

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held in the Public Hall on Thursday 19 April 2018 at 7.00 pm there were present:

The Mayor - Councillor Christina Whitty - in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Tyler Bennetts
The Town Clerk - Mr Steve Vinson

Councillors: - David Ambler, Rachel Brooks, Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Roger Holmes, Sandra Mitchell, Jane Pascoe, Sue Pike, Tony Powell, Susan Shand, Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor

Support Services Manager – Yvette Hayward

60 Members of the Public

The Mayor advised of housekeeping matters

1. APOLOGIES

John Hesketh (Town Forum), Lisa Ince (Liskeard Scouts), Rupert Engley (Devon and Cornwall Police), Richard Deavall (Tri-Service Officer), Josh Conway, Jenny Foster and Bryan Ugalde

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE LONG ROOM ON THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Long Room on Thursday 20 April 2017 were noted.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty reported:

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Mayor and it has been an honour and a privilege to represent you in my role as Mayor of Liskeard. It has been a busy year and so far, I have attended 188 functions ranging from Mayor Choosings, Civic Services, AGMs and many sub-committee meetings. I have also supported the various organisations in the town, such as the Lions, the Royal British Legion, Cancer, the British Heart Foundation, the Stroke Club and St Martin's School. As Chairman of the Council I have attended all the Council meetings and since we have gone over to bimonthly meetings attendance to all meetings has been well maintained.

In May last year we had an election, and the new Council year started with several new Councillors. Councillors Phil Seeva, Annie Purdon, Lorna Shrubsole and James Shrubsole not standing for re-election after serving 4 years on the previous Council and Annie serving 15 years. We have had a year of resignations, co-options, elections and finally in January we achieved a complete Council of 15 Councillors. Welcoming David

Ambler, Naomi Taylor, Julian Smith and Sandra Mitchell. And, as I always remind people, we are all volunteers. We are here to serve the community of Liskeard.

The Council has 4 working Committees – Communications and Engagement, Facilities, Finance and General Purposes and Planning. Each Committee has its own aims and objectives.

As a town we aim to: build a strong local community; protect and enhance the culture and heritage; support the growth of good quality local jobs and businesses; develop and promote the Council's assets for the benefit of the community; sustain the Council as an effective and financially sound organisation; and take pride in our Civic duties.

I would like to thank Councillor Brooks who is Chair of the Communications and Engagement Committee for all her hard work over the past year and with the help of her Committee brought us a successful Heritage Open Days Weekend (Liskeard Unlocked) and a Cornish Christmas, and is working on new signs for Liskeard as well as other projects. Thank you, Rachel. Rachel is supported in the office by Yvette, one of our invaluable members of staff who we have all come to rely on a great deal. So, I would like to say a big thank you to Yvette also for her support throughout the year and Mandy who has assisted and helped to make this year's Community Fair such a great success.

The Facilities Committee is ably Chaired by Councillor Ian Goldsworthy. A long-standing member of the Council who has a wealth of knowledge of the town and is a businessman in the Town. I would like to thank Ian and his Committee and Tony, the Facilities Manager, for all their hard work over the past year and his team in keeping our building well maintained as well as Thorn Park, the Planters on the Parade, and the roundabout at Morrisons.

The Planning Committee is Chaired by Councillor Powell and is the only Committee that meets every 3 weeks and is supported by Yvette from the office and Committee members. The Committee look positively at all plans before them and make their decision on the information put before them, while Cornwall Council make the final decision. Most of the decisions that the Committee have made Cornwall Council have agreed with, so thank you to the Planning Committee and Tony for all your hard work.

One item that will come under the remit of the Planning Committee is the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan was submitted to Cornwall Council last summer and it has been through a series of legal compliance checks and their own rigorous consultation process. An independent examiner held a hearing in Liskeard last month and we are awaiting her final recommendations. We are one step closer to achieving our Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you to James Shrubsole and his team for all his hard work.

As a Council we are always looking to the future and as such we have retained Stratton Creber Commercial to carry out an Employment Land Demand and Agri-Business Hub Assessment. The Town Council is funding 10% of the cost of the study. The work aims to find out from local businesses and potential inward investors the need for offices, workshops and factory building plots. We are all aware we need more jobs in Liskeard.

The Town Council are continuing to work very closely with Cornwall Council following the closure of the Cattle Market on their re-development plans.

4. REPORT FROM THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT - LUKE MOYNAN

Luke reported that he became involved in the Youth Parliament through the National Takeover Day, and had to work hard, visiting schools, and speaking to young people in get elected. The Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

The Make Your Mark consultation in 2017 had a record breaking Cornish turnout. The issues selected were debated in the House of Commons in November by all Members of Youth Parliament, and he spoke about the 1967 Sexual Offences Act from the Dispatch Box, to an audience which included Rt hon John Bercow, Andrea Leadsom, Valerie Vaz, Justine Greening among other politicians. The result of the day was the selection of the two national campaigns for 2018; Votes at 16 and a curriculum to prepare young people for life. Plans for local campaigns included transport, and recruitment of more young people in the Cabinet.

5. TRUST REPORTS

The Town Clerk reported that in addition to the following trusts, Liskeard Town Council has a grant budget of £8,160 for the 2018/19 financial year. Full details of the eligibility criteria including the Grant Awarding Policy and application form could be found on the Town Council website at www.liskeard.gov.uk

Philip Blamey Trust

The trust was established 'For the educational benefit of such boy or girl as the Mayor and Town Clerk for the time being shall consider, such income will be of the most use and benefit for such educational purposes aforesaid' (Area of Benefit – Liskeard).

The Mayor and Town Clerk were trustees of the Trust which had funds of £3,624.76. No applications for grants had been received this year.

Eve Bowles Memorial Fund

The Eva Bowles Memorial Fund was established to help local young people in Liskeard to take part and enjoy music making in all its various forms. Grant eligibility:

- Available to students up to and including age 18 who live within Liskeard town boundaries and who are devoted to the study of music.
- Students anticipated progress must be vouched for by a professional tutor or school music teacher.
- Grants will be made, in normal circumstances, following a personal interview.

The Mayor and Town Clerk were trustees of the fund which had £2,317.68. No applications had been received this year.

King George V - Thorn Park

This fund had £2,325.68 available.

Alex Page Trust

The Trust aims to help young people who want to learn a skilled trade but find the low income and financial outlay for professional tools or training a positive disincentive. Open to anyone below the age of 21 at the time of application and resident in the Liskeard area (PL14 postcode). Applicants must be pursuing a nationally recognised qualification (e.g. Modern Apprenticeship or NVQ), or a qualification which is recognised by a trade organisation appropriate to the career concerned. No minimum or maximum limits. Generally, relatively small 'one-off' awards will be available rather than continuous funding for any individual applicant.

Jane Page reported that over the last year, the Trust had raised £147.59 leaving a balance at the year end of £12,293.17. No applications had been received during this financial year.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM RECIPIENTS OF SUPPORT FROM LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

Liskeard School and Community College (LSCC) Debating Team

Luke Moynan and Tallulah Coyte spoke on behalf of the LSCC debating team who won the South West Regional Forum of the European Youth Parliament last year. Thanks to the council's support their team of five were able to attend the National Session in Liverpool, alongside 150 young people from all over the country. Members of the team had since attended International Session in Greece and Denmark with delegates from all over Europe, organised the South West regional forum of the European Youth Parliament, and will be attending the National Session in Liverpool this summer. Debates in this process have included: the environment, Catalonian independence, revisions to the Schengen agreement, relationships with the US, the Northern Irish border terrorism, a European Army, and European integration. Unlike traditional British politics, the debates are not confrontational but instead cooperative, aimed at finding solutions and building resolutions to common European issues. The team are now mentoring younger students, hoping to integrate debating within the school, and encourage discussion and dialogue on topical issues. The team thanked Councillor Pike for her mentoring and support, Councillor Pascoe for her personal contributions and support, and the Town Council, without whose support these doors would not have been opened.

Get Together Wild and Active

Claire Finnegan-Vyse thanked Liskeard Town Council for a grant which had helped their project which supports families and individuals with autism to develop therapy sessions working with animals. The project was now also developing with the assistance from young people aged 16 to 17 on work experience, and volunteers from groups such as the elderly and socially isolated. They were very proud of their successes, such as helping a family who couldn't get a child to school turn this situation around.

Lyskerrys Youth

Karen Coleman and young people from Lyskerrys Youth thanked Liskeard Town Council for the generous funding to keep them open. The group provided facilities for entertainment, socialising, and learning about life skills and relationship building. They asked for more volunteers on a Tuesday and Friday night, and invited other youth groups to come along and talk about what they do. They were undertaking other fundraising activity including holding a 'silent disco' on 25 May in the Public Hall and did a bag pack at the Co-operative in the town.

7. PARISHIONERS PARTICIPATION

Light's Up

John Lennon reported that this year's Light's Up event was due to take place on Saturday 1 December 2018. Notices would be appearing shortly for the first planning meeting. He invited everybody to come along as lots of help was needed to make the event happen. They were also seeking ideas for a theme.

Liskeard Library

In response to a request for more information about the recently submitted planning pre-application for the library, Councillor Hawken responded that there was a restriction on the information which could be disclosed at present due to sensitivities around issues which would impact on the staff. The application had catapulted the issue into the public arena. The Town Council's planning committee had discussed it at the previous week's meeting which had been attended by the applicants, and the Council were due to consider it further at their meeting on 24 April, with a view to providing feedback to Cornwall Council.

Cattle Market

In response to a request for an update on the Cattle Market regeneration project, Councillor Hawken explained they were awaiting a response on bid for funding to provide workspace.

Bus Service

A request was made for an improved bus service linking the north and south (including the railway station) of the town via the centre. With increased building on the outskirts of town, and new facilities such as Wetherspoons due in the centre, improved public transport was needed to bring people in.

Entertainment for young people

A request was made for more entertainment for young people, particularly older teenagers who did not want to visit pubs etc. The cost of annual membership at Lux Park Leisure Centre had significantly increased, and young people were travelling to Bodmin and St Austell for entertainment. Positively, the local Harriers running group had been found extremely welcoming to families and young people. Various suggestions were made by the audience of existing services in the town. Councillor Anna Clarke recommended contacting the Family Information Service and Volunteer Cornwall who can provide information and support. In addition, the Tourist Information Centre is not just for tourists, but has information on local events, groups and activities.

8. COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS

The Mayor announced the introduction of a new Community Champion Awards, to recognise the hard work done by many people in the town, often unseen, to make life better. There had been lots of nominations, and it had been a difficult task to select just a few to represent and recognise the wonderful work carried out. She welcomed more nominations for next year's awards.

Presentations were awarded to:

- Neil Tucker for his work with Light's Up and Liskeard in Bloom
- Roger Terry for his work with Light's Up and the Chamber of Commerce, sourcing the Christmas trees for many years
- John Gliddon on behalf of the team operating the road closures at civic and community events
- Danny Smith on behalf of the town's firefighters who keep us safe from our chip pans
- Rob Arnold for raising the profile of plastics pollution, beach cleans and recycling
- Phil Chapman for generous loan of his toy collection to Liskeard Museum
- Tony Piper for loan of his medical collection to Liskeard Museum, and support to other organisations in the town
- John Ede for amazing contribution to citizens advice
- Lin Moore for support to Liskeard Traders Association and the Fore Street flowers
- The Real Junk Food Project for providing delicious lunches which are a lifeline to some people
- Dereen Carnegie-Rance for 20 years work with Tic-Tac
- Margaret Hawken for outstanding contribution to many charities and organisations in the town
- Jackie Jenkins for work with the Old Cornwall Society and Liskeard museum
- David Brown for Sungirt woodland, paths and wild flowers
- David Allen for 10 years work coordinating the Poppy appeal
- Community Treasure Chest for recycling and making affordable furniture available to those who need it

Awards were also made to the following people who were unable to attend:

- Jenny Foster for her work with the Liskerrett Centre and Light's Up
- Lisa Ince on behalf of Liskeard Scouts for supporting civic and community events
- Leah Browning for her work with young families in the town, including Liskeard Community Action and Party in the Park