

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Tuesday 31st March 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, Annette Lee, Jane Pascoe, Lori Reid and Naomi Taylor.
Town Clerk – Steve Vinson.
Mayor’s Chaplain – Mark Wade.

Members of the Public – Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey Liskeard Central, Martin Symonds – elected Liskeard Town Councillor – Central Ward – “Register of Interests” to complete.

Mayor’s Chaplain – Mark Wade with the message of Good Friday hope in mind he led the Council and members of the public in prayer for peace around the world.

The Mayor and Council welcomed Martin Symonds and congratulated him on getting elected to the Town Council. The completion of the “Register of Interests” was in hand to complete the process.

469 / 25 **APOLOGIES** – Councillors David Braithwaite, Kerry Cassidy (late arrival), Simon Cassidy and Tony Powell.

470 / 25 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – The Mayor indicated they were a member of the RNA Agenda Item 19.

471 / 25 **MAYOR’S REMARKS** – The Mayor updated on the following:

- Tuesday 3rd March 2026 – The Mayor joined Councillors, Jacqui Orange (Facilities Manager), to show the Leader of Cornwall Council Leader Leigh Frost around the Guildhall. We then went onto the Workshed for lunch. Leigh was shown around the Hub building along with Councillor Pascoe. In the evening, I attended the Opening of the Cancer Research Art Exhibition.
- Saturday 14th March 2026 – I attended the Annual Awards of the Liskeard & Looe Rifle Club at the Royal British Legion. Where we all enjoyed an evening of skittles.
- Thursday 19th March 2026 – I attended the launch of the new exhibition at the Museum. If you have not visited it, it is well worth a visit.
- Friday 20th March 2026 – I enjoyed an evening at the Mexican Garden where they have hosted this season’s opening.
- Saturday 21st March 2026 – was our Community Fair. Thank you to all the Councillors who helped in any way and a special thank you must go to Mandy in the office for all of her hard work once again for organising it once more.

472 / 25 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 24TH FEBRUARY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 24th February 2026 meeting.

103/25

473 / 25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Police Update – March Police Report Comparison 2025/2026** – had been circulated - along with an apology from the Police for not being able to attend owing to operational commitments. It was noted that overall. There had been a reduction in recorded total crimes from March 2025 to March 2026 with 84. Shoplifting in particular being reduced from 17 in March 2025 to 6 in March 2026.
Liskeard Community Speed Watch – the report was received. The volunteers were thanked for their efforts to monitor the speed on local roads with the hope that this would result in reduced speeds and improved driver behaviour. The scheme would benefit from an increase in the number of volunteers. The Town Council would continue promoting the work of the group and the need for more volunteers.

474 / 26 **GRANT APPLICATION – CORNWALL INTERNATIONAL MALE CHORAL FESTIVAL** – it was felt that attendance by a person involved with the project would have helped to discuss the make-up of the costs. A report back to the Annual Town Meeting would assist in promoting the Festival. Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £350 to the local 4th May 2026 event of the overall festival.

475 / 25 **TOWN CLERK’S UPDATE** – the holding of events in the Public Hall including the Kyiv Tango Orchestra. During consideration of the report and attachments, there a number of observations:

- **Events** – the holding of special events to increase the use, the income, the footfall and range of interests was broadly welcomed by most of the Councillors.
- **Income** – might be higher if the charges were set a higher level.
- **Projects** – that the ideas should come before the Councillors for approval.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk and the Chair of the Facilities Committee should draft an Events Policy which would enable the Facilities Committee to consider ideas for the staging of events in the Public Hall.

476 / 25 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9th March 2026.
- b. Councillor S Berry proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Facilities Committee held on 17th March 2026.

477 / 25 **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES)** – Councillor Brooks proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Council noted the report.

478 / 25 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – Do we know why the Sun girt toilets are the only one subject to VAT. The Mayor proposed, Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments totaling £66,861.63.

479 / 25 **BUDGET MONITORING 2025/2026** – Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor S Berry seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and **ACCEPT** the budget report to 28th February 2026 for monitoring purposes.

480 / 25 **INDEPENDENCE AND COMPETENCE OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR** – Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council confirmed the independence and competence of the Internal Auditor.

481 / 25 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2026/2027** – Councillor Reid proposed Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to review and approve the Treasury Management Strategy.

482 /25 **FORWARD STRATEGY – OPTION A FULL DEVOLUTION PACKAGE AND TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS OR OPTION B TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS INCLUDING APPROPRIATE DEVOLUTION ITEMS AND TOWN VISION WORK (attached 14.a Full 5 Year Devolution Package 14.b Project Assessment Template 14.c 5 Year Precept Strategy 14.d Town Vision)** – It was noted that to assist in the financial planning of larger and phased Town Council projects, the Local Council Consultancy (LCC) had recommended that the Town Council adopt a 5 year Precept Strategy. It was also observed that Cornwall Council lacks site specific information to provide the detail that the Town Council is asking for in the Project Assessment Template that is intended to help derisk the Devolution process for the Town Council. It was felt that over 10 years' work had gone into the 5 year Devolution Package. It had got to the stage that a full package was about to start delivering improved facilities that would benefit the wider community, albeit at an increased cost. Following discussion, Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to pursue a modified Option B with the inclusion of many items of operational and cost benefit to the Liskeard and to identify a Devolution key persons team (Councillors Jane Pascoe, David Braithwaite and Kevin Grey – Town Clerk, RFO and Facilities Manager).

483 /25 **LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL – CENTRAL WARD – NOTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR (ATTACHED)** – It as noted that Martyn Symonds (Conservative) had been elected. Following the completion of the necessary items including the “Register of Interests” the process of election would be completed. Martyn was welcomed to the meeting.

484 /25 **NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2026/2027 CIVIC YEAR** – Councillor Dorling proposed Councillor Reid seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the timetable.

485 /25 **HONOURED BURGESS – NOMINATION TABLE** – Councillor Dorling proposed Councillor Reid seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the timetable.

486 /25 **LISKEARD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (BOARD) (A.)** – Noted.

487 / 25 **FREEDOM OF THE TOWN – LISKEARD BRANCH – ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION (RNA)** – Following discussion, it was noted there if no band is available on that date that it might be prudent to look at holding the parade on another date. Further, information on the estimated costings should be sought and the item be brought back to the next meeting of the Council.

488 / 25 **CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

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

CLLR Pascoe thanked the Town Clerk, Facilities Manager, Daniel Sturrick Workshed Manager, Neil Sandland CC and attending members of the Town Council for the warm welcome they extended to the Leader of Cornwall Council, Cllr Leigh Frost when he visited Liskeard on 3rd March. He was very interested in the plans for the Guild Hall, was keen to visit Fore Street and visit the investment that has been made by Cornwall Council on the Cattle Market site. He was later taken to view other projects in the rural parishes.

It was good to see so many varied organisations attending the Community Fair and I was able to have some useful conversations with so many of the volunteers.

Most relayed to me that it is difficult to recruit younger volunteers to sustain the organisation. However, I was pleased meet several trained young members on the St Johns Ambulance stand.

The Tamar Tag Admin fee Consultation is ongoing until 6th April and I would ask you to encourage people to complete the questionnaire. An extra pop in consultation event was held here in the Wheel Pheonix room last yesterday afternoon into the evening The Chief Officer of the Tamar Crossings along with two of his staff were on hand to answer questions. Other than The Mayor, myself, and another Cornall Councillor, just one member of the Public turned up from Lostwithiel. We must conclude that either everyone from this area has already submitted their comments or they are not concerned about an increase in the administration fee.

I attended the Safe 38 meeting last week and now that the safety measures on the A38 are in place it is evident we have a safer road, but slower journey times. The new pedestrian crossing in Tideford will soon be in place and we may expect tail backs to Trerulefoot in the peak times. The Safe 38 campaign is ongoing to bypass the villages or dual the A38. They are looking for continued support and donations to ramp up the campaign. Residents can get details online. Many complaints have been received about the number of people caught speeding on cameras at Landrake, but if they adjust their speed there is not a problem.

Work in the tunnel is ongoing and hold ups have been minimised thanks to the engineers working through the night.

Cornwall Council is hoping to increase the amount of recycling because they are now accepting cartons, plastic bags, fruit and vegetable nets, and plastic wrapping.

Cllr Pascoe reported that last Thursday she attended an event celebrating 40 years of Sterts Arts and Environmental Centre. The Founder Ann Sturrock spoke about their journey and the concept born out of ideas with her late husband Ewart. The centre has provided an excellent platform for performing arts and has encouraged many young people to express themselves.

I attended the Safer Liskeard meeting this morning and it was pleasing to note that the crime level in Liskeard is minimal, showing reductions from last year. Discussions ensued regarding drug related crimes, speeding, illegal parking, anti-social behaviour, social isolation, dog attacks and various crimes.

We will be reinstating pop up sessions around the town and Safer Liskeard will be in attendance at the Liskeard Show alongside the Police and Fire Service.

It was agreed that the PCSOs and Tri- service officer attached to Liskeard and Looe give a much valued contribution to work in the community alongside our excellent emergency services. Due to staffing problems the front desk at Liskeard will be closed 2 days in the week alternating with Looe Police Station. The message is for members of the public to report crimes giving as much detail as possible.

Government £4.4 Billion investment in Devonport Defence Growth Area:

The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by Council Leaders from Cornwall Plymouth, Torbay and Devon. They will be working together in a collaborative cross boundary approach, to grasp all opportunities for education, skills and investment in SE Cornwall. A meeting in is planned in SE Cornwall after Easter with leading officers. The investment may mean an increase in housing, training , skilled workers, better transport infrastructure and connectivity to Plymouth.

On 18th March Cabinet of Cornwall Council accepted in principle the Secretary of State for Housing & Communities stated intention to explore designating the Council as a Single Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA), consistent with the request for a Cornwall only Spatial Development Strategy footprint.

Work has begun on the new Cornwall Local Plan. If Cornwall is to become a FSA, Cornwall will need to sit in a wide strategic framework covering key infrastructure, distribution of growth and distinctions between the rugged far west, the centre of commerce mid Cornwall, the uniqueness of the Clay Country, the rurality of North Cornwall and the very distinct opportunities of SE Cornwall and Cornwall's communities along the border.

The next meeting of the South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership (SECCAP) will be held at the St Pinnock Band & Community Hall. East Taphouse and members of the public will be welcome."

Cornwall Councillor Report Liskeard Central - Councillor Kevin Grey.

Safer Liskeard – was pleased to attend this meeting of the initiative which had not been held for some time. He welcomed the opportunity to discuss the Crime Report and the operations of the Police. He felt there was a good range of issues to discuss and consider.

Potholes – an item of particular concern was the nature and extent of potholes in Cornwall and the wider country. The Police and other emergency services could be encountering pothole related issues which could take out of service the limited number of vehicles that they have to cover a large rural.

Liskeard Community Speed Camera Watch – he is actively involved and would emphasis their need for more volunteers to get involved.

Liskerrett Community Centre – Councillor Kevin Grey had attended the Annual General Meeting noting the sad set of financial circumstances that the building and facility is in.

Tencreek Section 106 – this meeting had not yet taken place as the Menheniot Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith was on holiday.

489 / 25 **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – Noted.

490 / 25 **CORRESPONDENCE** – Tamar Tag Consultation (6th April 2026 – response deadline) still time to make individual responses) – Caroline Carver – Letter 23rd March 2026 – Santander Branch Closure – Post Office response noted that there is not currently sufficient business case for an external ATM – check with the Cashlink franchise to see whether they might be interested.

491 / 25 **DIARY DATES FOR COUNCIL EVENTS** – To note the dates of forthcoming Council events – 20th April 2026 Annual Town Meeting 7.00 pm Public Hall. “Beating the Bounds” 17th May 2026 all day. 1st June 2026 – Mayor Choosing, Sunday 23rd August 2026 – “Freedom of the Town” – Civic Parade – to mark the 40th anniversary of the Liskeard branch of the Royal Naval Association (RNA).

492 / 25 **DATE OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** – 28TH April 2026 at 7.30pm

493 / 25 Councillor Brooks 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 an update and propose the next steps.

27. **Employment Tribunal – (Solicitors Advice Letter - attached)** – To note the advice of the solicitor.

28. **Christmas Lights** – To approve the brief and timetable of the tender notice.

29. **Staffing Review – Job Evaluation (Phase 2 Report – (page 6) attached Pay and Grading Banding Appendix D, Appendix C)** – To adopt the recommendations of the consultant (Appendix D) to introduce the “New SCP Grade” bands and at the “New SCP”. To adopt the revised Town Council establishment (page 6) from 1st May 2026.

30. **Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group** – To note the attached minutes of the 17th February 2026 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.

494 /25 Councillor K Cassidy proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the resolutions made in **PARTII**.

26. **Sports Pitches and Associated Infrastructure Project at Roundbury** – To receive an update and propose the next steps. – That the Town Council having confirmed the eligibility of the use of Section 106 monies for land purchase enters into negotiations to that end. Mindful of the possible need to draw down further S106 to develop the scheme.

27. **Employment Tribunal – (Solicitors Advice Letter - attached)** – Noted.

28. Christmas Lights – To approve the brief and timetable for the tender notice. Approved

29. Staffing Review – Job Evaluation (Phase 2 Report – (page 6) – attached Pay Grading Banding Appendix D, Appendix C) – To hold a Staff Committee meeting and invite the consultant to present his recommendations. To pay particular regard as to whether any of the posts are impacted by the decision earlier on regarding the size of the Devolution.

30. Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group – To note the attached minutes of the 17th February 2026. Noted.

109/25