

## **LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL**

**AT the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held in the Long Room on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 6.45 pm there were present:

The Mayor - Councillor Phil Seeva - in the Chair

Councillors: - Rachel Brooks, Roger Holmes, Sue Pike, Anne Purdon, James Shrubsole and Lorna Shrubsole

The Town Clerk - Mr Steve Vinson

Minute Clerk - Mr Stuart Houghton

Member of the Public - Peter Murnaghan

Member of Devon & Cornwall Police - Sergeant Jo Williams

Alex Page Trust - Jane Page and Ian Page

Housekeeping; the Mayor informed all of the emergency exits and asked for all phones to be turned off.

### **821/14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the Deputy Mayor - Councillor Jane Pascoe and Councillors Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Adam Hodgkins and Hella Tovar.

Apologies were also received from John Tovar and Paul Pascoe.

### **822/14 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE LONG ROOM ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2014**

Peter Murnaghan proposed, Councillor Pike seconded and the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Long Room on Wednesday 7 May 2014 were adopted.

### **823/14 MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **824/14 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Mayor said that he would present his report in five sections.

#### **1. Management, which related to people and staff.**

Following resignations a new Town Clerk, Mr Steve Vinson had been appointed in September 2014, and in April 2015 a selection process for the appointment of a new Curator for the Museum was made. Unfortunately the person chosen had declined the offer due to bereavement in his family. This position will be re-advertised.

A new councillor, Joe Poulson, had been co-opted to the Council, following the resignation of a long serving councillor. The Mayor thought that the need to receive new councillors would be ongoing as being a councillor involved a lot of time, and was an unpaid; he could see that family and employment items would change a councillors priorities.

## 2. Finance

The Council had raised the Precept for the 2015/2016 year to cover the costs of projects which included the fitting of solar panels to the roof of the Public Hall, which would provide a future income for the Council, and to improve the signage and appearance of the Town. The opening hours of the TIC had also been increased and revenue had increased.

## 3. Additional activities

In the last year the Council had had started work to produce a Neighbourhood Plan under the leadership of Councillor J. Shrubsole, and had formed a devolution Working Group to negotiate with Cornwall Council for services that the Council might take over from Cornwall Council. The accreditation of the Museum had been achieved, and it was in good standing, thanks to the efforts of the old Curator, Anna Monks, and the volunteers.

## 4. Communication in the Town

The main way that the Council communicated with the electorate was by the Town Crier newsletter and its Website. The newsletter was produced about four times a year, and had contained questionnaires for the Council to receive the opinions of the public.

## 5. Planning matters

In the past year the Council had dealt with the planning application for the Trevethan Meadows development at Addington, and the Lamellion development had been completed. He was of the opinion that this development had improved this section of the Town.

He was pleased with the procedure that had been adopted for the proposals for the development of the old Magistrates Court. The Council had pre application discussions with the developer which had resulted in a proposal for employment land to be provided as a part of the new build. This was an approach that he would like to see the Council adopt.

Last week the Council learnt that its application for a grant towards the cost of producing specifications for renewable energy schemes, in the Town, had been successful. This would give organisations in the Town, that might not have the facilities to follow their desire for renewable energy, the ability to investigate the viability of their schemes. There was a possibility that a future loan of up to £130k could be available for the implementation of the schemes.

He had enjoyed his year as Mayor, and, contrary to the advice that he would have a couple of events a month to attend, he had attended 158 events in the year and driven 738 miles. He also explained where the Mayor's expenses had been used.

## **825/14        REPORTS**

### **Philip Blamey Trust**

Philip Blamey set up the Trust in 1975 to assist in the education of young people. The Mayor and Town Clerk are trustees of the Trust which had funds of £3638.28. No applications for a grant had been requested this year

### **Eve Bowles Memorial Fund**

Eve Bowles was a famous musician who died in her 97<sup>th</sup> year. The Fund was set up to assist musicians up to 18 years of age to further their musical education. The Mayor and Town Clerk are trustees of the fund which has £2320. No applications had been received this year..

The Mayor said that the Council would make more of an effort to publicise the availability of the grants in the coming year, he thought that the Silver Band might need assistance for their young musicians.

### **Alex Page Trust**

Jane Page reported that the Trust had been set up to assist young people in the PL14 area to achieve their qualifications. In the last year the Trust had raised £440.65 and awarded grants totalling £110.00. The balance of the Trust was now £10887.87.

She thanked the Council for continuing to support the Fund to give help to young people.

### **Liskeard Town Forum**

The Forum had received presentations from the Cornwall Air Ambulance and the Highways Agency re the Dobwalls By-Pass.

During the year the Forum had received regular reports on the progress on the Neighbourhood Plan and Clean Liskeard groups and had discussions about developments in the Town.

A new website had been commissions and was now in operation.

Grants had been awarded to; Cornwall Air Ambulance, Ploughman's Fare, Lions Club of Liskeard, Liskeard Silver Band, Liskeard Lights Up, Stuart House and Dementia Awareness

The AGM and next meeting would be held on Wednesday 3 June in the Council Chamber, Luxstowe House.

## **826/14 POLICE REPORT**

Sergeant Williams gave her report starting with an update from last year's minutes.

- The Tri-service building planned for the emergency services had not been successful, although there was some hope that the proposal might be resurrected in the future.
- The Police were still in partnership with the Liskeard Foodbank which remained very busy in the area

She reported that crime in the Town had fallen year on year since her arrival in 2007, but this year there had been a rise of 6.5% (47 offences), meaning Liskeard Town had a total of 729 offences in the financial year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. This compared to a 6.4% decrease over the same time period across the East of Cornwall, however, the figures for April and May showed that this increase in crime was slowing down. Areas of concern were violent crime, sexual offences and shoplifting. The imprisonment of a prolific young offender meant that there would be an expected fall in reported crime regarding house burglary, burglaries of sheds and outbuildings and theft from vehicles. His older brother remained on bail for multiple offences.

The police had responded to 1929 incidents in the last year, down 3.6%, and logs relating to anti-social behaviour had also fallen to 345, a reduction of 1.4% but domestic abuse incidents had risen to 1141, an increase of 2.1%

Public Satisfaction stands at 87.4% for the Liskeard Sector, which was on a par with the Devon and Cornwall Police as a whole.

The next year would bring a number of challenges to the police.

Although there were no cuts to the budgets in the current financial year, from next year to 2018, the force had to find another £18 million in savings. Officer numbers were not due to be reduced any further, and the staffing of South East Cornwall was not expected to change in the foreseeable future

The force was also waiting for the results of the A19 employment tribunal, brought against 5 forces by officers forced to retire between 2011 and 2013. If this case was found in favour of the officers, the cost to the force would be in millions, and would also put pressure on tight budgets.

The strategic alliance with Dorset Police was going well, with £9million of savings already identified for this force by working together on management structures and resources such as police dogs, firearms officers and forensic services.

The next year would hopefully see the introduction of Mobile Data provision for the police which would prevent the need to constantly return to the police station to carry

out administration tasks. This had been long awaited and would be on a device similar to the Samsung Galaxy mobile phone.

In response to questions she replied that a joint venture with the ambulance service might be possible and that it would not be financially viable to fit out an old building to suit the current needs.

**827/14            MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

Councillor L. Shrubsole mentioned the Cornwall Council library consultation which finishes on 10 June 2015 and encouraged those present to comment.

There being no other comments the Mayor closed the meeting at 1925.