

**LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL**

**AT THE MAYOR CHOOSING CEREMONY** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Public Hall, 3 West Street, Liskeard at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 16 May 2018 there were present:

The Mayor: Councillor Christina Whitty - in the Chair

Councillors: David Ambler, Rachel Brooks, Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Roger Holmes, Sandra Mitchell, Jane Pascoe, Susan Shand, Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk: Mr Steve Vinson

Mayors Chaplain: Kevin Grant

Town Crier of Liskeard: Mr Chris Smirthwaite

Honoured Burgesses of Liskeard: Mr J & Mrs M Jackson, Mrs C Hallam, Mr J Lennon and Mr O & Mrs J Hoskin.

Mace Bearer: Mr A Lockley

Visiting Mayors: Mayor of Lostwithiel - Councillor Pam Jarrett, Deputy Mayor of Saltash & Consort - Councillor Gloria Challen and Mr Neil Challen, Mayor & Mayoress Elect of Torpoint - Councillor Lambert Keise and Mrs Maureen Keise, Mayor Elect of St Austell - Councillor Gary King, Mayor & Mayoress of Wadebridge - Councillor Philip Mitchell and Councillor Louise Mitchell

The Mayor invited her Chaplain Kevin Grant to say prayers

**1/18 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Councillors Tyler Bennetts and Tony Powell

Mayor of Bodmin – Councillor Sara Kinsman, Mayor Elect of Launceston – Councillor Margaret Young, Mayor of Looe - Councillor Armand Toms and Lord Mayor of Plymouth - Councillor W Foster

Honoured Burgesses: Mr John Rapson, Mr Norman Pampling MBE and Mr Donald Howlett

Sheryll Murray - MP, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall - Colonel Edward Bolitho, and other invited guests.

**2/18 ELECTION OF A MAYOR FOR 2018/2019**

Councillor Pascoe nominated, Councillor Ambler seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Christina Whitty as Mayor for the 2018/2019 year.

Having been elected, the Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty, took the Oath of Allegiance, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the Maces.

The new Mayor then appointed Councillor David Ambler as Town Sergeant and Sergeant of Mace and Mr Alex Lockley as Mace Bearer and returned the Maces to them.

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy was appointed as Deputy Sergeant of Mace.

Kevin Grant was appointed her Chaplain and presented with the Chaplin's scarf.

### **3/18 ELECTION OF A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2018/2019**

Councillor Pascoe nominated, Councillor Clarke seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor David Ambler as Deputy Mayor for the 2018/2019 year.

Having been elected, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ambler took the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Town Crier announced an interval whilst the Mayoral Procession retired for robing and photographs.

### **4/18 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR**

Thank you for attending tonight's Mayor Choosing, especially our visiting Mayors and Deputies from Lostwithiel, Saltash, Torpoint, St Austell, and Wadebridge.

May and June are busy months when we have our Mayor Choosing and Civic Services, so thank you for giving up your valuable time and attending tonight. I would also like to thank Warrant Officer Amanda Knight and Warrant Officer 2 Sergeant Major Royal Marines Robbie Robinson from HMS Raleigh and Fisher Division who have also given up their valuable time to attend tonight.

For our Honoured Burgesses and representatives from the many town organisations, thank you again for your continued support. We also have members from Cornwall Council with us here tonight so whether it is your first time or your second or third time, I hope you enjoy the evening and I know you will enjoy the buffet!

Tonight, I start my second term as Mayor of Liskeard. I follow in the footsteps of several other Mayors who have served 2 consecutive years. It is an honour and a privilege, and more so for me as I was born here in Liskeard, lived here, raised my family here and worked here all my life. But you cannot do this job without the support of your family and your fellow Councillors and the office staff. So, I would like to say a big thank you to the Town Council's Steve our Town Clerk, Yvette, Trudy, Mandy and Erin in the office as well as Tony the Facilities Manager and his team for all their hard work and support they give me, and my fellow Councillors. I would especially like to say thank you to Terry, my husband, and consort for his support throughout the year and the photos he has taken and sent to Yvette to be forwarded to the Cornish Times.

2/18

Last year when I started my Mayoral year we had just had an election, so we had several new Councillors, but soon had a resignation, co-options and elections. In January we achieved a full Council of 15 Councillors. But, in April Councillor Pike resigned so we now have a vacancy. The role of a Councillor is voluntary and most of us are elected by the public, but when there is still a vacancy the Council co-opt.

We have some long standing Councillors. I myself have been a Councillor for 14 years. Councillor Powell has served for nearly 20 years and Councillor Roger Holmes has served for 50 years on the Town Council. He has been Mayor twice, served on the Borough, District and Cornwall Council.

As Mayor you are asked to represent the Town and Council at many events and I noticed that many towns have awarded their past Mayors with a badge. So, this year I am starting this award tradition here in Liskeard and I would like to start by awarding a past Mayor badge to Cornwall Councillor Phil Seeva, Cornwall Councillor Jane Pascoe. Phil served as Mayor for 2014-2016 and Jane served for 2016-17 before I took over last year.

Over the past year I have represented the Council at over 200 functions ranging from Mayor Choosing, Civic Services, AGMs, Sub Committees, Award ceremonies and many other community events, supporting the Lions, the British Legion, BHF, Cancer Research and the Stroke Club. Each one was very welcoming, and the cream teas were delicious, and it was a struggle to maintain the waistline. Yesterday I was lucky enough to go to a Garden Party at the Palace and visit the Queen.

Last month we held our Annual Town Meeting and for the first time the Town Council awarded Community Champion Award Certificates to 17 of our town's volunteers. Some have been volunteers for more than 20 years. It was a very well attended meeting with the most attendance for several years.

Following on the theme of awarding Certificates, Liskeard in Bloom won several awards in South West in Bloom. Winning the Best Overall Town for the first time in 28 years. Thanks to the small group of volunteers led by Lin Moore, John Hesketh, John Crompton and Chris Cole. Liskeard town centre looked beautiful and holiday makers commented on the very large blooms in Fore Street. John Hesketh is now working very closely with Morley Tamblyn on this year's project.

Liskeard is a town that is growing before your very eyes. We see Wetherspoons getting nearer completion every day. Persimmon's houses growing in numbers and only recently we heard that Cornwall Council are going to build on the Maudlin site and finish the bridge to nowhere.

Last summer our Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Cornwall Council and following rigorous consultations and an independent hearing with a few minor adjustments to some of the Policies, it should go to a referendum shortly which, following almost 5 years of hard work by volunteers, is very good news for the Council.

Sadly, we recently saw the closure of the Cattle Market, but the Town Council is working closely with Cornwall Council on redevelopment plans and is waiting to hear

about funding.

The Council is also working with Stratton Creber Commercial who are carrying out an Employment sites and Agri-Hub Demand Assessment Study. The Town Council is funding 10% of the cost of the study and the aim is to find out about interest from local businesses and potential investors, who would require office space, workshops, factories and building plots. We are all very much aware, we need more jobs in Liskeard.

On Sunday we have our traditional Beating of the Bounds. I have been out and run most of the route and while it is a little wet under foot in a couple of places, it should be fine. If you are a keen walker and fancy doing the whole route it is about 12 miles, but of course, you can do as little as you like, and the route is on our website. Spread the word and come and join us. We will be meeting in B & M carpark at 10.15am for 10.30am start.

On to my charities. I have £859.96 to share between my chosen charities of Hillfort School, St Martin's School and Liskeard Stroke Club. My chosen charities for this year are Liskeard Scouts who are always willing to support the town and will shortly be celebrating 50 years and having been a leader for 20 years, I am pleased to be able to offer my support. The other charity is Liskeard Silver Band. We have had a band in Liskeard since 1886 and like the Scouts, they support the town at many events. The third charity is the Stroke Club, which is very close to my heart, having lost my Mum and Gran to strokes. I am also one of their volunteers and the Group have been running in Liskeard for 10 years, but with numbers falling need lots of support. Thank you to all those who have helped to raise funds.

### **5/18 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

It is much easier sitting at the back of this stage, as I have for the last ten years, taking on the role of Liskeard's Town Sergeant and Sergeant of Mace – all I had to do was nod, and think of the wine and cakes to come. Perhaps I am wrong, but in-between thinking of how to carry the mace and wondering what the world was about, I would listen to the various speeches and promises, and frequently get frustrated at the explanations as to why one project or another was taking so long to realise. From those frustrations I couldn't help but get the image that town and parish councillors are very much the eunuchs of the political world. Like a eunuch from biblical times looking after the Kings wives, as local councillors we can see around us fantastic opportunities, only to discover so often, that the tools required are managed by a higher power!

As an individual, just fulfilling a civic role, it was easy to leave previous mayor choosing nights and then go through another year wondering, with only a passing interest in what was actually happening to our town – yet last year I decided, after consideration, (and sometimes I wish I had considered a little harder) that it was time to stop throwing stones from outside the glass house, and see what it was like on the inside. Now I would love to stand here and say that the nine months since I joined the council have been plain sailing, without incident or squabble, but there are those sat behind me, and some in front, who would know that has not quite been the case.

4/18

Being in the glass house you quickly find a congested and busy environment where so many are trying to develop and grow ideas, opportunities and potential. In fact, I have found being on a council very much like being in a cricket team; as a team you want to win, but you also kind of know your colleagues in the squad are all competing with you for a place on the next team sheet - you want your colleagues to do well, but not too well – or else you might get dropped or pushed down the order.

A successful cricket team however develops an ethos where every member roots and supports all the members of the team, wishing everyone well, hoping everyone succeeds, and feels the disappointment and bitterness of seeing a colleague fail or struggle. In the heat of the game, sure things can get tense, argumentative, but to unite and achieve the right result should surely be our primary goal? I have of course been on cricket teams where some colleagues did not want the team to win and succeed – they realised that no one would vote to change the captain if things were going well. It's sad to say that there are those who relish in tripping up others on the field, – or worry more about their political derrières then walking out to bat with a desire to explore and be adventurous with their batting play – something that can easily limit any teams potential? Cricket is merely a game (unless we are playing Australia), yet when it comes to a town council, the team we are, is not just playing for fun, we are helping to shape lives, our opportunities, our futures, - and the future is what particularly interests me.

I have often spoken of the changes in technology – so I apologise to those who have heard some of this before - but I doubt anyone here can fail to notice the number of jobs vanishing from town centres as automation and technology replaces traditional roles. Automated tills and bank tellers for example – soon we will no doubt have driverless taxis, lorries all altering our employment landscape? Last week there was a news video of a humanoid robot jogging through a field and jumping over a log – you may say so what, but to create an object that can run and jump in a human like way, on rough terrain, without falling over, that's impressive, there are some individuals in here that are probably less steady on their feet – in ten, fifteen, years' time what will that technology be replacing in Liskeard – delivery agents, street cleaners, bobbies on the beat?

Robots do not phone in sick because they watch the football the night before, or ask for a pay rise – this is no longer the domain of defense or government backed companies, this automation is being developed by commercial companies whose return is in replacing jobs – recently in Germany they built a whole house with the design, materials and construction being predominately undertaken by robots – how many jobs is that in Liskeard?

None of us can predict the future – yet a hundred years ago – there were no doubt conversations in this town about how many spaces were required for horseless carriages – the idea that the railway would lose its goods shed unimaginable – I feel we are at a similar stage as technology changes our transport, our businesses, our high street and our social time. It's exciting, but a huge challenge – and we sure can't put the genie of the online back in the bottle!

It is great then to see the work being done on employment in various corners of the

town. It is common sense that good employment helps solve many other problems, from supporting high street jobs, to reducing deprivation – another major concern for our towns. To see two estates in Liskeard listed as being in the top 10% most deprived in the country, none of us can feel easy about that – it's a huge challenge, not only to tackle, but to make sure the solutions are not short term, or worse, just placebos to our political conscious. Liskeard town council is already exploring ideas to tackle this crucial issue and along with our aim to support the creation of jobs I believe we can be hopeful of going forward as an even stronger and wealthier town.

Now I know it's nearly time for wine and cakes and I expect that most of us have a corner of our minds just beginning to focus on the door to the refreshment room. So, with the future in mind, I am grateful for this opportunity to work as deputy with Christina our mayor, my colleagues on this council, the staff in the office, (I'll try to reduce the emails) – and more importantly I look forward to working with the community to help drive forward our aims and objectives through the next year. South East Cornwall is an area with lots of potential, and a beautifully fantastic place to live and work – I look forward then, to also working with colleagues from neighbouring towns and communities on our shared ambitions for projects, such as the A38 improvements, internet services and mobile coverage. Lastly, I wish all those starting their new mayoral and council years success and trust we will all support each other through another exciting period of our time here.

#### **6/18 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Holmes seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Members as listed serve on the Council's Committees and represent the Council on outside bodies for the ensuing year.

#### **7/18 RESOLUTION TO RETAIN THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (LOCALISM ACT 2011)**

Councillor Holmes proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that Liskeard Town Council met the eligibility criteria and retained the General Power of Competence as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

#### **8/18 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Smith seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were adopted and shall remain unaltered except by due process.

#### **9/18 CIVIC SERVICE**

The Mayor invited those present, and the bodies they represent to attend the Civic Service at the Wesley Church on Sunday 10 June 2017 at 11 am.

#### **10/18 STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk announced that meetings took place on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Long room at the Public Hall and would be held on 26 June 2018, 28 August 2018, 30 October 2018, 18 December 2018, 29 January 2019, 26 February 2019 and 30 April 2019.

The Town Crier closed the meeting and invited guests to congratulate the Mayor and dignitaries and partake of refreshment.

### **COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS 2018-2019**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are Ex Officio Members of all Committees with Voting Rights

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Councillors: Tyler Bennetts, Rachel Brooks, Anna Clarke, Roger Holmes, Sandra Mitchell and Susan Shand.

### **FACILITIES**

Councillors Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell and Julian Smith

### **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

3 Committee Chairs plus Councillors Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe and Julian Smith.

### **PLANNING**

Councillors: Tyler Bennetts, Roger Holmes, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, Susan Shand, Naomi Taylor and Julian Smith (substitute).

All Council and Committee meetings will commence at 7.30pm.

### **APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES** **2018-2019**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representative/s</b>
Association of Larger Local Councils of Cornwall (ALLCC):	Councillors Christina Whitty and David Ambler
Caradon Heritage Partnership	Councillor Roger Holmes
Cattle Market Working Group (Cornwall Council Working Group)	The Mayor, Councillor Julian Smith and the Town Clerk
Clean Liskeard	
Community Network Area	The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other members as required

Mayor Choosing Ceremony 16 May 2018

County Association of Local Councils (CALC)	Councillor Christina Whitty
CCTV	Councillors Ian Goldsworthy and Sue Pike
Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership (Looe Valley Line):	Councillors David Ambler, Roger Holmes, Tyler Bennetts and Susan Shand
Emergency Plan	Councillor Susan Shand
Footpaths and Rights of Way Co-ordinator	Councillor David Ambler
Library Partnership RIO	Councillors Julian Smith and Anna Clarke
Liskeard Chamber of Commerce	Councillor Jane Pascoe
Liskeard Community Action	Councillor Anna Clarke
Liskeard and District Sports Association	Councillor Sally Hawken
Liskeard in Bloom	Councillors Jane Pascoe and Sandra Mitchell
Liskeard Lights Up Committee	Councillor Susan Shand
Liskeard and Looe Multi-Use Trail	Councillors Rachel Brooks and Tyler Bennetts
Liskerrett Youth Group	Councillor Sandra Mitchell
Museum Management Team	Councillors David Ambler and Anna Clarke
Neighbourhood Plan	Councillors Chair of the Planning Committee, Rachel Brooks, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe and Susan Shand
Safer Liskeard	Councillors Anna Clarke and David Ambler
SECTA	Councillors Jane Pascoe and Roger Holmes
South and East Cornwall Local Action Group	Councillors Jane Pascoe and Roger Holmes.
Stuart House Trust	The Mayor
Town Forum	Councillors Jane Pascoe and Christina Whitty
United Charities	The Current Mayor and Councillors and at the request of the Town Council
Philip Blamey Trust	The Mayor for the current year and the Town Clerk are both Trustees
Eva Bowles Memorial Fund	
Alex Page Trust	The Mayor for the current year is a Trustee
Plastic Free Liskeard	Councillors David Ambler, Anna Clarke, Sandra Mitchell and Naomi Taylor
Transformation Challenge Award	Councillors Rachel Brooks and Anna Clarke