

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held in the Public Hall on **TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30 p.m.** there were present:

Committee Members - Councillors Simon Cassidy (in the chair), Christina Whitty, David Ambler, Rachel Brooks, Nick Craker and Ian Goldsworthy.

Also present - Councillors Richard Dorling, Rob Frost and Lori Reid.
Responsible Financial Officer and Deputy Town Clerk - Yvette Hayward
Mayor's Chaplain – Rev Andy Day
Members of the Public – John Ede (Liskeard Together)

The Mayor advised of housekeeping matters, and outlined his engagements over the last month representing the town.

The Chaplain led the committee in prayers.

218 / 21 APOLOGIES

Councillors Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor

219 / 21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE

Councillor Craker declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 as a member and employee of the Royal British Legion (RBL). Councillor Whitty declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 as a member and committee member of the RBL. Councillors Ambler and Cassidy declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 as members of the RBL.

220 / 21 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2021

Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the Finance, Economic Development & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27 July 2021.

221 / 21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Ede gave an overview and update on the Liskeard Together project.

This was a pilot research project, unique in several ways, including being undertaken in the community, being place based and having the investment of a Town Council. It was a partnership made up of the Learning Partnership, Cornwall Council (Children, Schools and Families), Liskeard Town Council, Cornwall Housing and Eccabi. Delivery is undertaken by Cornwall Housing (recruitment and support) and Eccabi (training – using peer learning).

Some of the planned community projects have been impacted by covid, and they have now added online delivery, including Feed the Family, Your Money Matters, Your Future Matters, and online IT training.

58/21

The project aims to stabilise households, preventing rent arrears and the danger of homelessness. To do this it is important to work with people in the early stages of rent arrears before problems spiral. Cornwall Housing identify and recruit tenants, bringing mutual benefit to both landlord and tenant.

Half of Liskeard is seriously deprived. Of its 6 areas, one is in the top 10% most deprived, and two are in the top 20%. Scores are based on layers and Liskeard scores worst in income, employment, education & skills, and health, and these problems are inter-generational.

Going forward from the pandemic, the £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit and furlough scheme are both ending, energy and fuel costs are rising, and all those left on legacy benefits are to be moved to Universal Credit over next 12 months (600 households in Liskeard – 300 with children and 250 with incapacity), so more people will need help.

The project is achieving its outputs and has helped 112 families so far, although Cornwall Housing are not able to release actual figures for the reduction in rent arrears. The next planned steps are to work more closely with schools.

Remaining partners find it difficult to understand Cornwall Housing's decision to withdraw from the project, which makes both business sense to them and delivers social benefits at a community and tenant level. As the majority provider of social housing in Liskeard it would be impossible to replace them with another social housing provider. Their officer time is funded from the project. The project cannot continue and deliver its remaining outputs without them. Delays to resolving the position further jeopardised the project.

Councillors thanked John and the project team for all they do in Liskeard.

222 / 21 LISKEARD TOGETHER (CORNWALL HOUSING PROJECT EXTENSION)

a) To receive the letter from Cornwall Housing and b) the response from the Liskeard Together project

The committee noted that Cornwall Housing is part of the Corserv Group (a Cornwall Council company), and a member of the cabinet attends the Cornwall Housing board. The service is currently under extreme pressure and staff are working at capacity.

It was agreed to express support for the continuation of the project and try to engage with Cornwall Housing, to look for compromise and a way to move forward.

Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Ambler seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to write to a) Cornwall Housing seeking their reasons for withdrawing from the project, requesting a meeting to explore options, and stressing the importance of a swift conclusion, and b) the cabinet member for housing, asking if they were aware of this situation, and requesting support to open discussions with Cornwall Housing. Cornwall Council ward members were asked to support these actions.

223 / 21 CATTLE MARKET MAKERS PROJECT UPDATE

a). To note the holding of the first meeting of the Cattle Market Makers Project Board 21st September 2021.

The meeting notes had been circulated.

b). To receive an update on the recruit process and confirm the recommendations.

Noted

c). To receive the update on the capital project and approve the recommendations arising.

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to pursue an open tender if additional funding was available, and sufficient capacity/officer time to run the process.

d). To note and accept the amended grant offer letters.

Noted

224 / 21 TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

The agenda contains the outstanding items.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO) REPORTS 8 - 11

225 / 21 RFO REPORT (for information – bank balances, precept)

Noted

226 / 21 BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 – To receive and accept a budget report to 31 July 2021 for monitoring purposes

Noted

227 / 21 EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2020/21 – To receive and accept the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the External Auditor Report and Certificate.

228 / 21 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS – To receive and approve the schedule of payments

Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Craker seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments.

229 / 21 FREEDOM OF THE TOWN – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – To confirm the granting of the Freedom of the Town to the Liskeard branch of the Royal British Legion in their 100th anniversary year.

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Craker seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** that it would complete the process to formally offer the Honorary Freedom of the Town, calling a specially convened meeting for the purpose.

60/21

230 / 21 CATTLE MARKET EVENTS SPACE a) to consider a proposal whereby the Cattle Market events space would revert to Cornwall Council car parking for enforcement purposes, but the Town Council would continue to take the lead on liaison around events in the space.

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to endorse this as a possible way forward, allowing negotiations to continue, and be brought back to Council for further consideration.

b) To agree to confirm with Cormac the immediate installation of the bollard at Market Approach

Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Whitty seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to delay the installation of the bollards.

231 / 21 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – To confirm Councillor Rob Frost’s requests for Planning and Communications & Engagement Committee membership.

Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Craker seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Frost to the Planning and Communications & Engagement committees.

232 / 21 CORRESPONDENCE

None received

233 / 21 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 7.30pm.

Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Whitty seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to go into PART II.

234 / 21 PART II - PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of Business:

- 18. Roundbury - Sports Pitches – Site Negotiations – To report the follow up from 24th August 2021 Council and therewith the comments of the Council’s agent.**

235 / 21 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the Press and Public were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Craker seconded, and the Committee **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the course of action agreed in PART II.

236 / 21 ROUNDURY SPORTS PITCHES – Site Negotiations

Noted