

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT A MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held remotely on Tuesday 25th August 2020 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Rachel Brooks – in the chair.

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Sandra Mitchell.

Councillors – David Ambler, Ian Barlow, Simon Cassidy, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, Sue Shand, Julian Smith, Naomi Taylor and Christina Whitty.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson

Mayors Chaplain Substitute – Andy Day

Facilities Manager - Jacqui Orange

Members of the Public – Adam Birchall (Cornwall Council – Head of Sustainable Development) and Nick Craker (Cornwall Councillor).

Andy Day told a story and led the council and members of the public in saying prayers for the town and council.

106/20 APOLOGIES – Councillors Anna Clarke and Ian Goldsworthy.

107/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE – Councillor Smith declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 Policy for contracts involving Councillors. Councillor Ambler declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 Policy for contracts involving Councillors and Agenda Item 15 IT Equipment. Deputy Mayor declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 IT Equipment.

108/20 MAYOR'S REMARKS – “I was away for VJ day and I'd like to thank Simon very much for organising the Town Council's wreath and Sandra and Simon for representing the Town Council at the ceremony at the war memorial.

The Ploughman's Festival market was the same day and was the first event in the Cattle Market events space. I gather that was very successful and again I'd like to thank Sandra for taking part in the opening on behalf of the Town Council and expressing our gratitude to Champions for donating the planters and soil and to Liskeard in Bloom for arranging and planting the planters. Many thanks also to Simon and the other councillors and staff who ran the Town Council stall promoting plastic free messages.

Before I went away I was asked to do some publicity with Wildanet around their new mast on the public hall which has brought gigabit connection speeds to Liskeard. They didn't warn me in advance that this meant climbing 5 ladders to a height of 60 metres, but I survived the experience and was happy to help support one of our growing number of technology and digital creative companies.

As you will have seen we received an email from a woman with a disability thanking us for the well-equipped disabled toilet in Westbourne car park. She noted it had been smartened up and she described it as spotlessly clean. I'd like to thank Jacqui and the team for this and in particular our cleaner Julie and regular relief cleaner Cheriese for the excellent job they have been doing. They are literally on the front line of our response to the pandemic.

You will know that Anna has not been able to attend meetings recently due to her home situation and I've agreed with her a leave of absence until that is resolved.

Talking to several councillors recently has made me more aware of how the pandemic has been affecting us all in different ways. That, combined with the need to meet remotely, can make discussions more abrasive and intolerant. I can't be the only one who has found the atmosphere of recent meetings unpleasant at times. I'd like to appeal to everyone to think carefully about how they make their points and, as chair, I will do my very best to foster a positive approach in which we can agree or disagree constructively."

109/20 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 28TH JULY 2020 COUNCIL MEETING: – Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Shand seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28th July 2020.

110/20 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 6TH AUGUST 2020 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: – Subject to the inclusion of "and other key documents" at Minute 107/20, the Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 6th August 2020.

111/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

112/20 TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE – The agenda contains the outstanding items.

113/20 COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES: a) Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **RATIFY** the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 13th July 2020. b) Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Powell seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **RATIFY** the minutes of the Facilities Committee held on Tuesday 21st July 2020.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO) REPORTS 8 - 12

114/20 RFO REPORT – (for information) to include bank balances, Councillor verification of bank reconciliations (April – June 2020) and submission of external audit. The report on balances and reconciliations was noted with recognition of the difficulty and necessity under current circumstances.

115/20 ANNUAL REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the updated Financial Regulations including the recommendation of the Internal Auditor.

116/20 BUDGET MONITORING 2020/2021 (31ST JULY 2020) – to receive and accept. Following guidance that the Town Council had booked to attend the Cornwall Council / CALC organised meeting on 9th September on the drawing down of Government funding to support income lost through Covid19, the Mayor proposed, Councillor Smith seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the budget monitoring report.

117/20 AGED DEBTOR – In response to a question on the composition of the Miscellaneous element, it was noted that the Council's CCTV system had received grant support from Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Cornwall Council which was paid on a phased basis. The Mayor proposed, Councillor Shand seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the report.

118/20 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS – Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments.

Following discussion, it was considered beneficial to bring forward consideration of the PARTII item. The Mayor proposed, Councillor Smith seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to go into PARTII

119/20 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:

TENCREEK FARM – to receive the information and the feedback from those present at the meeting.

120/20 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 Cassidy proposed, Councillor Hawken seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the course of action agreed in PARTII.

121/20 COMMUNITY LEAD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CLLD) CATTLE MARKET MAKERS PROJECT – a) to note progress on the application since the Special Council meeting 12th May 2020 approval of the application form for submission. The Mayor spoke to the written reports drawing attention to the supporting paper (13.a. Cattle Market Makers Project) to explain the nature of the project.

The Council noted the progress which had been made.

b) to consider whether the Cattle Market Makers project application be changed or abandoned in the light of the changed circumstances caused by Covid19. The supporting papers were considered and discussed. Adam Birchall (Cornwall Council Head of Sustainable Development) spoke to provide guidance and in answer to some specific questions. As below:

- Waste collections were they being accommodated within the scheme? – Yes, confirmed as an important property management consideration.
- What protection would the Town Council have in the event of a super bid being received by a prospective purchaser after a relaxation of the planning regulations? – Assuming that the planning regulations were relaxed, the lease has specific provisions such as the “user clause” and most particularly the “break clause”.
- Covid19 will impact the situation in an evolving way, given this “flexibility” is necessary, is this scheme sufficiently flexible? – The use of a moveable type of workspace was intended to provide flexibility for the site. Experience is showing in Penzance and Truro that this type of small scale space workspace based closely on local identified demand was proving both popular and far more reliable than many “high street” names.
- Local experience shows there is a demand for premises, which would be much more effective linked to the provision of advice and support.
- One of the economic impacts of the current situation is likely to be increased demand for the project. The educational provision in the project should improve life opportunities. It was important for the legal implications to be understood.

- The flow of funding is complex. Does it need to be so? Is it compliant? Is this a risk? – The organisations were specifically set up to assist in maximising the draw down of funds. It is compliant in its set up.
- It was important that the units were not let to tenants that would use them for storage or be present infrequently – The letting policy would include criteria for tenants to make sure the workshops were being used in line with the project aims.

In consideration of the written reports and the discussion above, Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Shand seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to confirm that the Cattle Market Makers project should proceed.

c) to agree next steps on the project - following discussion, the comments provided by Councillor Julian Smith to use when requesting legal advice shall be circulated to all councillors. Any useful comments not already been received to be sent to the Town Clerk for possible consideration.

d) to consider whether the Town Council and partners should seek to carry out more projects to support the town in the recovery from the Covid-19 recession. – Noted. Any additional proposals should include consideration of the impact upon the Council including officer time.

22.11 Councillor Ambler and Councillor Smith were excluded from the meeting at this point.

122/20 POLICY FOR CONTRACTS INVOLVING COUNCILLORS – to receive and approve the attached report. - During discussion, the possible raising of the figures to £1,000 per annum was proposed by Councillor Pascoe and seconded by Councillor Whitty. The vote was not supported. Councillor Shand proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the policy as set out in the report.

123/20 IT EQUIPMENT – to report the requirements for IT equipment to be loaned to councillors and staff. Councillor Hawken proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the report and fund it from the General Reserve.

124/20 CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS – Noted.

125/20 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATES – any more detailed reports could come by e-mail.

Councillor Pascoe – Liskeard – Looe Valley Branch Line said that Chris Heaton-Harris MP Minister of State at the Department of Transport had travelled on the Liskeard – Looe Valley branch line in the previous week to show support for branch-line services

Councillor Craker – Highways Budget Year 4 Bids – suggested that as Bay Tree Hill be submitted as a year 4 bid.

Persimmon Phase 4 – negotiations were now complete. Allotments featured as part of an earlier phase and to bring about their provision it was suggested that the Town Council be involved with the discussions.

Persimmon – Local Centre – Initially, the site was identified as a B1 office. Again It was felt beneficial to supply details and discuss possible interventions.

Councillor Hawken – in her role as cabinet member for children and wellbeing had been spending a lot of time on the local discussion of the A-level and GCSE grading issue and the preparations to reopen of schools.

126/20 CORRESPONDENCE – Looe Town Council e-mail dated 18th August 2020 regarding the Looe – Liskeard Valley Branch Line. It was noted that GWR press office had provided a statement. It was considered that a letter supporting the branch -line might be appropriate.

127/20 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 29th September 2020 at 7.30pm.