

## Liskeard Town Council

**AT A MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Emily Hobhouse Room on Tuesday 29 August 2023 at 7.30 p.m. there were included:

The Mayor – Councillor Simon Cassidy – in the chair

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty

Councillors – David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Annette Lee-Julian, Lori Reid, Tony Powell and Julian Smith.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson

Facilities Manager – Jacqui Orange

Mayors' Chaplain – Theresa Conway – Salvation Army.

Members of the Public – Pip Harris (Liskeard resident), Fern Lief Elliott (Sole Trader), Tracy Adams - (Business Owner "Jane Louise" – Liskeard Traders Association / Liskeard Traders Town Projects Ltd. and Lin Moore – (Business Owner "The Shoe Shop" Liskeard Traders Association / Liskeard Traders Town Projects Ltd.

The Mayor's Chaplain spoke about the issue of Modern Slavery and the support that the Salvation Army is providing through a government contract. Cornwall suffers from the issue with tourist and catering industries in which Modern Slavery can occur. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in instances and as much as 40% can involve children. A guidance note on what steps to take was circulated. The Mayor's Chaplain then said a prayer for the town and those working to improve it.

184 / 23      **APOLOGIES** – Councillors David Ambler, Kerry Cassidy, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling, Ian Goldsworthy, Jane Pascoe and Naomi Taylor.

185 / 23      **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – Deputy Mayor Agenda Item 11 Schedule of Payments, Cheque 121 - Councillors Braithwaite and Lee-Julian – Agenda Item 12 volunteers working on the project.

186 / 23      **MAYOR'S REMARKS** – The Mayor explained that he had asked the Mayor's Chaplain to look into issues impacting local people and report on actions being undertaken and possible things that could be done should anyone see someone in that situation (e.g. a homeless person or a victim of modern slavery):

- 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Rose Ramwell – the Mayor met with Rose on her return from the World Scout Jamboree in Korea. Rose was keen to speak to the town about her experiences. Something appropriate will be organized.
- The Mayor welcomed Councillor Powell back following his leg injury.
- Christmas Lights - The Mayor thanked those Councillors who had been involved in both the organisation of the current Lights Up, and the assessment of the options and next steps and Survey results being considered that evening.
- Great to hear that Rowlands Fair is looking to return to Liskeard.

187 / 23      **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE A) 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 COUNCIL MEETING** – Subject to revising Minute 126/23 to a first-year budget £20,000, Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Lee-Julian seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

188 / 23      **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE B) 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** – Councillor Brathwaite proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

189 / 23      **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE C) 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** – Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

The Mayor indicated that the presentation and discussion of the preferred contractor at agenda item 12 Christmas Lights be brought forward on the agenda to assist in the consideration of the item.

190 / 23      **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – The preferred Contractor (through remote means) spoke to their tender and answered the questions from Councillors. The Facilities Manager and Chair of the Facilities Committee spoke to the original specification.

- Compliant Lighting and Fixings – these must be compliant to ensure that they are covered by insurance against possible accidents.
- Listed Buildings – the necessity of obtaining permissions from the Planning authority meant that these would take longer to bring into the overall integrated lighting display and would be available from the second year onwards.
- Lighting Displays Stock Selection – whilst a core lighting display would be provided in the initial year, in subsequent years a greater range of additional light design would be available (subject to an early decision on the part of the Council).
- Pike Street - It was noted that Councillor Goldsworthy did not support the option of adding additional lighting to the property owned by his family as he did not want to appear to have benefitted from the project.
- Value of Christmas Lighting – it was considered that the sense of community and wellbeing was as important as the economic benefits of retaining retail and service footfall.
- Survey Monkey consultation - The survey has been promoted widely in the Cornish Times and on social media, with paper copies also available at the Town Council office and Tourist Information Centre. 581 responses were received, with 75% in favour of increasing the precept to pay for Christmas lights. (\* extra 11p a week on the average Council tax)
- Liskeard Lights Up – it was accepted that for decades the volunteers (and those businesses that had supported them and with Town Council grant) had done a tremendous job of lighting up Liskeard. However, the reduced number of volunteers, the difficulty of raising voluntary financial contributions and the need to update a significant proportion of the lighting stock meant that it would be more cost effective for the Town Council to take over the funding of the lights and award a contract over several years.

191 / 23        **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** – Following consideration, Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the appointment of Contractor A to provide Christmas lights (including hire, installation, removal and storage) for a three year period with an overall budget of £52,026. It is accepted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years may require revision in the light of the impact of external factors, such as, Listed Buildings consent etc.

192 / 23        **TOWN CLERKS UPDATE** – The decision on selecting “Cornwall Flat Roofing” as the contractor to repair the flat roof was supported.

193 / 23        **COMMITTEE MEETING – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

- a. Councillor Lee-Julian proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- b. Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Facilities Committee.

194 / 23        **RFO REPORTS – (FOR INFORMATION - BANK BALANCES AND CATTLE MARKET MAKERS PROJECT FINANCIAL UPDATE)** – The report was noted.

195 / 23        **BUDGET MONITORING 2023/2024** – Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Reid seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the budget report to 30 June 2023.

196 / 23        **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – Councillor Lee-Julian proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve Schedule of Payments.

197 / 23        **STAFF HANDBOOK – VOLUNTEERING POLICY (MINUTE 133/23 – SEE ATTACHED A). REVISED STAFF HANDBOOK AND B). TIME OFF VOLUNTEERING POLICY)** – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Braithwaite seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the revised Staff Handbook and Time off Volunteering Policy that Work Nest have produced.

198 / 23        **CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATES** – No Councillors present.

199 / 23        **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – Noted

200 / 23        **CORRESPONDENCE** – The Mayor indicated that the Mayor of Quimperle and four others would be coming to Liskeard Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There would be discussions about future visits between the 3 representatives of the French sports and activities and their Liskeard counterparts.

201 / 23        **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 pm Council.

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to go into **PART II**

**202 / 23        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 – Demand and Implementation Assessment for the Provision of Sports Pitches and Related Recreational Facilities (see attached “Demand and Implementation Assessment” - Consultants Report) – To accept the report and work with partners to carry out the recommended Option 2 at Roundbury.**

19. **Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group – To note the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 meeting.**

**203 / 23 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.**

204 / 23 The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the resolutions made in PARTII namely,

**18. Roundbury – Demand and Implementation Assessment for the Provision of Sports Pitches and Related Recreational Facilities – (see attached “Demand and Implementation Assessment” – That the Town Council accept the report and works with partners to carry out the recommended Option 2 at Roundbury.**