

Liskeard Town Council

AT A MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held remotely on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Rachel Brooks – in the chair

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

Mayor's Chaplain – Reverend Rebecca Bell

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson

Responsible Financial Officer and Deputy Town Clerk - Yvette Hayward

Facilities Manager – Jacqui Orange

Members of the Public – Nick Craker (Cornwall Councillor) and Kerenza Moore (Cornish Times - Correspondent).

368 / 20 **APOLOGIES** – The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Sandra Mitchell, Councillors Ian Barlow, Ian Goldsworthy and Tony Powell.

369 / 20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – None.

370 / 20 **MAYOR'S REMARKS** – I'm sorry to have to announce the sad news that one of our honoured burgesses, Don Howlett, has died. Don received an MBE for services to Liskeard, particularly in relation to the Silver Band, and was made an honoured burgess in 2006. My thoughts are with his family.

I hope you and your families are all safe and well as we do the best we can through lockdown. That's obviously meant changes for our services, staff and tenants too and we'll be talking about some of that later.

We had a good discussion at Communications and Engagement about the Christmas activities that were able to go ahead safely, and in response to suggestions from David and others I've now written to the Lights Up team, the Lions and Becca Jayne to thank them for their dedication and imagination in finding ways to brighten up our town in the festive season. I've also made a donation from the Mayor's allowance to Relay for Life in recognition of Becca Jayne's work. I'd like to thank Simon for all the coordination he did around Christmas activities which meant the Town Council played a very positive role in helping them to go ahead.

As you may know, access to the right equipment for online learning is still a real problem for many school students and I'm delighted that, via our stewardship of the Philip Blamey Trust, we've been able to pay for 12 laptops for year 7 and 8 students at Liskeard School, and separately for another laptop for a year 11 student.

You may have seen in the news that Nicole Broadhurst, the Mayor of Penzance, has been subject to racist abuse and harassment because unauthorised union flags were taken down in Penzance. I wrote to her as soon as I heard to express my sympathy and support and the Mayors' zoom group agreed last week to write jointly to say that we stand with her against this hateful behaviour, which absolutely does not represent most people in Cornwall.

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Finally, a brief update on our town revitalisation bids, which are progressing well. I know Yvette circulated everyone to say that the active travel bid has passed the first checks and will be considered shortly by Cornwall Council. Steve and I met again with the Cornwall Council officers who are helping us with the employment land bid and we hope to bring a paper to full council in February which can then go to the Cornwall Council DLT meeting shortly afterwards.

371 / 20 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 22ND DECEMBER 2020 AND 7TH JANUARY 2021 MEETINGS** – With the inclusion of “proposed” to Minute 313/20 the Mayor proposed, Councillor Smith seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd December 2020. The Mayor proposed, Councillor Shand seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2021.

372 / 20 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None.

373 / 20 **CATTLE MARKET UPDATE** – a) Following consideration of the written update, it was agreed that the draft list of groups and organisations to be consulted should be obtained from the consultant as the Town Council might suggest additional participants. b) It was noted that good progress had been made at the Design Group meeting the previous evening. The circulated designs were a sound basis for progressing the scheme. Any further comments should be sent to the Town Clerk for forwarding to the company. c) Lease – Subject to the inclusion of a form of text clarifying the relationship between the lease and the collaboration agreement at 11.1, Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the lease.

374 / 20 **TOWN CLERK’S UPDATE** – None, additional to the written reports.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO) REPORTS (8-11)

375 / 20 **RFO REPORT** – (for information – including bank balances, reserves and Philip Blamey Trust update). Noted.

376 / 20 **BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2020** – The Council received and accepted the budget report to 31 December 2020 for monitoring purpose.

377 / 20 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2021/2022** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to agree a). a total budget of £510,181 for the 2021/2022 financial year and b). set a precept of £455,738.

378 / 20 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Shand seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Schedule of Payments.

379 / 20 **STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** – Subject to changing Chairman to Chair at item 4.5, Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Smith seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to extend the delegated permission for an additional 3 months.

380 / 20 COMMITTEE MEETINGS – MINUTES AND MOTIONS ARISING:

- a) Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Shand seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communications & Engagement committee held on 12th January 2021.

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b) **MOTIONS: Minute 332/20 Recycling Survey** – Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Hawken seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the actions (as set out in the Town Clerks report) recommend by the Communications & Engagement Committee following its consideration of the survey.

381 / 20 **POLICY REVIEWS** i) Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Shand seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the revised Communications Policy.

ii) Councillor Shand proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Social Media policy.

iii) Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Shand seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Community Engagement Strategy.

382 / 20 **PERSIMMON HOMES – TRANSFER OF THE FREEHOLD OWNERSHIP OF A PIECE OF LAND TO THE TOWN COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ALLOTMENTS (SEE ATTACHED)** – Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Smith seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the transfer of the ownership of the land to serve as allotments (including a mobility impaired allotment provision), subject to meeting the agreed requirements.

383 / 20 **HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE** – Noted.

384 / 20 **CORNWALL COUNCIL – CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW 2020** – Councillor Cassidy proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the revised Code of Conduct.

385 / 20 **RACE EQUALITY FORUM** – Details had been previously circulated to all Councillors. Councillors Sue Shand and David Ambler both expressed an interest in attending. The Town Clerk would send an e-mail to all councillors to seek support.

386 / 20 **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – Noted.

387 / 20 **CORNWALL COUNCIL COUNCILLOR UPDATES** – Councillor Nick Craker – Environment Services - Grass Cutting Meeting with all three Cornwall Councillors – to consider next seasons' schedule of works. The hope being to benefit from the introduction of the new Grillo without timetabling issues. Councillors were asked to let Nick know of anything they wanted covered. It was confirmed that included grass cutting at certain junctions to improve road safety. The Mayor was welcome to attend.

Estates & Transportation Briefing – work was continuing on the scoping of possible services to include in an Integrated Services Hub in the town.

Car Parking Charges – he had raised at Cornwall Council, the benefits of having targeted free parking as a part of a post lockdown recovery. It was felt that there might be merit in the putting forward a local proposal. A discussion involving the Town Council, Cornwall Council and the Town Forum would be a good way to progress this.

St Martins Field – he had been contacted by a number of people who believed that the field had been sold to a supermarket chain. He explained that it was still Cornwall Council owned and protected as an educational site.

Councillor Jane Pascoe – Community Network Panel - Old Road / West Street traffic calming scheme will go for public consultation mid-February. Jane stressed the benefits of talking to Primary Schools parents about the proposals.

Winter Warmer initiative – was welcomed by Jane. Some elderly residents would normally use community hall type buildings for warmth in the winter because they are not able to afford to use their central heating at home.

Car Parking Charges – supported the proposal from Nick. This was much needed.

Councillor Sally Hawken – Public Health – thanked the Town Council for the timely posting of Public Health info. The Additional Restriction Grant needs to be applied for before 31st January 2021 if this could also be posted.

Cattle Market Working Party – meeting tomorrow to receive update reports including Phase 2.

Maudlin Farm – a link-up between the new footpath and existing road and footpath network was being planned. Town Council involvement would be welcome as it would connect to the Maudlin Farm amenity land which will be managed by the Town Council.

Laptop Shortage – Sally has been working on trying to overcome some of the Cornwall wide shortage of 2,000 laptops by working with the BBC initiative and looking free up any under used stock within Cornwall Council. The initiative by the Philip Blamey Trust is a welcome local contribution.

Winter Covid Grant – this would be used during the February half term to cover school and college free meals. It could additionally be used to covering heating bills.

Vaccinations – a lot of interest and questions from members of the public. The NHS website contains a lot of information and is being updated. All the care homes in Liskeard have been done. By mid-February, other priority groups should be vaccinated.

388 / 20 **CORRESPONDENCE** - 16th December 2020 (deferred from 22nd December 2020 Council) – Cornwall Council – RIO have not been successful in securing ERDF funding for their proposals for the Library. 25th February 2021 Cornwall Council – “are working with RIO to review all the funding options available to ensure Phase 1 of the library works. This would include a wind and watertight building with an operating library service to be implemented within the agreed timeframes. It is intended that a report will go to cabinet members mid-February. This report will present the options and all the associated risks. There are a number of applications and expression of interest made for funding to plug the ERDF funding gap. The Town Council will receive a full update asap.”

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It was considered that the Town Clerk, Councillors David Ambler and Julian Smith would enquire regarding the reasons for the ERDF bid not being successful. The next steps with the Library should be included as an item on the Town Council agenda.

389 / 20 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** - 23rd February 2021 at 7.30 pm

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to go into **PARTII.**

390 / 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 items of Business:

22. **STAFF WORKING ARRANGEMENTS** – update for information

23. **GUILDHALL TENANTS** – a) to update on the situation regarding rent collection and the trading figures and grants/loans received by tenants seeking another rent suspension and during the Covid lockdown. b) (attachment 23.b.ii) to report the internal auditor’s advice that Council note and ratify the rent suspensions since March 2020.

391 / 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.

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the decisions made in PARTII.

392 / 20 **STAFF WORKING ARRANGEMENTS** – noted.

393 / 20 **GUILDHALL TENANTS** – a). That the Council provide further support to tenants whose business have been directly impacted by the latest national COVID-19 restrictions and that the Council offer a one-month rent suspension to those tenants, reviewed monthly thereafter and that this decision is delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Facilities Committee. b) That the Council note the internal auditor’s advice and ratify the rent suspensions since March 2020.