

## **Liskeard Town Council**

**AT A MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty – in the chair

Councillors – Tracy Adams, Sylvia Berry, David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Kerry Cassidy, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling, Annette Lee, Ian Goldsworthy, Jane Pascoe, Lori Reid and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson

Mayor's Chaplain – Kevin Grant.

Members of the Public – Anthony Piper (Member of the Parochial Church Council at St Martins Church – see Agenda Item 6.a.) – Nicki Lyons (MBE BSc (Hons) Team Leader – East Cornwall Search & Rescue Team) – Bruce Hughes – Volunteer Doctor – East Cornwall Search & Rescue Team) - Lin Moore (Liskeard Traders Association and local business owner).

Mayor's Chaplain Kevin Grant asked for the Lord Blessing's on the work of the Town Council to improve things for the town. He led the councillors and members of the public in the Lord's Prayer.

420 / 24      **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Simon Cassidy and Tony Powell.

421 / 24      **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – None.

422 / 24      **MAYOR'S REMARKS** – The Mayor updated on the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – Liskeard & District Rifle Club – evening event at the Royal British Legion where there was a skittles match.
- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Cancer Research Art Exhibition – The Mayor attended the official opening.
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Annual Town Meeting - The Mayor thanked those many councillors who had attended and participated in the meeting.
- 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Johnny Cowling Concert - The Mayor attended this event which was organised by some of the Town Council staff. It was a great event.
- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – Caradon Youth Theatre – “A Night at the Musical” – the Mayor attended this and was pleased to see another great event held in our own Public Hall.

The Mayor noted that the one certificate remained to be presented from the Community Champion element of the Annual Town Meeting. She invited Nicki Lyons (MBE BSc (Hons) Team Leader – East Cornwall Search & Rescue Team) – Bruce Hughes – Volunteer Doctor – East Cornwall Search & Rescue Team) to step forward for the presentation. The Mayor asked if they could give a brief idea of their set up and operation. Bruce Hughes – Volunteer Doctor – confirmed that they are largely made of volunteers, they receive no statutory funding, they are located within the Police reporting structure and would assist the Police in difficult terrain and rural settings in circumstances such as, a flat phone battery or a person with mental health issues going. They do undertake call outs in response to the Ambulance Service dealing with injuries etc.

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The Mayor presented the Certificate on behalf of the Town Council and the community of Liskeard.

423 / 24      **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 COUNCIL MEETING** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Lee second and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Council meeting. The Mayor proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Annual Town meeting.

424 / 24      **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Councillor Sylvia Berry updated that following the points raised at the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Council meeting, that she had met with the Project Manager. By whom evidence of insurance and Risk Assessments had been provided. The project manager stated that she had a draft constitution which was going to be ratified by the newly formed committee. The Project Manager indicated a bank account was being set up. There have been no responses to the follow-up e-mails asking if further help were needed. – Anthony Piper (Member of the Parochial Church Council at St Martins Church – spoke in respect of Agenda Item 6.a.). Confirmed that unit would be on the exterior of the St Martin's Church Hall where it would be accessible 24hrs a day, 365 days of the year. It would be in a lockable cabinet to avoid theft. The code being supplied by the Ambulance Service at the time of the emergency. An anti-stab kit would be included. The Liskeard / Looe Rotary had kindly raised £3,240 towards the purchase of the defibrillator and the lockable cabinet.

425 / 24      **GRANT APPLICATION – ST MARTINS CHURCH HALL – EXTERNALLY MOUNTED 24 HOUR DEFIBRILATOR** - Following discussion, Councillor Reid proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £1,230 towards the cost of the purchase of an externally mounted defibrillator in a lockable cabinet.

426 / 24      **TOWN CLERKS UPDATE** – Items on agenda.

427 / 24      **COMMITTEE MEETINGS – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor Lee seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.
- b. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communication & Engagement Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

428 / 24      **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES, S106 CONTRIBUTION)** – The report is noted.

429 / 24      **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – It was confirmed that the BACS Payment 424 J Cowling Performance Fee £700 relates to the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 event in the Public Hall. Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments totaling £84,127.01.

430 / 24      **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** – Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the updated Financial Regulations to take account of The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulation 2024 which came into force on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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431 / 24      **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025/26** – Following discussion, with the addition at 9.6 Further Anticipated External Borrowing – of “The Council has no plans currently to incur capital expenditure which will require a loan sanction or external borrowing, but may consider this in the future to progress projects, such as, the Guildhall refurbishment” Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26.

432 / 24      **DEPUTY MAYORS CHAIN** – Following much discussion, Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Craker seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to allow an in the meantime use of the Silver and Black Chain (referred to as the Mayoress Chain), by the Deputy Mayor. The costs associated with the refurbishment of the blue ribbons with bar attachments (used by the Mayor’s Consort, Deputy Mayor, Deputy Mayors Consort, be further researched for the next round of budget and precept setting cycle later in the year. The £300 underspend “Civic Duty and Members Expenses” budget line be rolled forward to contribute to the costs of the eventually agreed resolution.

433 / 24      **LISKEARD TOWN VISION** – Following an update on progress, Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to agree to circulate the draft report to the public.

434 / 24      **CALL FOR SITES** – The report prepared by the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 Planning Committee was considered. A statement from the Liskeard & District Sports Association (LDSA) was read out “Object to housing on the OSL2 land which is set aside for sports facility provision for Liskeard in the Liskeard Neighbourhood Development Plan but support for housing on the land to the south of OSL2 allocation”. Following discussion, with the inclusion of the Liskeard & District Sports Association (LDSA) observations at the appropriate point. Councillor Dorling proposed and Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the suggested feedback to the planning consultation to the Cornwall Council “Call for Sites”.

435 / 24      **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK** – Noting that there were some significant changes and proposals in Government legislation Work Nest has supplied a suitable updated “Employee Handbook”. Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the updated Employee Handbook.

436 / 24      **LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL – 5YEAR CAPITAL AND WORK PROGRAMME** – Following discussion, including the benefits in supporting bids for grants and with large and multi capital projects, Councillor Reid proposed, Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to develop a 5 year capital programme. Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to seek external advice on pay and gradings (which had last been reviewed in 2016) to deliver improvements in services and assets for the community of Liskeard.

437 / 24      **BT PHONE BOX REMOVAL CONSULTATION** – To obtain further information on the option of placing a defibrillator in a decommissioned phone-box. Given the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025 date of Cornwall Council collating responses. A report should ideally come to the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Town Council meeting.

**Cornwall Councillor Jane Pascoe reported: -**

Cornwall and Town Cllr Jane Pascoe gave a tribute to Diane Ware. Diane, had been a long-term attendee and supporter of the Liskeard Town Forum. She was Secretary of SECTA for many years and always showed an interest in Liskeard and the surrounding area. She will be hugely missed by so many and our thoughts are with her family and friends at this sad and difficult time.

Speed cameras on the A38 are being introduced. Whilst we welcome these preliminary safety measures it is important to keep up the campaign for a dual carriageway and safer junctions at Looe and Menheniot.

The SE Cornwall CAP meeting was held in Liskeard on 4th March in the Library, representatives from the 29 Parishes were impressed with the facility.

The Police relayed that they have been pleased with the number of people using the pop in front desk facility.

The Saltash Tunnel Works are progressing well with minimum delays and a thank you to National Highways for keeping us informed about the lane closures. Please look out for the post card type posts on Facebook and in the parish magazines. Eastbound and Westbound Lane closures are between 8.00pm and 6.00am and the 2nd Phase will commence after the holiday period and into the Autumn.

The long-awaited gale breaker installation on the Market Canopy is near completion, but a few adjustments must be made. Further planting will be undertaken to act as a buffer on the other side of the canopy.

**– Cornwall Councillor Nick Craker reported: -**

- Number 11 bus route changes were announced recently. The route is being split in two, with one leg between Dobwalls and Plymouth which will have capacity to take a double decker bus at peak times to meet demand. It was very disappointing to see services cut between Liskeard and Bodmin. Nick and Jane had met with Cornwall Council and the bus operator to raise the concerns about this cut – the service is fully commercial, no public subsidy, so the decision is one for the operator alone. Nick and Jane continuing to campaign for a direct bus link to Derriford Hospital.
- Luxstowe House sale was continuing to progress with a preferred bidder, the intention was for a conversion into residential units, subject to planning.
- Cornwall Council owned farm on edge of Liskeard was being recommended for sale. 15 acres of the land has already had some tree planting on it and the Council were going to plant another 23 acres with grants from the Forestry Commission Woodland Creation. Cornwall Council has nearly 11,000 acres of farm land across Cornwall.

440 / 24        **CORRESPONDENCE** – a). 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Liskeard & District Sports Association (LDSA) letter (differed at LDSA request to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Council meeting – b). 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Route 11 Bus Changes. It was noted that the reduced frequency of one leg of the bus route should enable the use of a Double Deck bus, at certain times of the year, on the more busy Liskeard – Plymouth section of the route.

441 / 24        **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30 pm Council.

442 / 24 Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to go into **PART II**

**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 item of business:

**23. Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group** – To note the attached minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 meeting.

**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.

443 / 24        Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to come out of **PART II**