

## **Liskeard Town Council**

**AT A MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty – in the chair

Councillors – Tracy Adams, Graham Berry, Sylvia Berry, David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Kerry Cassidy, Nick Craker, Annette Lee, Jane Pascoe and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson.

Members of the Public – PCSO Bex Steed (Devon and Cornwall Police), Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey Liskeard Central, Lin Moore - (Vice Chair of the Liskeard Traders Association and local business owner).

The Mayor explained that the Mayor's Chaplain Mark Wade gave his apologies as he was on holiday. The Mayor commented on the sad news of the death of John Rapson who had been an Honoured Burgess for many years (post meeting note – 1999). The office is sending a card of condolence on behalf of the Mayor and the Council.

261 / 25                    **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Simon Cassidy, Richard Dorling and Lori Reid.

262 / 25                    **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – None.

263 / 25                    **MAYOR'S REMARKS** – The Mayor updated on the following:

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – myself the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Reid attended the gala evening organised by Councillor Adams Chairman of the Liskeard Traders Association. Thank you for organising that wonderful event.
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – the Town Clerk and I attended a Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) meeting in Falmouth.
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – I attended the Magic Show Performance of Danny Lee Grew which was organised by our staff. Our thanks must go to Mandy, Zoe and Jacqui for organising the event and showcasing the public what kind of events the Public Hall can put on.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – myself and the Deputy Mayor attended the Poppy Concert here in the main hall which is the start of our Remembrance Events.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – I popped into the Heritage Event which was being held in the main hall.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – early Sunday morning I received a phone call from Simon Cassidy he was with Bogdan, the Mayor of our twin town of Kopychyntsi in Ukraine. They were laying flowers at their Memorial to the Fallen.

264 / 25                    **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 COUNCIL MEETING** – It was agreed that the review of the grants budget could be extended to look at how the grants were used. Councillor Braithwaite proposed, Councillor G Berry seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 meeting.

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265 / 25      **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Police Update – PCSO Bex Steed - Spoke on the paper which was circulated. It was noted that the trends information was now included. This was in both graph and bar chart formats. This was produced by a volunteer called Keith. Questions and observations:

- Trends Data – “Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society” – increased 1 to 4, “Possession of Weapons” increased 1 to 3. “Other Thefts” increased from 1 to 10 – this could include the theft of motorbikes. There was the theft of a load of cooper pipes. It was appreciated that the trends data was now also available as this enabled the context over time to be considered.
- Hate Crimes – Q. Had there been any increase in hate crimes? No there has not.
- Union Flags – it was noted that there been requests to (Cornwall Council – which owns the lampposts and is the highways authority and also some requests to the Town Council) for the large number of Union Flags which had appeared with no prior notification or permissions by unknown persons to be removed. It was said that, the Cornwall Council highways officer and their contractor have been subjected to such significant verbal abuse that they stopped taking down the flags. The Police guidance has been that unless a criminal offense is committed, they cannot get involved. There had been adverse comments on social media. It is difficult to engage with people, when it is not known who they are. It was felt that a meeting should be sought with interested parties to discuss possibilities – Town Councillors, Cornwall Councillors, Cornwall Highways and Contractors and the Police.

266 / 25      **GRANT APPLICATIONS** a. 1<sup>st</sup> Liskeard Rainbows – (no speaker – the Rainbows hold their meetings on the same days and time as the town council meeting. The additional information sent through since the last meeting was considered and discussed. It was felt some of the costs were still effectively “normal operating costs” such as, “Memberships”. There were other eligible costs such as, training, trips and kit. Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Council would welcome from the 1st Liskeard Rainbows an application for eligible items. b . Liskeard Community Speed Watch Group – following discussion, it was considered that measures to encourage drivers to drive more slowly were welcome. Councillor Kevin Grey explained that he was training to become a volunteer with the Community Speed Watch. He noted that Highways Speed Assessments generate an average speed which gives no indication of issues with speeding cars. Hence, supporting the Speed Watch was important. It was not clear whether the Speed Watch radar gun would be used in Liskeard. Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to request further information from the applicant including whether the Speed Watch would operate in Liskeard, the status of the applicant.

267 / 25      **TOWN CLERKS UPDATE** – Town Clerk – Updated that the consultant retained to carry out the external review of the Town Council staff and structure, Local Council Consulting (LCC) visited and carried out the individual staff assessments on the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct and 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Mindful of the brief of taking account of the town council’s own capital projects, the 5 year capital programme, the Town Vision the consultant asked to speak to specific Councillors at that time. It was also confirmed that the bid for a grant to support the extension of the town’s CCTV network was submitted to the Office of the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Mindful of the other Cornish Town Council’s known to be bidding for the limited grants budget and the Devon Town Councils needing to bid into the same pot a more reasonable amount was requested.

268 / 25      **COMMITTEE MEETING – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

269 / 25      **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES, AND INTERNAL CONTROLS** – Noted the report.

270 / 25      **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments totaling £70,763.42.

271 / 25      **BUDGET MONITORING** – It was noted that the change in the global IT service provision had impacted other local groups, as well as the Council. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the budget report to the 30 September 2025 for monitoring purposes.

272 / 25      **AGED DEBTOR** – This was no longer an issue.

273 / 25      **ANNUAL INSURANCE RENEWAL** – Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor G Berry seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the renewal of the insurance with Aviva on a new 3 year long term arrangement at a total cost of £27,731.38 including taxes and charges.

274 / 25      **CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATES** – Cornwall Councillor Report Liskeard Central Councillor Kevin Grey – reported that:

- Disability Sub Committee at Cornwall Council – he has been put on to it.
- Cornwall Farms (County Farms – crucial element level into farming). He was hoping to have an input into the planning of the Cornwall Farms sector and would welcome evidence of what was needed being provided.
- Police and Crime Panel in Plymouth - He has also been put on the Panel and would be happy to support the extension of the CCTV network.
- Office of the Devon and Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner – his support for the project has been included in the bid to extend the CCTV network.
- Scouts hut requires a new floor and there are no suitable grants available at the present time. He had contacted Tiflex and explained the situation and they had been kind enough to donate £5,000 worth of materials which would now enable the floor to be repaired.
- Regarding the flying of Union Flags from lampposts Councillor Kevin Grey, was asked whether the Reform Group on Cornwall Council had any involvement or position on the issue? The indication was that this not something on which they had a position. It was further suggested that as the people who put the flags up are not known that it is difficult to engage with them. In fact, when the first attempt to take the flags down was made, he had been by a number of the members of the community asked whether he was aware of and involved with the flag removal to which he answered he was unaware and not involved.

Cornwall Councillor Report Liskeard South and Dobwalls by Councillor Jane Pascoe – reported that:

- Cornwall Council Local Plan Update Consultation – had attended the consultation event held in the Liskerrett Centre. There appeared to be a good degree of consensus on the need to progress the broad themes and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. The point was made that the Charette had also occurred.
- Former ATS building Demolition – this had met a delay as a result of fuel tanks being found below the site.
- Shared Prosperity Fund – the town had benefitted from a number of awards including the £16,000 to the Moghhe business and the Town Council's own Guildhall grant £24,000 and the library refurbishment.
- Liskeard in Bloom – were again doing a tremendous job and obtained a gold award.

275 / 25      **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – Noted.

276 / 25      **CORRESPONDENCE** – a). 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 – Quimperle Town Council – Minutes Twinning Celebration and next steps meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (attached) - The Town Clerk indicated that when marking the 1975-2025 anniversary, Quimperle proposed that a new multi annual Twinning Agreement might be entered into or the current one extended to show the desire to continue twinning activities. Quimperle would send through a template. The Town Clerk indicated that our current £1,000 Twinning budget might need to be revised. Quimperle are also twinned with Geilienkirchen in Germany and a possible 3 way Twinning Arrangement (Liskeard – Quimperle – Geilienkirchen) was suggested. b). 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Anna Gelderd MP – Letter giving her support for an improved Skate Park at Rapson's and offering support when within her remit. The MP should be thanked for the offer of support. It was noted that the opportunity to bid for funding has been in the immediate near future withdrawn with the initial batch of post "Shaping Places" funding the new "Pride of Place" not being awarded to anywhere in Cornwall.

277 / 25      **DIARY DATES FOR COUNCIL EVENTS** – To note the dates for the forthcoming Council events: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025, 2.00 pm Field of Remembrance, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Remembrance Day Parade, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Nadelik Lyskerrys events). (Post Meeting Confirmation Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 at 6.30 pm "Christmas Carols around the Tree" singing carols and saying prayers around the tree with some hot drinks afterwards.

278 / 25      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30 pm Council.

There were no PARTII items.