

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room at the Public Hall **on Thursday 9 March 2023 at 7.30 p.m.** there were present:

Committee: Councillors Nick Craker (in the Chair), David Ambler, Rachel Brooks, Richard Dorling, Annette Lee-Julian and Christina Whitty.

Deputy Town Clerk – Yvette Hayward

Members of the Public – Mike Sturgess, St Martin’s Church

515 / 22 Apologies

Councillors David Braithwaite and Naomi Taylor

516 / 22 Declarations of Interests, Registerable and Non-Registerable

None

517 / 22 Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 12 January 2023

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Lee-Julian seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 were adopted as correct.

518 / 22 Public Participation

Mike Sturgess reported on plans for a comprehensive renovation of the church centre. It is an old primary school building with its original 1860s roof, now many times repaired. Total improvements are estimated at £1.4m which will be phased over several years, although this figure does not allow for inflation. The upper hall is grade II listed; a large building with many rooms, significant damp and water ingress, and very energy inefficient. To address both environmental issues and rising energy costs it is important to improve this as far as possible. The proposals include a new roof, insulation, solar panels, general upgrading, improved toilet and kitchen facilities, additional offices/meeting rooms, improved wi-fi, and the addition of a further 19 parking spaces behind the Smile Centre. St Martin’s currently have a staff team of 16, some of whom could work in the improved building. The church also has a potential building plot accessed from Maddever Crescent which could be sold to help fund parts of the work that will not be eligible for grant funding. They have already undertaken a survey with users of the building to establish likes and dislikes of the current structure and are inviting feedback from the whole community on possible uses for the upgraded building. The upper hall is now a designated place of worship, enabling VAT to be fully reclaimed on the works. The recent renovations at the church cost £650,000 with approx. a third funded from grants and the balance from church reserves. They have insufficient reserves to fund the proposed works and will be seeking grants and fundraising to cover each phase.

519 / 22 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK’S UPDATE - Report on items from 12 January 2023 committee meeting not already on the agenda – for information

All items covered on the agenda

125/22

520 / 22 MUSEUM REPORT

a) To receive a report from the Museum Coordinator

The committee were pleased to note that the grant application to South West Museum Partnership had been successful with £1,000 approved.

A check would be made on the copyright status on the duplicate photos sold from the Rapson collection.

b) To receive feedback on the questions raised at the last meeting

Following a review on entry charges it was agreed this would be a negative idea and the museum would remain free. A report for noting would be submitted to full council to assist with next year's budgeting process.

521 / 22 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (TIC)

a) To receive a report from the TIC Manager

The committee noted the reduction in visitor numbers in February and asked if comparisons could be made with other TICs and museums to compare their experience. It was thought that as a free attraction there could be an increased demand from locals looking for low-cost activities.

b) To receive feedback on the questions raised at the last meeting

Noted

522 / 22 BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23 - To receive and accept a budget report to 31 January 2023

Noted

523 / 22 EVENTS

a) Community Fair (Saturday 1 April 2023) – to confirm volunteers and main contact for the day

Councillor Dorling would lead on the day. Those Councillors who have not yet volunteered would be approached to fill the remaining spaces on the rota.

b) Annual Town Meeting and Community Champion Awards (Thursday 16 March 2023) – to confirm arrangements for volunteers and refreshments

Councillors would be asked to contribute refreshments for the event. A rota was started and would be circulated to remaining Councillors for help at the event.

c) Coronation (Saturday 6 May 2023)

i) to agree the purchase of a commemorative item to be given to children attending the town schools

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Ambler seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to purchase 2,000 Coronation pin badges at a total cost of £2,500. If possible, the printing on the backing card should include the town crest. Surplus would be sold in the TIC.

ii) to consider support or additions the Town Council can make to events being arranged by other organisations in the town

The Lions were unable to do the food preparation for their Coronation tea due to a change in their

insurance and would need to buy in catering which was likely to cost more than budgeted and may need some assistance to cover the difference. They were establishing more accurate numbers and obtaining quotes from local suppliers.

d) Mayor Choosing (Thursday 18 May 2023) – to note the date

Noted

e) Beating the Bounds

The date was agreed as Sunday 14 May 2023 commencing from the boundary stone at Morrisons roundabout at 10.30am

f) Liskeard Show (Saturday 8 July 2023) – to confirm availability of volunteers attendance and a theme for the stand

It was agreed to attend the show if there were sufficient volunteers. A rota was started and would be circulated to other Councillors. After the success of the Active Travel consultation at the show last year, ideas were requested for a specific topic to consult on this year.

g) Liskeard Unlocked (8 – 17 September 2023) – to receive the notes from the planning meeting on 7 February 2023

Another planning meeting had since been held on 7 March 2023. With the theme of creativity unwrapped many events were already planned including open studios, an exhibition of Tremar pottery at the museum with possible pottery activity and demonstration, and the final exhibition from the Moor to Sea project. There will be an event centred on the Cattle Market canopy which will include a local produce and arts and crafts market.

The group were working on a project with local primary schools to get artists to work with the children to help them identify shapes in local architecture and make their own artworks from the shapes. They would also like to give adults and children a chance to attend workshops to see the town and the creativity of its architects and gardeners in new ways and make artworks. These would happen over the summer with the artworks showcased as part of Liskeard Unlocked.

A funding application is being prepared for these workshops along with commissioning some musicians, dancers etc. to run 'creative jam' workshops during Liskeard Unlocked with a presence in the town centre and in the Cattle Market. The Liskerrett Centre will submit the application on behalf of the other organisations involved, and include funding for activities to support participation in the lantern parade, in addition to Liskeard Unlocked.

h) Remembrance Parade (Sunday 12 November 2023) – to receive feedback on a meeting with the Royal British Legion to discuss the event

As this was a civic event the Town Council would now be organising the parade, however the Royal British Legion would continue to organise the laying of wreaths and the church service.

524 / 22 DBS CHECKS - To report on advice received and the Cornwall Council position

It was suggested that a policy of requiring a basic DBS check for all Councillors and staff would deter anybody who had something to hide, or encourage people to be open and honest before applying. The Cornwall Council team should be asked whether they could deal with any positive

127/22

disclosures on behalf of the Town Council.

A recorded vote was requested.

Proposal: To develop suitable policies for the implementation of basic DBS checks for all Councillors and staff, including how the Council will deal with positive criminal records checks.

FOR: D Ambler, N Craker, A Lee-Julian
AGAINST R Dorling
ABSTAIN C Witty

RESOLVED to develop suitable policies for the implementation of basic DBS checks for all Councillors and staff, including how the Council will deal with positive criminal records checks.

In addition, it was agreed to write to Cornwall Council and the Member of Parliament about the vacuum of legislation that covers local Councillors and the lack of criminal checks and ask the MP to raise this with the Minister of Justice.

525 / 22 PROMOTIONAL PANEL AT LISKEARD RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM 3

a) To consider designs

It had been confirmed that the poster case and associated artwork will belong to the Town Council, and will be installed on railway land, with permission from GWR/Network Rail.

The sign must be procured from a railway approved supplier, however of the two approved suppliers only one produced the type of sign required.

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Lee-Julian seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to purchase a sign and header board from Rydon Signs at a total cost of £927 including installation. In addition, a budget of £450 was approved for design and print. A small group would define the design brief and update quotes.

526 / 22 CORRESPONDENCE

None

527 / 22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Communications and Engagement Committee will be on Thursday 11 May 2023 at 7.30pm.