

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – COUNCIL - For Information – Update on resolutions from 27th February 2018 – For Info - Minute 534/17 Devolution Initial Proposal Form – following modifications to include additional items, the Initial Proposal Form was submitted on 7th March 2018. An initial meeting has been arranged with Cornwall Council ward member Cllr. Sally Hawken, Liza Ince (Liskeard Scouts), the Mayor and the Town Clerk for Friday 20th April 2018.

9. LIBRARY BUILDING AND LIBRARY SERVICE – To discuss the pre-application “PA18/00940 – Real Ideas Organisation. Liskeard library, pre-application for advice on extensions and refurbishments to enhance use of the building”. Deferred from the 17th April 2018 Planning Committee to Council. To discuss a response to Cornwall Council and RIO regarding the pre-application.

Background – in 2015, Cornwall Council indicated that owing to significant reductions in Government funding the budget for the operation of the libraries would be cut. Over two financial years the budgets this would be by £1.8 million or 44%. The Town Council at 16th June 2015 meeting agreed to register a “without prejudice” interest. The details of which are outlined below:

- register a “without prejudice” interest in being involved in the discussions regarding the Liskeard Library.
- Indicate a preferred option of retaining the Liskeard Library as part of the Cornwall wide solution described at the consultation event.
- should the Liskeard Library be faced with closure, the town council wished to be involved in discussing the possibility of a local solution to the problem.
- the geographic spread of the Liskeard Library membership extends into the surrounding rural parishes. (the majority of members not being residents of town). Hence, the Town Council intended to seek the views of the surrounding parishes as to whether a joint local solution might be possible. (Shortly, after it was discovered that Town Council’s not possessing the General Power of Competence (G.P.C.), did not have the lawful power to run a library. (About a year later, the Town Council did attain the GPC in September 2016.)
- The Town Council was minded to obtain the views of local people on whether it should take over the local library. At that time, the precept £381,621 which if the Town Council took on that then indicated operating costs this would equate to a 25% increase in the Town Council share of the Council Tax.
- The Town Council had three large old buildings in the town centre and was mindful of the relatively high repair and maintenance and operational costs of such buildings. Hence, it was not presently looking to increase our ownership or responsibility for such buildings.
- Concern over cost implications of TUPE transfer of staff.

Cornwall Council Strategic Property Review – the Town Council (16th February 2016) was consulted on Cornwall Council’s strategic property review. Following discussions, it was agreed to indicate a desire to keep as many Cornwall Council jobs in Liskeard as possible. With regards the location of the library service, it was indicated that this should be kept in the town centre. Cornwall Council figures showed that the Liskeard library received 99,000 visits a year. This being the 6th highest usage figure of the 31 libraries (at that time) operated by Cornwall Council. The Town Council view was that this was a valuable generator of footfall and helped maintain the viability of the town centre. This would be enhanced should the library reopen the two days a week that it is currently closed. Real Ideas Organisation (RIO) did indicate that if they operated the library service they would reopen the two days a week and open earlier and stay open to 7.00 p.m. The Town Council felt this would assist the development of an evening economy. An agreement was entered into with RIO as per the attachment.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council consider the report in conjunction with the deferred pre-application PA18/00940 from the Planning Committee 17th April 2018. With a view to determining a response to Cornwall Council and RIO.

10. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES 2018/2019 CIVIC YEAR – to consider the attached listings and propose any changes ready for adoption at the 16th May 2018 Mayor Choosing.

Background – at the 16th May 2018 Mayor Choosing meeting of Council. Council will need to approve the Councillor Representation on Outside Bodies and Councillor representation on Committees for the 2018/2019 civic year. Councillors are asked to consider and indicate:

- Their willingness to continue serving on the committees as indicated.
- Their willingness to continue serving on the outside bodies as indicated.
- Whether and which outside bodies are no longer relevant to include.
- Whether new outside bodies could be included and which Councillors would wish to attend them.
- Where there is likely to be a financial input required from the Town Council and/or support, this should be reported in writing (e-mail is fine) to the Town Council at the earliest opportunity, once it is known. Councillors are asked to note that there is a “Other Reports” on the Council agenda at which such outside body related reports can be raised.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council/Councillors consider the report and inform the Town Clerk of any changes to the current listings by noon on 10th May 2018.

11. LISKEARD TOGETHER BID – to receive an update on the partnership bid.

Background – A joint partnership bid was prepared, to assist in addressing some of the issues highlighted in the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation. This was submitted before the 19th December 2017 deadline to the Department of Communities and Local Government (D.C.L.G.). The outcomes relevant to the bid come within the remit of the Department of Work and Pensions (D.W.P.). A decision was anticipated in April 2018.

Update – The available European Social Fund (E.S.F.) to cover the bid round was £7.2 million. The total value of ESF requested from all bids amounted to £6.8 million. It is positive that there has not been an oversubscription.

It is reported that none of the bids submitted to D.C.L.G, have yet been scored by the D.W.P. It is highly probable that the decision will slip to May. In the event of the being successful, this would put back the likely commencement from August to September. Cornwall Council have sent an ESF specialist consultant to indicate the importance of progressing an early decision and the Integrated Territorial Investment Board is lobbying to progress an early decision.

RECOMMENDATION: - that the Town Council supports the efforts to secure and early favourable decision.

12. NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL (NJC) 2018 AND 2019 PAY SCALES (see attached file.) – a). to receive and adopt the NJC negotiated pay scales for the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 financial years. b). to adopt the revised Spinal Column Points system from 1st April 2019.

Background – as with many principal Councils, the Town Council follows the practice of adopting the pay recommendations of the National Joint Council (NJC). The National Joint Council recommendations on pay scales for the current 2018/2019 financial year and the next 2019/2020 financial year were received on 11th April 2018. The Council increased the Committee budgets in the 2018/2019 budget and precept setting round to take account of the anticipated increase.

In addition, to the adoption of the pay recommendations, the NJC also recommend, a revised Spinal Column Point (S.C.P.) system is adopted as per the attached report from 1st April 2019. There are benefits to adopting the new SCP and retaining commonality of function with the nationally approved system. All current contracts of employment are based upon the current system and would need to be modified in due course, to reflect the adoption of new SCP's.

RECOMMENDATIONS: a). that the Council adopts the NJC negotiated pay scales for the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 financial years. b). that the Council adopts the revised Spinal Column Points system from 1st April 2019.