

Liskeard Town Council

At the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held IN THE Public Hall on **Thursday 16 March 2023 at 7 p.m.** there were present:

The Mayor – Councillor Simon Cassidy – in the Chair
The Town Clerk – Mr Steve Vinson

Councillors – David Ambler, David Braithwaite, Kerry Cassidy, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling, Annette Lee-Julian, Jane Pascoe and Christina Whitty

Deputy Town Clerk – Yvette Hayward

47 Members of the public

The Mayor asked all Councillors to introduce themselves briefly to the community.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Rachel Brooks, Lori Reid, Julian Smith, Naomi Taylor

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE PUBLIC HALL ON THURSDAY 30

JUNE 2022 – Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Lee-Julian seconded and the Meeting approved the minutes.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT 2023

The Mayor, Councillor Simon Cassidy gave the following report:

On the 18th May 2021 I was elected as Mayor of our Town. I was reelected in 2022 and have recently been elected again to serve for another year. It is and has been an honour to represent our town as Mayor for the last two years.

I would like to start this report off by giving my thanks to some truly amazing people. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to each of our Councillors – but more importantly to their loved ones and friends who support them as they work so very hard for our community. What is often overlooked is that they give their time for free and a great deal of time they give too. Secondly, I would like to say a huge thanks to Steve our Town Clerk and his amazing team who work so hard in the background keeping us in check and ensuring the work is done to a high standard. On a personal note, I would like to thank you to Christina and her consort Terry for all the support they have given me over the last year. Without them I would have struggled. And finally I'd like to place on record my thanks to Sarah for her support throughout the year.

So as this is meant to be my report on 2022 let's have a look at what we've been up to. From July 2022 our last Town Meeting I have attended over 120 additional events as Mayor additional to attending Council meetings and volunteering in the community. This obviously doesn't take account of the many visits I've made to organisations and businesses to see what they do and thank them for their commitment to our town.

Our Facilities Committee have been looking after the Town Council buildings, including the shop units at the Guildhall, and our parks and open spaces. They continue to work on a devolution plan with Cornwall Council which will see the transfer of Castle Park to the Town Council.

Our Communications & Engagement Committee have continued to work on the Active Travel project to make walking and cycling easier and safer in the town and have been out in the community talking to people about this, they also look after the Museum and Tourist Information Centre, and have brought us some great events such as Liskeard Unlocked, a free festival as part of Heritage Open Days.

Our Planning Committee continued to work for a better, greener town in its role as a planning consultee. There has been a small boundary change agreed to transfer all the Bubble Retail Park and Liskeard Tavern into Liskeard from Menheniot Parish. This has been agreed in conjunction with our colleagues at Menheniot.

We have worked with the Police and Safer Liskeard to put on monthly pop-ups where they are available for members of the public to chat with.

We were delighted to celebrate the happy occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, but then also dealt with her sad loss.

I have been on a trip to Quimperle with the Town Clerk to renew twinning links between the two towns.

After prudent budgeting, the Town Council have agreed to increase the precept – its element of the Council Tax - by only 4% this year, in recognition of the difficult economic times. This follows three years of 0% increases.

4. SAFER LISKEARD

Lucy Allison (Community Safety Officer), Katherine Kemp (Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) caseworker), and Sgt Gary Smith (Devon & Cornwall Police) explained that Safer Liskeard is a multi-agency initiative to improve community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the town through partnership working.

Liskeard is one of ten priority towns in Cornwall with a Safer Town initiative, which has now been operating nearly 5 years.

It has identified the following community safety priorities for the Town:

- Drug related harm and recovery including dangerous drug networks/county lines/cuckooing and the associated serious violence
- Domestic abuse and reducing violence against women and girls
- Youth engagement
- Taking pride in Liskeard, crime prevention and improved feelings of safety
- Community engagement and building community resilience

They have delivered pop-up shops for members of the public to speak to a broad range of agencies about any community safety issues or concerns. These are usually held on the last Friday of the month.

Despite social media posts, which may lead you to believe otherwise Liskeard is a safe town. While there has been a national increase in crime of approximately 12%, in Cornwall and Liskeard this has been lower at 10%. Of the 222 shoplifting crimes last year, 130 committed by only three individuals, similarly 20% of criminal damage was committed by two individuals and the team have worked to resolve these. Liskeard is a safe town.

They are really keen to hear about key issues in relation to community safety to ensure they are focusing on the right things. More information is available at <https://safercornwall.co.uk/safer-liskeard/>

5. RUN TOGETHER GROUP – How they used a grant from Liskeard Town Council of £290 in July 2022 to train an additional Team leader and set up an additional group

Sandra Haynes explained that Power Runs Cornwall is an England Athletics Run Together Group that was set up in Liskeard in October 2021. The purpose of the group is to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone locally. The group provides a bridge between starting out and joining a club. Sessions are free and they aim to remove barriers preventing people getting out and running, so they can be active and healthy.

So far, they have:

- Successfully delivered three 'Beginners Run 30' courses (similar to couch to 5k)
- Supported people to take part in their first park run, 5K and 10K races
- Raised money and awareness for local and national charities
- Created a 'jeffing' group (running and walking at intervals)
- Developed a group that is active and interacts on a social level
- Created a positive presence within the community
- Signed up for Adopt a Street on one of their favorite running routes

The grant from the Town Council had enabled them to train another Run Leader so the group could grow, and to create a group identity by purchasing some branded running tops.

They meet every Monday and Wednesday, with new members welcome and can be contacted at powerruncornwall@gmail.com with more information available from <https://groups.runtogether.co.uk/PowerRunsCornwall>

6. GRANTS AVAILABLE

Liskeard Town Council allocates a grants budget annually to assist other organisations within the town to achieve projects, services, exhibitions and events of benefit to the town and its residents. Applications are considered monthly at Council meetings and applicants are welcome to attend and discuss their project.

Philip Blamey Trust provides grants to young people for educational purposes.

Eva Bowles Memorial Fund helps local young people to take part and enjoy music making in all its various forms. Following a number of recent grants there was only a small amount remaining in the fund.

Alex Page Trust supports young people, under the age of 21 living in the Liskeard area (PL14 postcode) who want to gain a nationally recognised trade qualification through a college or an apprenticeship but can often be deterred by the initial costs of equipment, tools or clothing etc needed to undertake the course. During the past year they did not receive any grant applications; however with apprenticeships becoming more accessible young people are able to learn more to earn more and Alex Page trust is there with £11,163 to support them do just that.

Full details of all of these funds together with application forms are available on the Town Council website <https://www.liskeard.gov.uk/services-info/grants/>

7. LISKEARD SCOUTS – A planned trip to the World Jamboree in South Korea

Rose Ramwell explained the World Scout Jamboree was run every 4 years, for young people aged 14 – 18, with the destination voted on by all the countries. Places are decided through a selection day, with about 80 people attending the UK one. Rose didn't initially get a place, but asked for feedback on her application and was told she was near the top of the reserve list, with a place coming up when somebody dropped out.

Since being selected Rose has attended training camps for the Jamboree where they learn essential skills for the experience such as team building, hand washing clothes, comradery, and cooking hygiene. Each participant must raise £4,000 and Rose has been busy with sales, raffles, competitions and volunteering to meet this target.

The event takes place from 1 – 12 August 2023 and will involve over 50,000 attendees from all over the globe. There will be a vast variety of activities available, including a typhoon evacuation drill, and opportunities to meet new people. Participants are encouraged to mix with people from all the other countries, and swap badges, neckers and contact information.

The location for the next event in 2027 has not yet been decided.

Lisa Ince from Liskeard Scouts thanked Liskeard Town Council for a grant they had received to purchase a projector which has enabled them to put on film nights for young people.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions

9. COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS 2023

Awards were made to people and groups who have made a positive difference to life in Liskeard. Following some amazing nominations, Awards were presented to:

Individuals

- John Bond welcomes everyone to his shop to play war games on a Wednesday night. It's a great, safe place for all ages to meet up and have fun. He's put his own time and money into providing this for young and old and it's greatly appreciated.
- Stephen Sullivan has overcome personal issues and has devoted his time and resources to running a boxing club. He supports young people and is a true community champion.

- Christopher Sutton has volunteered for many years for the Foodbank, even when ill. He is now an active member of the SEPSIS charity and uses his photography skills to raise money for them by selling cards. Christopher also helps at the Salvation Army and St Martin's Church. He is happy and a "glass is always definitely full" person.
- Maureen Smith is a pioneer and co-founder of Liskeard Town Traders. She works hard to boost and promote the town. She has been involved in many of the activities in the town and has worked hard in difficult times.
- Lin Moore's work with the Welcome Back Fund has brought fun activities and decorative flower planters to the town and she's working on another project to access funding which is already in progress with other traders.

Groups

- The Ploughman's Festival team put on a Market and free music festival each summer (barring rain and COVID). They work really hard and showcase local talent as well as promote local businesses and organisations. The amount of work involved in putting on such an event shouldn't be underestimated and we recognise all volunteers from the past and now.
- Lights Up are an amazing team that have been working to bring festive lights to the town for many years. There have been a few changes over the time, but, all of their volunteering is recognised with thanks for a great job, well done. You are all "Top People"

Unable to attend but also receiving an award:

- Sandra Dawes has been manager at M & Co for many years and she has always worked hard to support the town. She often organised charity fashion shows and has also allowed us to display projects during Liskeard Unlocked highlighting Women Workers in businesses 100 years ago.