mum who had participated in the WILD project activities.

- Charity – This group is based in Cornwall although part of a national charity.
- Bodmin Town Council – It was reported that Bodmin Town Council had approved the grant contribution to the project.
- Geographical Area – Q. How extensive is the geographic spread of the “Liskeard” group? A. Some of their group come from Looe and one from Torpoint. The majority are from Looe.
- Local Liskeard Mum (Elsie Whiting) – spoke of how very helpful the group had been to the provision of advice and support from soon after her baby was born. They have also been able to participate in activities and visits.

Angela Gibbon – Consultant Physiotherapist (Neurological Rehabilitation) Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust – Lorna Searle – Team Leader – CorServ Care Ltd – Rob Sneyd – Menheniot – the Briefings to the Town Council 19.a. and ECHO Centre leaflet 19.b. had previously been supplied to the Town Council. There was at the meeting a Powerpoint presentation to which Angela Gibbon spoke. The ECHO Centre was a tremendous facility that the town and the wider catchment area benefitted from in the physical and mental health and also from the footfall from the ECHO Centre.

The Centre provides a wide range of activities that can be tailored to the needs of an individual. The person might need one-to-one support or be involved in group work. A number of different agencies rely upon the ECHO Centre to provide services that would otherwise need to be accessing via journeys to the GP or Hospital.

Individuals who attend might well be fit the eligibility criterion of existing projects and programs. Others might be self-funded. It was important that facilities and services are used to their fullest to help the income and usage.

Rob Sneyd – Menheniot – spoke as a former doctor who now suffered from Parkinson’s Disease. He recognised professionally and personally that the ECHO Centre reduced the number of people needing to access GP’s and the Hospital and was a friendly and welcoming place.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked the ECHO Centre staff and Volunteers for their hard work and efforts to help members of the public often with complex conditions. The Town Council what it might to help. The ECHO Centre asked for its work to promoted by the Town Council through the (website, posters, social media, word of mouth) and Cornwall Council (through a slot on the South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership – covering a number of town and parish councils).

372 / 25 **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE** – Minute 357/25 **Staff Review** – the 12th January 2026 Staff Committee met and considered the additional quote that had been suggested. It confirmed the Town Council's earlier decision to place the Job Evaluation contract with the Local Council Consultancy. The maximum cost being £5,200 excluding VAT.

373 / 25 **GRANT APPLICATION** – Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £520 to the WILD group to support the work of the Children's Team and Parent Focus in supporting Liskeard Parents and Babies and children including their Newquay Zoo summer trip.

374 / 25 **TOWN CLERKS UPDATE** – The consultants' report and the Staff Committee recommendations were on the

375 / 25 **COMMITTEE MEETING – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee held on 9th December 2025.
- b. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee held on 12th January 2026.
- c. Councillor Braithwaite proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes the Facilities Committee held on 20th January 2026.

376 / 25 **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES)** – The Council noted the report.

377 / 25 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – Noting, there would be a separate item on the Kyiv Tango Orchestra event. Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments totaling £81,049.47.

378 / 25 **CORNWALL COUNCILLOR KEVIN GREY – FORE STREET – BOLLARD** – Noting that Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey needed to leave and this item was brought forward on the agenda. "At the last Town Council meeting the fund was mentioned and a comment was made that the bollard scheme would not be a good use of this fund. To my surprise there was no opposition to this comment from the councillors who invited me to support this scheme and assist them with funding. I am aware that there have been many attempts to resolve the problem of vehicles entering the pedestrian area within the published times and this latest idea is being led by a few Town Councillors and representatives from the Town Traders association.

Because there seems to be opposition to this latest option by some town councillors, I would like to propose that a discussion and vote be taken on this long-term issue and funding application at the next Town Council Meeting to establish whether councillors would like me to apply for this funding to resolve this long-term issue. Cornwall Cllr Grey"

It was noted during the discussion that the "Community Highways Improvement Programme" held by Cornwall Council has a limited budget to cover the whole of the South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership. The New Road scheme had been proposed and drawn up some time back. The full cost and operational implications of the Fore Street Bollard scheme were not yet known. Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **DEFER** the item to the next meeting.

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Cornwall Councillor Grey left the meeting.

379 / 25 **BUDGET MONITORING** – Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the budget report to the 31 December 2025 for monitoring purposes.

380 / 25 **BUDGET SETTING 2026/2027** – It was noted that the Committees had looked at the budgets closely over their last meetings with some small reductions. Agenda Item 12.v. 5 year Capital Year Programme included projects for the upgrade of the Town Council’s own properties such as, the Public Hall, and Parks, as well as making provision for the legal and other costs associated with the Devolution process. It was noted that experience with other Councils that the £50,000 set aside for Devolution might not be enough. The community of Liskeard would benefit from the improvement projects that were proposed. The Town Council has produced a supporting statement Agenda Item 12.vii. an explanation of the budget and implications. Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the 2026/2027 budget at £1,155,742. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the 2026/2027 precept at £990,292.

381 / 25 **REGALIA** – Following consideration, Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the purchase of the new storage and carrying facilities and to **DEFER** consideration of the other items.

382 / 25 **RESIGNATION COUNCILLOR TRACY ADAMS – CENTRAL WARD** – The resignation was sadly noted and the Town Council wanted to thank Tracy Adams for her service. The Notice of Vacancy runs until 29th January 2026.

383 /25 **CORNWALL COUNCIL – (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER 2026 (A.B.)** – Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the proposal to drop the “Just Park Multi-Purpose Session” from the Westbourne Car Park.

384 /25 **LISKEARD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (BOARD) (B.B.i.)** – Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to a). confirm that the town Councillors on the Board should be the Mayor, Councillors Nick Craker, and Rachel Brooks (as a reserve Naomi Taylor) and Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the report on the first Liskeard Renewal Partnership session and note the overall membership.

385 / 25 **CORNWALL COUNCILLOR**
UPDATES

Cornwall Councillor Report Liskeard South and Dobwalls by Councillor Jane Pascoe -

“I hope that you all managed to enjoy the Christmas period and I wish you all a belated a Happy New Year.

The year has not begun well for local , commencing with treacherous icy conditions and followed closely by Storm Goretti, Ingrid, Chandra and the incoming Joseph blowing in to cause so much structural damage and flooding around the county. In this area we have had many falling trees, landslides, flooded roads and power outages.

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Our emergency management services, fire, highways and rescue have worked tirelessly throughout, we are indebted to them. Please help the services by acting responsibly and stay away, from coastal paths, swollen rivers and sea fronts in the thick of a storm, especially with your dogs.

The other parishes in my division, your outlying rural villages, some have been cut off because the rural roads have been under water. I thank residents and ask them to remain patient whilst the clear up continues

We are not alone in this catastrophe and I was sorry to learn that the river in Quimperle, our twinning town has overflowed and many properties are flooded. I have sent a message.

Tamar TAG administration fee: Prior to Christmas in a meeting on 5th December the joint crossings committee were asked to recommend a business plan to the respective Cabinets of the parent authorities. Within the plan was one line suggesting the fee for TAG administration was increased from 80p per month to £2. The committee were not satisfied with the information that had been provided and made representation to the joint Chairman. The legal and democratic officer agreed and a further meeting was convened for January 12th. The business plan was further scrutinised and a decision has been made for the fee to remain at 80p. A public consultation is being launched with a range of questions to users and scrutiny is being undertaken on costs.

I shall be attending a meeting about Open Road Tolling next Wednesday but the ultimate aim is for no toll crossing.

Car Park Charges consultation please take part. Launched last week, charges to increase in line with inflation. It is proposed to make the Cattle Market a short term car park and remove the "Just Park Multi Purchase Session" discounts from Westbourne.

CAP MEETING Next meeting 7th April. Face to face meeting and venue to be confirmed. Members of the public will be most welcome. Liskeard representatives should contribute more to the discussions.

I supported 2 motions at Cornwall Council last week the first was for Cornwall Council to lobby the Government opposing specific measures in the Autumn Budget relating to the businesses in Retail, Hospitality and Leisure. CC will ask the government to reverse its decision to end rate relief and other specific measures.

The 2nd was to write to the Home Secretary condemning the Government's plan to massively restrict the ancient right to trial by jury.

The visit from the Kyiv Tango Orchestra was a great success and I have received many compliments about the event in the Public Hall. The pianist stated it was one of the best grand pianos she has played around the world and they all said the sound equipment and lighting were perfect. They particularly said the sound technicians knowledge was outstanding. It is an honour to host some of them.

I also attended the Cornwall Young Farmers 1st round of their Cabaret event. They were also pleased with the lighting and sound equipment. The two events have satisfied me that the recent investment in the Public Hall has elevated it from a village hall to a well-appointed auditorium venue. Congratulations to all those who were brave enough to approve the budget to achieve this. Word will get around and we shall look forward to many more bookings."

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386 / 25 **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – Noted.

387 / 25 **CORRESPONDENCE** – Brought forward on the agenda. Deferred at the request of the ECHO Centre to the 27th January 2026 Town Council meeting – Briefing to make the Town Council aware of the facility also lobbying for support might be requested.

388 / 25 **DIARY DATES FOR COUNCIL EVENTS** – To note the dates for the forthcoming Council events: Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 2.30pm Meeting with the MP's Office and Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 7.30 pm Town Forum meeting in the Council Chamber.

389 / 25 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 24th February 2026 at 7.30 pm Council.

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