

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held in the Public Hall on **TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2022 at 7.30 p.m.** there were present:

Committee Members - Councillors Christina Whitty (Deputy Mayor in the chair), David Ambler, Rachel Brooks, Richard Dorling, Ian Goldsworthy, Annette Lee-Julian and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk – Stephen Vinson.

Members of the Public – Kate Rogers (Centre Director – Sterts Centre – Agenda Item 5.) and Richard Reardon (friend accompanying Annette Lee-Julian)

500 / 21 APOLOGIES

The Mayor Councillor Simon Cassidy, Councillors Nick Craker, Lori Reid and Julian Smith.

501 / 21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE

None.

502 / 21 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2021

Subject to the amendments Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the Finance, Economic Development & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22nd February 2022.

503 / 21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kate Rogers explained that she had only been recently appointed to the role of Centre Director at the Sterts Centre. Kate spoke in support of the application and provided answers to some of the questions the main points being:

- Project Costs – whilst the application to the Town Council focused on eligible costs such as, new external lighting in the car park and the trees, there was a lot of expenditure on ineligible but essential items such as, repair and maintenance and operating costs. As the Centre had not been able to operate properly for the 2 years of Covid, their normal income from performances had been adversely impacted.
- Accounts £50,000 Surplus – whilst the accounts for last year show a surplus, this included an Arts Council, Cultural Recovery Grant which was no longer available and could only be spent on normal operating costs, such as, wages, but not “capital works” such as formed the basis of the application to the Town Council.
- Liskeard Benefits – Did not have figures to show the numbers or proportion of visitors traveling from Liskeard. It was suggested that the Sterts Centre was part of the Liskeard catchment area and part of the area’s arts offer. There was a possibility of working more closely with the Town Council, which had the indoor Public Hall facility lacking at Sterts.
- Performances – it was intended to recommence events from 21st May 2022.

122/21

504 / 21 GRANT APPLICATION – STERTS ARTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE – EXTERNAL AND THEATRICAL LIGHTING – Following due consideration, the Deputy Mayor proposed, Councillor Ambler seconded, and the Committee RESOLVED to approve a grant of £1,500.

505 / 21 CATTLE MARKET MAKERS PROJECT UPDATE

a). Bradys' Contract - The Town Clerk reported that the signed contract had not yet been received from Brady's Construction Services Ltd. It was reported that the Ward Williams Associates (WWA) consultant dealing with the project had caught Covid and had been off work which delayed WWA sending out the contract to Brady's until 8th April. Brady's were obtaining confirmation from their main sub-contractor ISO Spaces of dates etc. for inclusion in the contract before signing by Brady's and sending to the Town Council for signing. The Town Clerk would inform Councillors as soon as the contract is received.

b). Cornwall Council – Lease – (To receive and approve the lease (subject to the comments of the Town Council's Solicitor - The draft lease had been received from Cornwall Council's Solicitors the previous Wednesday. The Town Council's Solicitor's comments were sent through on the morning of the Committee. The lease is what was expected given the work already undertaken. The outstanding items before final approval is given are the wording of the Scheme of Works and consideration as to how the site conditions at handover could best be dealt with.

506 / 21 TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

Nothing additional to the agenda.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO) REPORT 8

507 / 21 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS – To receive and approve the schedule of payments including receipt of feedback from the items deferred from the 19th April 2022 Council meeting.

It was noted that payment 375 was a duplicate and had been cancelled. With payment 364 Fire Crest – Fire Extinguishers Inspection - It was reported that the Facilities Manager was comparing costs with the previous year's. It was noted that when existing contractors were taken over, it was especially necessary to compare costs with the previous year's.

The lack of a budget monitoring report to the 31st March 2022 on this agenda was noted. As there had not been any corresponding report on the Facilities Committee, it was asked whether there was any apparent issue. The Town Clerk responded that the transactions needed to be reconciled with the bank statements which involved chasing cheques etc. He would speak with the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

508 / 21 DEVOLUTION – (CASTLE PARK) – To note that Cornwall Council is seeking clarification of a certain point with the Managing Authority of the grant programme that has funded the improvement works to Castle Park.

In addition, to the information on the costs of the services that will be provided post the transfer, any possible grant obligations that would fall to the Town Council should also be researched and known by the Town Council.

509 / 21 CCTV (Minute 419/21) - To receive and consider approving the costs of the rapid deployable cameras. Several points were made in general discussion:

- Rapid deployable cameras did not appear to be good value for money in comparison with the cost of the town centre CCTV system.
- There does not appear to have been any “Authority to View” requests for the rapid deployable cameras.
- When protecting physical assets, such as, Castle Park and Sun girt, a possible alternative with lower costs was the use of “recording” rather than “live monitoring”.

There then arose a suggestion that we might find out from the Police what might be of most use to them. That meaning not just CCTV. There was agreement to meet with the Police and Safer Liskeard. This was to find out what might best be done to support crime and disorder reduction and well-being in the town.

510 / 21 TOWN ECONOMIC VITALITY INDEX (Minute 414/21) – To consider the use of this in future funding application and lobbying for improvements - Several points were made in general discussion:

- Affordable Housing – might be one of the areas in which the Index could be used to lobby for extra investment.
- Employment Land and Buildings Projects – as the town had suffered from low rates of business growth not least through a lack of suitable sites and premises
- Index of Multiple of Deprivation (IMD) – the Government’s own index had previously been used by the Town Council to support the making of the Liskeard Together bid. It would be good to see how this had changed from the previous (IMD).

511 / 21 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) – STAR COUNCIL AWARDS SCHEME. It was noted that the approach had been from NALC themselves. They had looked at the Town Councils website and several aspects indicated that it might be considered best practice. It was felt that whilst there was some merit in raising the profile of the work of the Town Council itself at the moment the Town Council was under considerable pressure workwise. It would be better to postpone consideration until the Cattle Market Makers container units project was complete and operational.

512 / 21 DATA CABLING CONTRACT (OLD DISTRIBUTION UNIT) – To report that an additional item of work has been inspected and found necessary. It being more cost effective to and the existing contract whilst, the contractor is still on site to carry it out, it is recommended that a budget of (£1,192.70) be taken from general reserves to cover the costs. In consultation with the Chair of the Facilities Committee, the further works have been authorized by the Town Clerk under item 4.5 of the Financial Regulations.

Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve a budget (£1,192.70) from the general reserve to cover the cost of the additional works.

513 / 21 CORRESPONDENCE – None.

514 / 21 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – 28th June 2022 at 7.30 pm.

124/21