

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT A MEETING of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Long Room on Tuesday 31 October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. there were present:

The Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty – in the chair.

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Tyler Bennetts.

Councillors – David Ambler, Rachel Brooks, Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Roger Holmes, Jane Pascoe, Sue Pike, Sue Shand and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk – Steve Vinson.

Members of the Public – John Ede ECCABI and Nick Craker Cornwall Councillor.

The Mayor offered apologies on behalf of the Mayor's Chaplain. The Mayor led the Council in a minute's silence in remembrance of Candy Atherton, Falmouth Town and Cornwall Councillor and former Falmouth/Camborne MP.

The Mayor advised the Councillors and the public of Housekeeping matters.

331/17 APOLOGIES – Councillor Powell (caring commitments) and Mayor's Chaplain (holiday).

332/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON REGISTERABLE

Agenda Item 13 – Schedule of Payments. Councillor Brooks declared an interest in cheques 103095 and 103135. Councillor Goldsworthy declared an interest in cheque 103104. Councillor Ambler declared an interest in the Pc Kernow Direct Debit.

333/17 MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor indicated that since the last Council, she had attended a number of official engagements and meetings. Some of the more notable of which were:

- South East Cornwall in Bloom Presentation Evening – Liskeard had achieved 4 awards in connection with various elements of the Liskeard in Bloom Initiative. The Mayor had subsequently presented certificates to acknowledge the efforts of those involved. The Mayor also thanked everyone that helped with the recent 3 day Liskeard in Bloom Charity Shop bring and buy which had helped to raise almost £500.
- Liskeard Fire Station – The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had attended an event which outlined the plans for the next 18 months.

- Opening of the new Boxing Club at the Wesley Chapel – The Mayor and Sheryll Murray MP had attended the opening of new Boxing Club facility located in basement of the Wesley Chapel complex of buildings.
- Hillfort School – The Mayor had entertained 60 children and staff in a visit to the Mayors' Parlour.

334/17 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Special Council held on Tuesday 19 September 2017.

335/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deprivation Indices, Universal Credit and Possible Project – John Ede's presentation covered a number of points and information. The most notable of which were:

- Indices of Multiple Deprivation (I.M.D.) – many other stats are compiled at a level, where the close proximity of wealthy and deprived people has an averaging effect. The Indices are conducted at the Lower Super Output Area (L.S.O.A.) which shows the location of the deprived areas more accurately.
- "Liskeard St Cleer Road and Bodgara Way" is in the worst 10% of L.S.O.A.s nationally.
- "Liskeard Town Centre West, Dean Street, Lanchard" is in the worst 10%-20% L.S.O.A.'s nationally.
- "Liskeard Town Centre East, Sungirt, Plymouth Road" ranks in the worst 10%-20% L.S.O.A.'s nationally.
- 750 people in Liskeard were 'unwaged'.
- 1,185 people were in employment on "Working Tax Credits"
- Taking into account, the partners and children of the above, thousands of residents of Liskeard are likely to be impacted by the rollout of Universal Credits.
- Initially, only new claimants and those people with changes in circumstances will be placed onto Universal Credits. However, all people currently on benefits and in receipt of Working Tax Credits would be moved across to the Universal Credits on a phased basis up to 2021.
- ECABBI and Cornwall Housing were already working on enhancing budget setting skills amongst tenants – "Smart Tenants" scheme.
- Link into Learning and Adult Education – those individuals with literacy, numeracy and IT skills problems could be assisted in preparing to return to work and with the roll out of Universal Credit.

- ECCABI would offer interested people including Councillors training in how to find “Solutions to the System”. This could help if approached by residents regarding Universal Credit.
- Community Champions – who were from within the deprived Communities were the most likely to be effective advocates, to the most deprived individuals and households. For example, Liskerret Centre, the Junkfood Project and Liskeard Community Action were a potential combination to support delivery in the Lanchard area of town.

Questions and Answers –

Q. If the bid were not successful, what could be done as a back-up position?

A. A further E.S.F. bid round is proposed in March 2018. It is called “Community Lead Future Development”. However, it will be more targeted and less flexible.

Q. How long might it take to get a decision as to whether the bid was successful?

A. March 2018 for the decision and April 2018 for the contract document.

Q. Will the “Smart Tenants” scheme continue as part of this E.S.F. bid?

A. Discussions with Cornwall Housing are underway regarding turning the successful “Smart Tenants” into a place based initiative.

Q. The area has a high ratio of people in self-employment. What is the issue for them regarding the impact of Universal Credits?

A. Universal Credits initially estimates people in self-employment to be on an average of £13,200 per annum. Locally, this is higher than the average. When the earned incomes increases through factors, such as seasonality, the Universal Credit is adjusted downward. There is a time delay in this, which means that the reduction in Universal Credit occurs at the same time as a reduction of earned income.

Q. The benefits office said that saving £1,500 before the roll out of Universal Credits was the best way to avoid the issue of the 6 week delay. How can a person on benefits save £1,500 in the run up to Christmas?

A. It was important to understand that the offer of a loan to bridge the 6 weeks was only available at the beginning of the process and had to be accepted then. There was a significant risk that people would wait until their money ran out before asking for help.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked John Ede for the presentation and answers.

336/17 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

a. COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Pike seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Communications & Engagement Committee held on Tuesday 5 September 2017.

b. PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

Councillor Holmes proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 12 September 2017.

c. FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Hawken seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Facilities Committee held on Tuesday 19 September 2017.

d. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 26 September 2017.

e. PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017

Councillor Holmes proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 10 October 2017.

f. PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017

Councillor Holmes proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 24 October 2017.

337/17 TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE – All items had been dealt with previously.

338/17 DEPRIVATION INDICES – LAUNCH OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT – POTENTIAL FOR A JOINT PROJECT BID TO THE FUTURE PENINSULA ROUND 2 CALL EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (E.S.F.)

Following discussion, Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Holmes seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to support the submission of a joint bid to the ESF before the 18th December deadline and indicate that the Council was prepared to commit a financial contribution of £30,000 over three financial years to the project.

339/17 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 2017-2021

Following discussion, it was agreed that subject to moving the “Support the growth of good quality local jobs and businesses, strengthen the local food and farming sector and attract new investment” to second place on the list and the inclusion as a specific objective within the workplan the project bid approved at 338/17 above, the Mayor proposed, Councillor Pike seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the aims for 2017-2021 and recommends to service committees that they each draw up a list of three or four SMART objectives for activities and functions that will be implemented up to 2021.

340/17 EMPLOYMENT LAND DEMAND STUDY – WORKSPACE CALL FOR PROJECTS

Item a.) Councillor Hawken proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** tendering the work for the Demand Study.

Item b). Councillor Holmes proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to support the submission of an inward investors bid to the Workspace programme for an employment land project.

Item c). Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Taylor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to support the Cornwall Council proposal to submit a workspace project on the Cattle Market and explore making a £100,000 contribution to the scheme.

341/17 CCTV REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT COSTS AND ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

Item a). Following confirmation that the General Reserve contained sufficient funds, Councillor Goldsworthy proposed and the Mayor seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to accept £48,000 as a working figure for the capital replacement costs to be funded £28,000 from the nominated reserve for CCTV and £20,000 from the General Reserve.

Item b). Following discussion, it was agreed to defer the item pending seeking the following information:

- i. Retention of the line from the Liskeard Police Station to the Silver Control Room at County Hall. Was it necessary to retain a landline? Could an alternative method of connection exist?
- ii. Live Monitoring – Could the cost per hour of Live Monitoring be offered at the reduced rate as offered to the West Cornwall Hub £18.92 per week per camera?

342/17 EXTERNAL AUDITOR GRANT THORNTON – AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the advice of the External Auditor on the 2016/2017 year end audit.

343/17 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Schedule of Payments.

344/17 CORNWALL COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS - It was noted

345/17 CORNWALL COUNCIL COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cornwall Councillor Craker reported that:

A38 Improvements work was underway on a business case for funding the improvements to the A38. This would include the impact on the economy as well as traffic flows and the environment.

Persimmon Enforcement Cornwall Council were taking enforcement action against Persimmon for failure to provide Section 106 funded infrastructure.

Coldstyle Road – traffic management issues reported by Cllr Shand were being investigated.

Fire Station Recruitment Pilot – a pilot recruitment for retained firemen has been held

Cornwall Councillor Pascoe had been on holiday since the last committee:

Hillfort School – she had arranged a meeting with Paul Allen regarding the parking and traffic management issues to which Councillor Pike was also invited.

Cornwall Councillor Hawken reported that:

Youth Conference Redruth – this had been particularly effective in getting young people to participate and might offer ideas on a similar Liskeard based event.

Housing and Public Health – a particularly useful document involving the Liskeard area had been circulated by e-mails to Councillors.

Cattle Market - was on the agenda of a Cornwall Council meeting being held on 15th November.

Bridge to Nowhere – this item was also going to a Cornwall Council meeting and further might be reported to the Town Council thereafter.

346/17 OTHER REPORTS – None

347/17 CORRESPONDENCE 29th October 2017 – Jan Raines has resigned from the Town Council. Cornwall Council had been informed and had provided a “Notice of Vacancy”. The notice expires on 21st November 2017. If the Returning Officer receives less than 10 written requests for an election, the Town Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

348/17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19th December 2017.