

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Tuesday 30th September 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, Simon Cassidy, Richard Dorling, Jane Pascoe, Lori Reid and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson

Mayor's Chaplain – Mark Wade.

Members of the Public – Vanessa Stiles – (Group Leader – Miles and Smiles Liskeard – Run Together Group) – Agenda Item 6.a., – Anthony Stiles and Charlotte Branch – both members of (Miles and Smiles Liskeard – Run Together Group), - PCSO Bex Steed (Devon and Cornwall Police), Sarah Pym – Supporter (The Arc) – Agenda Item 6.b., Steve Pierce – Assistant Treasurer – (Liskeard Lions Club- - CIO), item 6.c., Mark Stevens – (Reporter - Cornish Times), Lin Moore - (Liskeard Traders Association and local business owner).

230 / 25 **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Kerry Cassidy, Nick Craker, Annette Lee and Tony Powell.

231 / 25 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – The Mayor, Deputy Mayor Councillor Adams as Lions members and Councillor S Cassidy as being a Lions grant recipient, Agenda 6.c.

232 / 25 **MAYOR'S REMARKS** – The Mayor updated on the following:

- 5th September 2025 – along with the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Reid, S Berry, attended the opening event at BOOST.
- 7th September 2025 – was our Civic Service held at St Martin's Church. Thank you to the Mayor's Chaplain for officiating and the 6 Councillors who attended this service.
- 12th September 2025 – I attended the BOOST event as an element of this year's Liskeard Unlocked.
- 13th September 2025 – I visited several of the buildings which were open as part of the Liskeard Unlocked. At 3.00pm took part in the Annual "Crying the Neck" at Trewithan House.
- 18th September 2025 – myself, the Deputy Mayor Councillor David Braithwaite, the Town Clerk Steve Vinson, Councillors Simon Cassidy and Jane Pascoe, along with Paul Pascoe, Chairman of RBL Chrissy Henwood, and two members of Jane's family (involved in the original twinning and educational and rugby links), at the invitation of the Mayor of Quimperle, travelled to Quimperle to take part in the 50th Anniversary celebrations. The pictures that were presented to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of Liskeard were well received. (A newspaper article in a French newspaper reporting on the event was circulated - The commemorative gift given by French was shown to the meeting). As were the personnel gifts that we took over with us. The visit went extremely well. We will shortly be working on future plans, for possible return visits both for the Mayor to come across to us and for us to send a group over to Quimperle. The Mayor invited the other Councillors who participated to make comments on the visit: 49/25

- Councillor Simon Cassidy – said that it was a great honour to participate in the visit not least to be the Royal British Legion flag bearer at the Remembrance event. There was much interest evident on the French side in further building the twinning links. We intend to build on those links going forward.
- Councillor David Braithwaite - said that we had been very well received and made to feel welcome. The experience had been an “eye opener” in terms of the differences including the investment being made in the “Parks and Gardens” and flower arrangements and the budgets and vehicles employed in their effort to gain an extra rosette in the French equivalent of the “in Bloom” classification.
- Councillor Jane Pascoe – said: “I was really glad to be part of the delegation that set off for 50th year anniversary of the twinning association with Quimperle. The representatives, all congenial travel companions, who travelled to Brittany were great ambassadors for Liskeard. They contributed hugely to making the visit enjoyable and a resounding success. The formal business of the trip was about fact finding, exchanging ideas for town vitality; and making future plans for stronger connections with families, young people in education, RBL, sport teams, agriculture and any other interested people was received with enthusiasm by both towns. The warm welcome and hospitality received was very much appreciated and there was much enthusiasm to continue with return exchange visits and to widen the interest and scope for many people to join in with the twinning association. Special thanks must go to the Town Clerk for giving up his time to accompany us.
- 27th September 2025 – I and the Deputy Mayor David Braithwaite spent time looking around the stalls at the St Matthews Fair which was once again organised by Liskeard Lions. Our thanks must go to them for all their time and effort for putting on this event.
- 28th September 2025 – I joined the congregation at St Martins Church to welcome the new Bishop of Truro Rev David Williams and his wife Helen. It was then off to Launceston for the Mayor of Launceston Nicola for her Civic Service where there were several Mayors in attendance and also a full complement of Councillors and the Town Crier Councillor Bob Tremaine sends you all his best wishes.
- MacMillan Coffee Morning - A big thank you must go to office staff for the organizing the MacMillan Coffee Morning which raised £220.50.

233 / 25 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 26TH AUGUST 2025 COUNCIL MEETING** – Minute 183/25, it was confirmed that the wording had been modified of Specification A of the Staff Review Brief. Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 26th August 2025 meeting.

234 / 25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – **Police Update – PCSO Bex Steed** - Spoke on the paper which was circulated. It was noted that the trends information was not available for this report. The info is produced by a volunteer. Other questions and observations:

- **Shoplifting** – the very significant reduction in recorded incidents (10 down to 1) was likely an indication that many businesses are using the new specialist reporting app and not an indication of -90% in shoplifting.
- **Stalking and Harassment** – the increase from 15 to 19 +26% could include harassment of shop staff.
- **Hate Crimes** – Q. Had there been any increase in hate crimes? No there has not.
- **Longer Term Trends** – whilst it was not possible to produce the information for longer term trends on all figures – it would be good to try and look longer term trends on: * Shoplifting
* Stalking and Harassment, * Violence with Injury and * Burglary Residential. 50/25

a. Miles and Smiles Liskeard – Run Together Group – Vanessa Stiles – spoke to the application and gave responses to the questions some being:

- Stewards – the other “Run Together Group” provided stewards to help marshal the “Lights Up” event. Q. might this group be able to help. A. Yes, they would.
- Other Group – there was another “Run Together Group” why had this one been set up? A. It runs at another time of the day, which is more convenient for some people. Also, the other group is now quite large and some people have issues, perhaps fitness and mental health and are more comfortable with the new smaller group.

Councillor S Berry proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £400 towards the “Miles and Smiles” - Run Together Group.

b. The Arc Theatre – Sarah Pym – spoke to the application and provided answers and observations.

- Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Status – it was to mark the 20th anniversary of award of World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- Venue – Q. Where would the event be staged? A. The event would be held at the Sterts Centre to help hosting hopefully up to 1,000 people.

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £200 towards the costs of Gonamena 26.

c. Liskeard Lions Club – Steve Pierce – spoke to the application and circulated two sheets of information being a). List of the 24 local groups and organisations awarded grant by the Liskeard Lions this year. b). Income and Expenditure for the Pantomime. (compared with the previously supplied 6.c.i. this showed pledges higher of £2,350 (£1,850) but banked pledges down from £1,862 to £1,612.

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Adam and S Cassidy left the meeting.

Following discussion, Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £500 towards the cost of event.

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Councillors Adams and S Cassidy returned to the meeting.

d. 1st Liskeard Rainbows – (no speaker – the Rainbows hold their meetings on the same days and time as the town council meeting. They are unable to send a speaker). The information was discussed. A number of items appeared eligible for support, whilst others might be ineligible. A more detailed cost breakdown of the items would help consideration of the application. Despite the note from the applicant it was felt the Town Council had not given the group a grant before. Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of the grant application to obtain further information including a more detailed breakdown of the costs.

235 / 25 **TOWN CLERKS UPDATE** – No reports not already on the agenda. However, it was noted in the previous discussion that the annual grants budget had been £10,000 per annum for at least 11 years in which time the costs of hiring rooms, purchasing items and travel costs etc. had increased.

236 / 25 **COMMITTEE MEETING – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Adams proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communications & Engagement Committee held on 11th September 2025.

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- b. Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee held on 15th September 2025.
- c. Councillor Braithwaite proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Facilities Committee held on the 16th September 2025.

237 / 25 **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES, RECEIPT OF THE PRECEPT**
– Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor S Cassidy seconded and the Council noted the report.

238 / 25 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments totaling £47,196.50.

239 / 25 **BUDGET MONITORING** – Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the budget report to the 31 August 2025 for monitoring purposes.

240 / 25 **EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2024/2025** – The RFO and Accounts Clerk were thanked for the work on the outcome. Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and **ACCEPT** the External Auditors Report and Certificate 2024/2025.

241 / 25 **CIVIC REGALIA REFURBISHMENT – TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE REGALIA, TO INFORM THE 2026/2027 BUDGET SETTING PROCESS (13.i DEPUTY MAYOR BAR DETAILS 13.ii MAYOR’S CONSORT BAR DETAILS)** – Following consideration of the report, Councillor Reid proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that costings be obtained for the provision of a Deputy Mayors Board similar to the Mayors Board to be used in the Council Chamber to publicly record the Deputy Mayors should the current system of adding bars be dropped and the old ribbons retired to the Museum. To seek costings from Bodmin Town Council regarding their Deputy Mayor’s Chain which has significantly greater impact and bearing than the blue ribbon used by Liskeard Town Council.

242 / 25 **TOWN CCTV – TO CONSIDER A QUOTE FROM ENERVEO OF £9,109.49 TO RELOCATE THE CCTV CAMERA AND SUBSEQUENT EQUIPMENT IN CASTLE PARK** – Town Clerk updated that following the receipt of the quote there had been a request for an additional camera looking back towards the town. A provisional cost of £6,000 has been suggested by Cornwall Council. The new cost possibly being £9,000 + £6,000 = £15,000. The Police and Crime Commissioner has a CCTV camera extension grant bid open to 24th October 2025 with bids of up to £10,000. Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Adams seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Town Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor submit a bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner for a grant to help support the costs of the extension to the town-centre CCTV system to Castle Park.

243 / 25 **COUNCIL STRATEGIC DIRECTION, CAPACITY AND STAFF REVIEW (A.B.C.D.)** – Town Clerk updated that appendix (d) covered the cost of the job descriptions element and had been obtained and circulated to the Staff Committee, Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the appointment of the contractor recommended by the Staff Committee at a cost of (A) £6,000 plus expenses (approx. £400) and (D) £1,800 funded from the General Reserve.

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Councillor Jane Pascoe – “At full Council last week I seconded a motion to “Reverse the decision to Increase car parking charges by 6% “.

“At the time the 2025/2026 budget was approved Cabinet decided parking tariffs would not increase. The motion was not debated in the Chamber and a meeting with the portfolio holder has been arranged. I am deeply concerned about the negative impact on the vitality and viability of our town centre.

I also asked a question to the Leader and Portfolio holder for Housing:

“It is abundantly clear that the new housing target set for Cornwall is unachievable and we will always fail to be compliant with our own Cornwall Local Plan.. Now that Angela Raynor had gone would this Council write to the new Housing Minister Steve Reed MP and request that he reset the target to a realistic figure that Cornwall can be confident to provide.”

I have had further meetings with the Portfolio holder for transport regarding reinstatement of the service to Derriford Hospital and will continue to campaign. Whilst the viability of the service is a consideration for the bus company, I have flagged up to CC that they have failed hugely in their aim in the Strategic Transport Plan to connect people to essential destinations.

I am keeping a close eye on the failure of the incinerator and the impact it will have on transporting waste though SE Cornwall and out of the county. I have always flagged up my concerns about the food waste transportation though SE Cornwall to other counties and CCs lack of ability to recover energy from our waste because we have no anaerobic digester.”

Cornwall Council Report Liskeard Central by Councillor Kevin Grey

Councillor Kevin Grey, Liskeard Central for Town Council meeting on 30th September 2025.

Apologies for not being able to attend as I have a meeting in Saltash.

Update from last report of 26.8.25

The meeting with the Fire Rescue was very informative and although there are no funds available to increase the size of Liskeard Fire Station at the moment I now have gained a lot more knowledge on how funds are applied and how the maintenance contract works, which will enable me to have an oversight on the new funding and contract when it comes up for renewal in 2028.

I have had informal meetings with Councillors and ex Councillors from Looe who were involved with the initial cycle route working group and plan to move forward on investigating cycle routes for South East Cornwall.

I am waiting for the results for traffic speeds on Higher Lux Street and in the meantime I am setting up an additional speed watch group to cover more areas in Liskeard which will also cover Peppers Park and the road from the cricket pitch towards St Cleer.

Recent work and cases

I have joined the working group on the Sustainable Growth Oversight Committee to look at the future of County Farms and I will be attending a NFU meeting on 30.9.25 to assist me in this work. I am actively involved with a working group to look at installing bollards at the beginning of Fore Street Liskeard to improve the safety of the pedestrian area. (work in progress)

I am representing constituents of Liskeard Central on some complicated social issues and I have resolved two issues on the Liskeard industrial estate.”

CLlr Kevin Grey
Liskeard Central”

246 / 25 **CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

247 / 25 **DIARY DATES FOR COUNCIL EVENTS** – To note the dates for the forthcoming Council events: (28th October 2025 Field of Remembrance, 9th November 2025 – Remembrance Day Parade, 29th November 2025 Nadelik Lyskerrys events).

248 / 25 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 28th October 2025 at 7.30 pm Council.

249 / 25 Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Dorling 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 item of business:

21. **Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group** – To note the attached minutes of the 15th September 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.

250 / 25 Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to come out of **PART II** and **APPROVE** the noting of the minutes.