

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room at the Public Hall on Tuesday 28 July 2026 at 7.30 p.m. there were present:

The Mayor – Councillor David Braithwaite – in the chair
Councillors Sylvia Berry, Rachel Brooks, Kerry Cassidy, Simon Cassidy, Richard Dorling, Lori Reid, Martin Symonds, Naomi Taylor, and Christina Whitty.
Town Clerk – Steve Vinson
Mayor's Chaplain – Mark Wade.
Facilities Manager – Jacqui Orange

Members of the Public: Deputy Grand Bard Loveday Jenkin, Cornish Gorsedh, Carmen Hunt Treasurer, Cornish Gorsedh, see Agenda Item 6. Alan Hartridge – Liskeard Resident, see Agenda Item 16. Lin Moore – Vice Chair Town Forum, see Agenda item 16. Mark Stevens – Senior News Reporter - Cornish Times.

The Mayors Chaplain led the Town Council and the members of the public in prayers.

82 / 26 APOLOGIES

Councillors Graham Berry, Nick Craker, Annette Lee, Jane Pascoe, and Tony Powell.

83 / 26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE

Councillor Whitty – Agenda Item 13 (Committee Membership) – Agenda Item 16 (Forum Membership – Forum Chair) – and Agenda Item 22 (RNA Parade – both).

84/ 26 MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor updated on the following:

- 27th June – Liskeard Carnival was held and the Mayor was able to play his usual role thanks to the Liskeard Lions.
- 4th July – The Mayor visited John Gliddon's family and they greatly appreciated being presented with his Honoured Burgess medal.
- 11th July – The Mayor attended the Liskeard Show and thanked the Councillors for manning the Town Council stand and the work by the staff in providing the stand.
- 14th July - The Mayor attended the Parish Church of St Nun to see the Pelynt Plate.
- 15th July – participated in the Liskeard Renewal Partnership meeting.
- 16th July – Liskeard Twinning Association held its fund-raising cheese and wine event at the Stuart House. This was well attended by several Councillors and their families.
- 18th July – I attended the Caradon Youth Theatre show "Why the Whales Came".
- 20th July – I undertook the judging at the Pengover Allotments with Jean and Owen Hoskins .
- 24th July – Sadly, the Mayor represented the Town Council at John Gliddon's funeral.
- 25th July – Was asked to attend the "Southern Halt – Luxury Lodge Park".
- 28th July – The Mayor had lunch with the Mayor of Looe Steve Remington and looked at their new CCTV.

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85 / 26 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30th JUNE 2026 - Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Reid seconded, and the Council RESOLVED to ADOPT the minutes of 30th June 2026 Council meeting.

86 / 26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cornish Gorsedh 2027 – Deputy Grand Bard – Loveday Jenkin – Carmen Hunt - Cornish Gorsedh

– spoke to the attached letter 6. regarding the hosting of the 2027 Gorsedh Kernow in Liskeard and 6.a. “Gorsedh Kernow and Esedhvos Kernow” – guidance on what the event is and what is required to host the event. Also, received observations and comments and answered questions on the proposal.

1. Town Council Funding of the Event – Q – How is the event funded? A – No specific funding would be required from the Town Council. An application could be made to the Town Council’s grants budget. In kind, assistance in helping organise the event would be key not least a wet weather facility.
2. Cornish Gorsedh Organisational Funding – Q. How is the organisation itself funded? A – The members pay an annual subscription and by donations.
3. Educational, Cultural, and Social Impacts – from a person who had observed and participated in the 1996 Gorsedh - There are major benefits not just in the additional footfall to the town, but in the educational, cultural and social legacy.
4. Civic Honour – It was agreed that it was a great honour for Liskeard to be approached and asked to host the event again in 2027 after last hosting it 1996.
5. Letter of Support – it was noted that because of the lead in timescales, the town to host next year’s Gorsedh is announced at this year’s Gorsedh which is in September 2026 in Bodmin with the Mayor of next year’s host town attending.

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the honour of hosting the Cornish Gorsedh 2027 in the town in conjunction with other organisations and reporting through Communications & Engagement Committee.

Councillor Whitty left the meeting

Alan Hartridge (Liskeard resident and Forum Planning Content Provider) – Lin Moore (Vice Chair Forum and Liskeard Traders Association) – both Agenda Item 16 Town Forum

– spoke to the Agenda Item and provided observations on the proposals and gave examples and of its work over a considerable period of time:

- Useful Initiatives – the Town Forum has supported useful initiatives such as the Liskeard in Bloom etc.
- Planning Applications – The Town Forum can be a place to speak on a wide range of items not just planning where all members of the public are welcome to attend and where there are no 3-minute limits on the amount of time spoken.
- Planning Policy and Regeneration – over 30 years the Town Forum has had a great impact on advising on planning policy in its various forms and has had an impact on the regeneration of the town much depending on the availability of external funding and structures.
- Initial Town Forum Funding – At set up this included – European Union, UK Government, Local Authority Funding and Staff – By 2014, Liskeard Town Council was the only organisation providing funding and staff support. External advice was that the reserves were significant enough for the Town Council to discontinue annual financial support. The Forum had to the year-end 31st March 2026 £1,212.18.

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- Liskeard Renewal Partnership – this did not duplicate the work of the Town Forum.
- Town Council Funding – it was not felt that the amount decided upon should be taken from the Town Council Grants budget. On this occasion it should come from the General Reserve. At the budget setting stage consideration should be given to including the “Town Forum” as a budget line.
- Delegated Town Forum Grants Budget – there was a suggestion that an additional £1,000 be made available to the Town Forum to operate as separate grants budget from the Town Council. It was noted this separate funding pot had originally been discontinued to avoid duplication with the Town Council grants budget.

Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to support the Town Forum with a transfer of £2,000 from the General Reserve and include the Town Forum as a budget line at budget setting.

Councillor Whitty returned to the meeting.

87 / 26 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

It was noted that Lucy Babcock would commence as the “Events & Communications Officer” on 10th August 2026. The interview process was in accordance with best practice and in accordance with grade and nature of the post. It was confirmed that the post was recruited with the necessary DBS requirements.

88 / 26 COMMITTEE MEETINGS- TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:

- a) Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communication & Engagement Committee held on 7th July 2026.
- b) Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the 14th July 2026 Planning Committee.

89 / 26 LISKEARD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (LRP)

Councillor Symonds proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting on the 15th July 2026 including the progression of items including the Summer Events leaflet.

90 / 26 RFO REPORTS

Noted the report.

91 / 26 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

APS Construction undertook Toilet Cleaning as holiday leave and illness cover. Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments totalling £64,671.05.

92 / 26 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the budget report to 31 May 2026.

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93/ 26 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **CONFIRMED** Councillors Christina Whitty, Graham Berry and Richard Dorling as members of the Communications & Engagement Committee.

94/ 26 DEVOLUTION – SITE VISITS – FEEDBACK (ATTACHED)

“To note the feedback from Cornwall Council that there is not likely to be sufficient liabilities to transfer significant car parking assets.”

In considering cash bearing assets it should be borne in mind that the Town Council has already taken on Castle Park from Cornwall Council. Perhaps we should stop Devolution or accept it. This was noted and would benefit from further consideration with additional thought and input from the Cornwall Councillors who were not able to attend this meeting.

It was also considered that should the Town Council invest in further assets (such as toilets and a café) at Castle Park this would significantly push up the costs of the Town Councils investment relative to what would have been that inputted by Cornwall Council.

“To continue to develop costs of the Rapson’s skate park site as an early opportunity transfer possibly minus the car parks”

Rapson’s should come over not just the Skate Park, but the adjacent Green Space and the adjacent car parking. There should be a “cost benefit analysis” so we are aware of the costs and benefits of proceeding.

95 / 26 UK GOVERNMENT - “LOCAL TRANSPORT CONSILDATED FUNDING” – CORNWALL COUNCIL ALLOCATION (ATTACHED)

Following discussion, Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** To thank Cornwall Council for proposing to invest a significant proportion of the budget allocated to active travel in Liskeard. To note that delivery timescales mean that decisions need to be made as soon as possible. To reiterate the Town Council’s policy, based on widespread public consultation, that Route 4 is the priority. To explore without delay the best use for the active travel budget locally, including whether there is a way to advance the Route 4 scheme”. It would be beneficial to conduct a site visit with Cornwall Councillor Dan Rogerson (Transport Portfolio holder) to see the pros and cons of the various possibilities which have been subject to various iterations since 2019.

96 / 26 TOWN FORUM – CORE COSTS CENTRAL SUPPORT FUNDING

This had been brought forward on the agenda Minute 86/26.

97 / 26 GRANTS POLICY – REVISIONS – in discussion, it was considered that the application process should be outlined, that the opportunity of giving of grants of above £1,000 should be highlighted and that groups such as, Veterans groups were included as eligible. Travel and transport costs were increasing and often important or central to the project. In practical terms, limiting each applicant to 3 minutes risked losing some element of consideration of their case. It was noted that when several applications were being received it was difficult to manage. It was decided to bring the policy back to the Council.

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98/ 26 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY – it was considered that the draft policy would benefit from the addition of items including: references to the relevant legislation, training, insurance etc. The policy would be brought back to Council.

99 / 26 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Councillor Jane Pascoe Liskeard South & Dobwalls (report is attached to the agenda).
Planning Reform – The impact of the proposal on the democratic processes was thought to be especially harmful. Councillor Taylor had submitted a question on Planning Reform and other members were encouraged to do this.

Ramp Access to Varley Lane – the much-improved ramp access to Varley Lane was now in place. It was disappointing to note that there had so far been no acknowledgement for completion given the degree of criticism there had previously been regarding ramp access.

Councillor Kevin Grey Liskeard Central (report is attached to the agenda).

Section 106 Contributions Tencreek – it was essential to ensure that as much Section 106 money as possible goes to the people and projects in Liskeard.

Trevecca Cemetery Grass Cutting Footpath – members of a family grieving the loss of their child were unable to easily use the footpath to the Trevecca Cemetery as it is seriously overgrown. They were believed to have approached Cornwall Council about the provision of a bench at the cemetery upon which to sit. “Crowd funding” might fund something should there be nothing forthcoming from Cornwall Council.

War Graves – it was said that following the work of the Cormac grass cutting contractor that grass cuttings had been left on the War Graves at various of the cemeteries.

Thorn Park – it was sadly related that there had been the theft of a commemorative memorial tree. The Town Council was happy to fund the replacement. However, understandably, the father of the boy wished to buy the tree themselves. It was suggested that extra benches might be put there at some point.

100 / 26 CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS

Noted.

Councillor Brooks left.

101 / 26 CORRESPONDENCE

A. Dowr Glan – Campaign Group – Motion and letter 11th June 2026 requesting Town Council support for bringing the local water company into public ownership * 15th June 2026 request for further information giving examples of where this might have been tried before. – B. South West Water / Pennon - response and informative. The correspondence was considered and discussed. It was noted that Cornwall Council had supported the Motion with the Leader indicating this was not a reflection on the current staff. There followed a discussion as to whether to support the Motion or a variation of it. (Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded which was defeated 7 votes to 2). There did not appear to be sufficient evidence to support a vote of no confidence or renationalisation. Was this beyond the Town Council's remit?. Councillor Symonds proposed, Councillor S Berry seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to Reject the Motion of No Confidence in South West Water 6 in favour (The Mayor and Councillors S Berry, Dorling, Symonds, Reid and Whitty, 2 against (Councillors K Cassidy S Cassidy) and 1 abstention (Councillor Taylor)

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102 / 26 DIARY DATES FOR COUNCIL EVENTS

15th August 2026 VJ Day 23rd August 2026 "Freedom of the Town" Civic Parade 1.00pm to mark the 40th anniversary of the Liskeard branch of the Royal Naval Association RNA.

103 / 26 DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

25th August 2026 at 7.30pm – (post meeting note – subsequently cancelled).