

## Liskeard Town Council

**AT A MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held remotely on Tuesday 30 March 2021 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, Simon Cassidy, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, 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 – Clare Bevan (Lighthouse Community Centre CIC - Grant applicant), Ian Calvert (Wildanet – Chief Executive Officer - Liskeard Internet Company), Nick Craker (Cornwall Councillor), Jesse Foot (Cornwall Councillor), Amanda Pennington (Wildanet – Wayleaves Manager), RS and Peter Woodward – Director at Sterts Arts and Environment Centre – Grant applicant).

463 / 20 **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Ian Barlow and Ian Goldsworthy.

464 / 20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON-REGISTERABLE** – None.

465 / 20 **MAYOR’S REMARKS** – Welcome to spring. I hope you have been able to enjoy the recent sunshine. I’d like to thank everyone who has been spring cleaning our town, which is making a huge difference and I’m sure is not only linked to the upcoming elections.

I’d also like to give a huge thank you to the staff, especially Vicky and Mandy who have done such a great job with the virtual Community Fair. It has showcased some wonderful organisations providing services and support to our local community.

Looking forward to the autumn we have some exciting plans for Liskeard Unlocked, whatever the restrictions in place at that time, combining the best of the outdoor and virtual events from last year with an opportunity to explore new buildings, including Westbourne House. Brian Oldham and I were lucky enough to have a tour with Ian Calvert this afternoon and it will be a fascinating addition to the event this year.

Finally, I’d like to update you on news about how we meet. At our February meeting we voted to write to the Cabinet Office to ask for an extension to the time when virtual meetings can be held. For reasons which are quite inexplicable to me, the government is still refusing to extend this beyond 7 May. Lawyers in Local Government and others have been to court to argue that virtual meetings should be allowed under the existing legislation. If they are successful we would be able to choose to keep holding virtual meetings. The judgement is expected in the week commencing 19 April. It’s reckoned to be a fifty-fifty chance.

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In case it is not successful Sarah Mason from CALC is drawing up a plan. In person meetings would be needed in May (election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor) and June (audit). But councils could choose to hold other council and committee meetings virtually using a scheme of delegation and protocol about how to consult in a virtual way. She is working on this and getting it legally checked. We should be prepared to have this on the agenda for 27 April in case the court case fails. We obviously all want to meet again in person when it's safe to do so but this plan would give us some choices about whether to hold all meetings in person or not. We'll obviously keep everyone informed as the situation develops.

466 / 20 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2021 MEETING** – The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

467 / 20 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Ian Calvert (Wildanet – Chief Executive Officer - Liskeard Internet Company. Spoke to a presentation key points of which were:

- An independently owned and operated Gigabyte fibre and wi fii system for Liskeard and Cornwall offered great opportunities for digital connectivity.
- Wildanet – were now a local Liskeard based company operating from Westbourne House and providing 50 jobs.
- Opportunities for joint working at the Town and Parish level on digital connectivity including support for those facing digital inclusion issues.

The Mayor thanked Ian Calvert for the tour of the Wildanet base at Westbourne House which was extremely positive and interesting.

Amanda Pennington (Wildanet – Wayleaves Manager) spoke briefly to a possible selection of Wildanet as the IT contractor for the cattle market business units. It was noted that subject, to the competitive tendering requirements of the any grant funding support for the project, Wildanet could be included in the procurement process.

Peter Woodward – Director at Sterts Arts and Environmental Centre – Grant applicant). Spoke in support of the application for the “Changing Places” toilet project. In particular,

- Clare Milne Trust – a specialist Trust for supporting disability related projects. They had been extremely generous in providing the majority of the funding needed.
- Opening – as much of the project funding is now in place, they are hoping to be open and operational as soon as practical after lockdown.

Clare Bevan (Lighthouse Community Centre CIC - Grant applicant), in response to questions on the grant application from Councillors responded as below.

- Availability – confirmed that the initiative was not limited to members of the existing client group but would be more widely available. Some referrals from GP's had already been received.

- Other Provision – Clare has tried to make contact with the Liskeard Fire Station as suggested by the Town Council. However, she has not so far being able.
- Zero Suicide Alliance – was commended as an excellent guide to what provision there might be, Clare agreed to check.
- Accounts – there was concern regarding the previous year’s accounts. It was explained that the purchase of certain items was front loaded into that year which should not be an issue in the current year.

The Deputy Mayor declared an interest as an employee of the Lighthouse CIC

468 / 20 **GRANT APPLICATIONS** – a) Sterts Arts & Environmental Centre (Changing Places Toilet) - Councillor Shand proposed, Councillor Hawken seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £500. b) Lighthouse Community Centre CiC – (Men’s Mental Health Club) – following discussion, Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Smith seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £1,500. That the situation be reviewed in 3 months

469 / 20 **CATTLE MARKET UPDATE** – a) Written report was noted. It was added that JTP were still working on the results of the community uses public consultation. b) Specialist advice on State Aids – Noted. c) Cattle Market Makers working group – confirmed to produce draft terms of reference for consideration at the next Council meeting.

470 / 20 **TOWN CLERK’S UPDATE** – Noted. That the Mayor attend the initial meeting of the Looe Valley Trail Design group.

#### **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO) REPORTS (9-13)**

471 / 20 **RFO REPORT** – (for information – including bank balances and grants received). Noted.

#### **472 / 20 BUDGET MONITORING TO 28 FEBRUARY 2021 –**

- To receive and accept a draft budget report to 28 February 2021 for Monitoring Purposes – The Mayor proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Budget report.
- To approve the transfer of budget provisions in 2020/2021 for Electoral Expenses (4310) £2,125 and CCTV dilapidations (4360) £5,000 to the existing Election Reserve (326) and a new CCTV earmarked reserve. Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer.
- To approve the transfer of earmarked reserves (Youth Fund £5,000, Match Funding £6,750 and Foresters Hall grant £25,000) to the general reserve for use in other projects as they emerge. Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer.

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473 / 20 **AGED DEBTORS** – Following confirmation that this was not a small local business, Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to enforce the judgement and ask the court to collect payment (fee £35).

474 / 20 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS** – Councillor Taylor proposed, Councillor Cassidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Schedule of Payments.

475 / 20 **TELEPHONE CONTRACT** – Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to extend the telephone contract for a further 3 years.

476 / 20 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS – MINUTES:**

- a) Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.
- b) Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and ratify the decisions of the Planning Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- c) Councillor Cassidy proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Communications & Engagement Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

477 / 20 **MEETINGS SCHEDULE – ANNUAL MEETING, INFORMAL COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

**CHOOSING** a) Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Shand seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the recommendations of the Communications & Engagement Committee that the public presentations and prize giving normally hosted at the Annual Meeting be deferred until later in the year when it might be held more safely and with expanded participation.

b) Cornwall Association of Local Councils (C.A.L.C.) Advice – to hold an informal Council to make introductions and explain the workings of the Council including the role of committees (13<sup>th</sup> May 2021). To hold a formal Council meeting to hold the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and appoint Councillors to committees. (18<sup>th</sup> May 2021). Not to hold a “Mayor Choosing” type ceremony, or civic parade or service this spring. Noted and agreed.

c) Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the recommendation of the Communications & Engagement Committee that the service committee meetings commence again in June rather than July.

478 / 20 **HONOURED BURGESS 2021** – Following discussion, Councillor Pascoe proposed, Councillor Smith seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to defer until after the elections to the next Council consideration of the Honoured Burgess 2021.

479 / 20 **CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS** – Noted.

480 / 20 **CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

481 / 20 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm.

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

482 / 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:**

21. **TENCREEK UPDATE** – (Minute – 303 / 20 Refers – “That the Town Council **RESOLVED** to continue with its existing aspirations to see a “mixed use” development at Tencreek (as per the draft Menheniot Neighbourhood Plan Tencreek policy). To report the feedback from the agent and the developer.

483 / 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.

484 / 20 **TENCREEK UPDATE** – Cornwall Council as planning authority (with Liskeard Town Council and Menheniot Parish Council closely involved) call a meeting with both sets of prospective developers and set out the absolute need for a Masterplan.

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