

## Liskeard Town Council

**AT A MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Mayor's Parlour Room on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty – in the chair

Councillors – Tracy Adams, David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Kerry Cassidy, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling, Ian Goldsworthy and Lori Reid.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson

Mayor's Chaplain – Teresa Conway.

Members of the Public – Trevor Newbury – Liskeard Royal British Legion (see agenda item 17.), C. Henwood – Liskeard Royal British Legion (see agenda item 17.), Lin Moore (Chair of the Liskeard Traders Association and local business owner), Sally Hawken – Manager – Liskerrett, Henry Kilgour – Resident, Pip Harris – Volunteer – Liskeard Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club, R Wade - 1st Steps Stroke Club, Wendy Wade – 1<sup>st</sup> Steps Stroke Club, - Jackie Long – resident – Bruce Hawken – Site Users – Margaret Hawken – “Switch Up” Liskerrett user.

Mayor's Chaplain Teresa Conway gave her observations on the difficulties facing those in service and life in general and the distractions that they face and invited the Council and members of the public to join her in the Lord's Prayer.

167 / 24      **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Simon Cassidy, Annette Lee-Julian, Jane Pascoe and Tony Powell.

168/ 24      **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – The Mayor – Chair of the Liskeard Area Memory Café - agenda item 6.

169 / 24      **MAYOR'S REMARKS** – The Mayor reported that she had attended the following:

- 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Ploughman's Festival – not as Mayor, but as a Lions' volunteer, I along with many others attended the Festival which the Town Council had supported with grant.
- 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – VJ Day - The Mayor joined members of the RNA and RBL to lay a wreath for VJ Day.
- 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Great Trethew – I attended Great Trethew and took part in the opening ceremony on the Sunday.
- 3rd September 2024 – South East Cornwall CAP – The Mayor attended the CAP meeting in the Millpool Centre down in Looe.
- 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – HMS Raleigh – the Mayor attended the passing out parade with Councillor David Braithwaite attending as Consort. Lunch was had with the Commanding Officer and inspecting officer before the parade.
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Scouts Fun Day – the Mayor attended the event in Castle Park.
- 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – attended a curry night at the Lighthouse Community Centre.
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Liskeard Unlocked Event – I visited several venues and took part in the “Crying the Neck” and attended the Ukrainian Live Link with our twin town Kopychynsi in the Public Hall.
- 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 - The Mayor attended the first official service of the new Vicar at St Martins Church Reverend Mark Wade.

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- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Workshed – joined Dan and other Councillors for a first birthday BBQ and held an informal meeting with the new MP Anna Gelderd to discuss points of interest thanking so many Councillors for attending.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 – Roman Catholic – the Mayor attended the first service with the new priest Fr. Cyriacus Uzochukwu.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 – Scouts AGM – The Mayor attended the AGM.

170 / 24      **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 COUNCIL MEETING** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Council meeting.

171 / 24      **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Henry Kilgour – Varley Lane Resident – said that the Town Council had let people down and taken their eye off the ball. Kerry Cassidy – Councillor – that is unfair the Town Councillors are volunteers. Stephen Vinson Town Clerk - indicated that no plans to close the access had been to the Town Council’s Planning Committee.

R. Wade + Wendy Wade – 1<sup>st</sup> Steps Stroke Club – claimed that there was inadequate management of the Liskerrett Centre parking meant that dropping off was not possible. Sally Hawken – Liskerrett Centre – said that it had not been their intention to actively monitor the use of the parking.

Other comments from the public confirmed the issues of the narrowness of Varley Lane, the need for residents vehicles to have access, the inconvenience and delays in using the alternative arrangements.

172 / 24      **TOWN CLERK UPDATE (ATTACHED)** – Following the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Town Council meeting at which the concerns and comments of the members of the public including residents and users and trustees of the Liskerrett Centre.

Also, placed on the screen was the response from Cornwall Council this indicated that in this and the following discussions it appeared that the alternative route across the cattle market/car park and ramp was considered not possible. The alternative options for Varley Lane were put on the screen and some were reported informally by highways not to be suitable.

It was appropriate to bring this item forward on the agenda to this point in the meeting.

173 / 24      **VARLEY LANE ACCESS – MOTION (ATTACHED) – 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTE 117/24** – The Town Clerk updated that an e-mail had been received from the Cornwall Council Property Service confirming that they had previously checked and no “byway” or “Public Right of Way” exists across the site and through the ramp. It was further reiterated that neither the Town Council nor its Planning Committee had approved plans to close the ramp. In fact Cornwall Council had said that the Liskerrett Centre had first been informed of the plans in early May, whilst the Town Council had only received formal notification on 17<sup>th</sup> July. A general discussion which followed:

Relevant Points Raised –

60 week - Construction Period – given the length of the construction contract, were there phases that might allow the access and car parking issues to be looked at again within that period.

Non-Compliant Ramp – if the ramp was going to be improved at the end of the construction programme of the Integrated Services Hub, why not improve the ramp at an earlier date that might assist with the access and car parking 60 week construction period issue.

Mini Bus – whether the provision of a Mini Bus type of vehicle would assist in ferrying older people, the disabled and people with medical conditions.

Following discussion and consideration of the item Councillor Brooks proposed and Councillor Goldsworthy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED**: 1). to seek an urgent meeting with the relevant Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder to discuss this issue and find a way forward including community consultation. 2). to investigate legal advice on whether the closure of the byway is legal and report back to the next meeting. 3). If there has not been significant movement with Cornwall Council within the next 2 weeks to convene a formal meeting to consider making a formal complaint to Cornwall Council the complaint: “that there was no meaningful consultation, the closure has an unacceptable impact and that there was a need to enable safe walking routes and suitable parking especially for people with disabilities and limited mobility”. 4). if there is no satisfactory resolution to this complaint to convene a meeting and consider an appeal to the Local Government Ombudsman.

The Mayor thanked members of the public for attending for that section of the Council agenda and now invited them to stay or leave for the remainder of the meeting. During this period an incident occurred approximately, one and a quarter hours into the meeting which was suspended.

174 / 24      **GRANT APPLICATIONS** – Liskeard Area Memory Café – Councillor K Cassidy proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £500 to hold the Christmas Memory Café event to which other groups in the town are invited.

175 / 24      **COMMITTEE MEETINGS – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communications & Engagement Committee held on 12th September 2024.

176 / 24      **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES)** – Noted.

177 / 24      **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments.

178 / 24      **BUDGET MONITORING 2024/2025** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the budget monitoring report.

179 / 24      **EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2023/2024** – It was noted that RFO and Accounts Clerk had worked hard to achieve the result. Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the External Auditors Report and Certificate 2023/2024.

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180 / 24      **AUDIO EQUIPMENT - PUBLIC HALL – FACILITIES COMMITTEE 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 – REFERRED TO COUNCIL (ATTACHED)** – Councillor Braithwaite proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the replacement of damaged and missing equipment to bring the Public Hall’s audio system back to full functionality for meetings and larger events at an estimated cost of £5,500 + VAT. The costs to be met from the Public Hall Equipment and IT budget (£2,000) and Large Projects Reserve (£3,500).

181 / 24      **DEPUTY MAYOR – 2024/25** – The Mayor reported that a single nomination for Deputy Mayor has been received. Councillor Pascoe had proposed and the Mayor had seconded the nomination of Councillor Braithwaite for Deputy Mayor. Councillor Braithwaite had signed the form accepting his nomination. The Mayor proposed, Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the appointment of Councillor Braithwaite as the Deputy Mayor.

182 / 24      **MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – Following discussion as to the function of Pub Watch Councillor K Cassidy proposed, Councillor Adams seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of this item pending the receipt of further information on the Pub Watch scheme.

183 / 24      **VETERANS, RESERVISTS, AND FAMILY HUB – LISKEARD. ARMED FORCES COVENANT (ATTACHED)** – in recognition of the importance of this group to the town of Liskeard and wider catchment area Councillor Dorling proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to offer free monthly meetings at the Public Hall to encourage the setting up of a Veterans, Reservists and Family Hub in Liskeard.

184 / 24      **NOTICE OF VACANCY – LISKEARD CENTRAL WARD (ATTACHED)** – Councillor Reid proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Council **APPROVED** should the election be contested the use of Polling Cards at an estimated cost of £4,200 to come from the “Elections Reserve”.

185 / 24      **CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATES** – **Cornwall Councillor Jane Pascoe reports was read by the Mayor:** My sincere apologies for not joining you this evening. Regretfully, I have a diary clash and I am required to attend a meeting between residents Suez and Cornwall Council. The Clerk has kindly offered to read my report. I am pleased to report that Cornwall Council has decided to reinstate the collection of Household DIY Waste and tyres at the Connon Bridge HWRC facility. This has come about following my strong representation outlining that the consequences of the previous decision was far reaching and resulted in a notable increase in fly-tipping in the countryside. I have thanked the officers for listening to my concerns and I am now certain this is the correct decision.

I was delighted to be invited to St Martins for the Installation and Induction of Rev Mark Wade by the Bishop of St Germans and the Archdeacon of Bodmin. The congregation welcomed the new vicar and his family to the parochial parishes of Liskeard, St Keyne and the United Church of Dobwalls. I wish them a long and happy stay here in Liskeard.

I was hugely disappointed and very worried that a decision was made by the Government to stop Winter Fuel Payments to all pensioners. It sends a strong message to me that they fail to understand the difficulties encountered by elderly people living in rural areas. Many of these people live in older properties, they have no efficient heating, no double glazing and their homes are cold and damp. In addition to the punitive standing charge the fuel costs are higher than the

average modern property. Elderly residents living in rural areas have other expenses such as costs to run a vehicle as often there aren't adequate public transport services to allow them to access healthcare, goods and services.

I am advising all pensioners to apply for pension credit, they may be eligible, if they need help go to CAB or contact me, I ask everyone to keep a look out for vulnerable neighbours and anyone struggling this winter.

SE Cornwall CAP meeting was held on 3rd September in Looe and was very well attended. Thank you to the Mayor for attending to represent Liskeard Parish.

Officers from National Highways had agreed to attend to outline the essential Tunnel Works that will commence at the end of November and continue for at least 9 months. Clear information will be released shortly, I have asked all 29 parishes to put out the messages in their newsletters and magazines for residents to think about booking medical appointments at Derriford outside of peak times and to plan journeys leaving time for delays. This is a huge investment, and it will future proof the tunnel and improve the traffic flow once the work is complete

I am pleased to report the Integrated Care Board (ICB) have given approval for the operational expansion of Primary Health care in Liskeard at Rosedean Surgery. With the growing number of houses that are being provided and the expected number to increase this will provide more health services in Liskeard.

Finally, I was pleased to be invited to the 1st Birthday celebration at the Workshed. It was interesting to talk to the resident businesses, many of them young professionals about their modern work practices. Thank you to Daniel Sturrock for his enthusiasm and hard work making the Workshed a vibrant and welcoming hub.

– **Cornwall Councillor Nick Craker reported:** - Cornwall Council were continuing with the process to update the Cornwall Local Plan. The Governments' planning policy changes mean a significant increase in the housebuilding target for Cornwall. The recent call for sites activity undertaken by Cornwall Council did not produce enough land to meet the new housing target even if it all came forward for development.

186 / 24      **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – To be reported to the next Council meeting.

187 / 24      **CORRESPONDENCE** – Cornwall Air Ambulance letter of thanks to the Councillor S Cassidy for the donation of £555.84 from the 2023/2024 year Mayor's Charity.

188 / 24      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30 pm Council.

189 / 24 Councillor Craker proposed, Councillor K Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to go into **PART II**

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**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:

23. Roundbury Sports Pitches and Associated Facilities Project – Feedback on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 meeting with Wain Homes and the landowners and the Town Council’s agent.

24. Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group – No August meeting was held of the Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group.

**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.

190 / 24      The Mayor proposed, Councillor Craker seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the resolution made in **PARTII** namely,

23. Roundbury Sports Pitches and Associated Facilities Project – That the planning policy / affordable housing policy situation as it is developing is monitored and feed into as it develops.

24. Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group – Noted