

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 17 May 2017 there were present:

The Mayor - Councillor Jane Pascoe - in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor - Councillor Christina Whitty

Councillors: Tyler Bennetts, Rachel Brooks, Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Roger Holmes, Sue Pike, Tony Powell and Susan Shand.

Town Clerk - Mr Steve Vinson

Mayors Chaplain - Kevin Grant

Town Crier of Liskeard - Mr Chris Smirthwaite

Honoured Burgesses of Liskeard - Mrs C Hallam, Mr J Rapson, Mr N Pampling MBE and Mr J Lennon

Mace Bearers - Mr D Ambler and Mr T Randall

Visiting Mayors – Mayor and Mayoress of Lostwithiel, Councillor Pam Jarrett and Consort, Councillor Andrew Long representing Callington Town Council

The Mayor invited her Chaplain Kevin Grant to say prayers

30/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Sheryll Murray, MP

The Mayor and Mayoresses of Bodmin, Saltash, Launceston, Looe, Torpoint, St Columb Major and St Austell.

Honoured Burgesses Mr and Mrs Jackson, Mr A Wood MBE and Mr J Goldsworthy.

Councillor Jan Raines and other invited guests.

31/17 ELECTION OF A MAYOR FOR 2017/2018

The Mayor nominated, Councillor Pike seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Christina Whitty as Mayor for the 2017/2018 year.

Having being 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 Mr David Ambler as Town Sergeant and Sergeant of Mace and Mr Tyler Randall as Mace Bearer and returned the Maces to them.

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy was appointed as Deputy Sergeant of Mace.

The Mayor appointed Kevin Grant as her Chaplain.

32/17 ELECTION OF A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2017/2018

Councillor Hawken nominated, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Tyler Bennetts as Deputy Mayor for the 2017/2018 year.

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

33/17 SPEECH OF THE OUTGOING MAYOR

It truly has been an honour and a privilege to have been the Mayor of Liskeard and to uphold the cherished traditions of this Council. I offer my deepest gratitude to my Consort, Chaplain, Town Crier and Mace Bearers for their service to the town. I would like to thank Councillor Whitty for her unfailing support as my deputy. I also congratulate her on being elected as the next Mayor of this town. She has given extensive service to Liskeard for many years both as a Councillor and her involvement with numerous organisations in the community. I wish her every success in her role and with the new Council.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past year and I am extremely grateful to Trudy the Mayor's secretary for efficiently organising my diary in order for me to have attended 120 engagements and Civic events and a similar amount of meetings. Every event has been a special occasion and I have always received a warm welcome and excellent hospitality. I am always amazed by the amount of volunteers who give their time so generously in our town. Thank you, Liskeard is indebted to you all. I also wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank all those involved on traffic duty during our Civic Parades, help with Lights Up and other major events in the town. This includes volunteers from the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, British Legion and other organisations. Without these people, these commemorative events could not take place.

It has been a very busy and challenging year for the Councillors. Within the committees they have continued to work towards fulfilling the Council's aims and objectives. As a result of an external review we are continuing to make effective improvements to the way this Council functions. I wish to thank the Town Clerk, who has worked closely with me this year the Committee Chairmen, Councillors and the staff for their support and hard work in restructuring the committees, conducting the business of the Council and maintaining the properties. It is a privilege to be part of such a dedicated team of people.

We are very proud of our Town Clerk. Stephen passed his CiLCA exams which enables this Council to hold the Power of Competence Status and now amongst only 6 of 213 other Councils in Cornwall, Liskeard Town Council has attained "Foundation Level" of the Local Council Award Scheme. This is a scheme implemented by

National Association of Local Councils and gives the Council more scope to take on innovative projects, make investments and increase revenue. This Council has resolved to achieve the next higher “Quality” level within one year.

In September, the Town Council were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Quimperle, our twinning town with Liskeard; and we very much hope this will rekindle an interest in the Twinning Association which we hope will lead to benefits and links with Agriculture, Arts, Sport and Education.

This year I had asked the Chairman of their Committees to go back and go over the forecast of expenditure again and again before the precept was finalised. Each exercise cut more out of the budget and our final increase was 2.8 %. This is partially due to the 26% reduction in the Council Support Grant, the considerable increase in Uniform Business Rates on the Council properties and funding for the planned Public Hall refurbishment project. Despite these additional expenses the impact on the householder is 74p per year – or less than 2p per week with no reduction to our services.

The Facilities committee have made plans to refurbish and re-equip the Refreshment Room and improve access to the upper rooms of the building, including the Council Chamber by installing a hydraulic lift. 50% of the costs will be met by grant funding and some from the dilapidation reserves. When completed we forecast that the improved facilities will attract more events and increase revenue. I can also add that the Councils prudent investment in PV Panels is on track to pay for itself within the 5 year period.

The Devolution committee have been working on a basic package of devolving Cornwall Council owned property. If we take on the liabilities, we require assets with a sustainable revenue stream. Yes, we have asked for Westbourne car park and also West Street Car Park, Employment units in Holman Road and the small business units in the Cattle Market. We will press for a favourable deal for Liskeard.

The Neighbourhood Plan, which the community has contributed to hugely, is almost ready to submit to Cornwall Council for regulation 16 Consultation. This has been an extremely long but necessary process in order to write policies fit for purpose to plan our future land use up to 2030. I believe it to be an excellent piece of work and a sound document and we are indebted to Steve Besford Foster the Project Manager, James Shrubsole the Chairman and to all those volunteers who have given their time freely to get it to this level. There will possibly be amendments to make on its return from Cornwall Council, but we are hopeful it will be presented for a public referendum this year. You said “jobs before houses” and through the Planning process and discussions with developers and for the first time in 20 years we have brought forward employment land. This will contribute to building a strong, competitive economy and vibrant community.

Continuing to fulfil our aim to boost prosperity and increase employment opportunities and by listening to our farmers I can now tell you that the Employment working group are working with the Agricultural sector for a possible Agri hub on land at Bolitho Farm. A hub at Bolitho will assist in delivering economic growth providing

much needed jobs to counterbalance current and future housing development in and around Liskeard. In addition to supporting the Employment growth aspirations as identified in both the Liskeard and Menheniot Neighbourhood Plan, it will serve to retain the Agricultural identity of Liskeard. The Town Council are now at a stage to commission a Demand Study that will be used to determine what type of business are willing to relocate or establish new enterprises on the site. The study is supported financially and jointly with the Local Enterprise Partnership, The Landowner, Liskeard Town Council, Menheniot Parish Council, Chamber of Commerce and the private sector. We are looking forward to working closely with our neighbouring parish Menheniot on this exciting project.

Skills, higher paid jobs and apprenticeships have all been issues that the Neighbourhood Plan has identified. It became clear that we can do something to help our young people onto a Pathway to Employment and working with the school we set about trying to help make things happen. Through connections and opportune conversations, I am pleased that the school now has more links with the Engineering Industry and the result has been rewarding. Students have been visiting and working in Engineering firms, such as Kawasaki and Restormel Engineering, getting an insight and gaining experience in the Industry with a chance of apprenticeship later. The Town Council has also made a contribution to the Chamber of Commerce appeal for the Green Power Challenge, a joint project with the school which requires the students to design, build and race a kart. The inaugural race will be at Newquay airport on June 18th and I hope you will go along to support them.

The Town Council regard the development of the Cattle Market site as a significant investment in the future of Liskeard. It is an ongoing project with Cornwall Council, we need to get it right and we hope that firm plans will begin to materialise in the coming year.

We engaged and worked with many other organisations to co-ordinate the Man Engine Event. It was very rewarding, a resounding success and a chance to showcase the architecture, history and heritage of our town and hinterland. It was the largest event that I have seen in Liskeard, a boost to our local economy and people are still talking about it and there just may be further projects to come out of that spectacular day.

The visitor numbers to the Museum continue to increase, along with the sales in the gift shop and the enthusiasm of the volunteers needs to be bottled for sure. I thank them one and all for their hours of tireless work.

And Finally, I am pleased to announce that we raised £1,856.28 for the Mayors Charity Fund in aid of the Youth Projects and Youth Groups in Liskeard and it gives me great pleasure to present cheques to some of the groups who here this evening: Liskeard Scout Group, Liskeard Silver Band, Liskeard School and Community College Green Power Energy Challenge, Liskeard School and Community College Debating Team. Remaining contributions from the fund will be sent to more Liskeard Youth organisations.

34/17 PRESENTATION OF THE GEORGE VAUGHAN-ELLIS MEMORIAL TROPHY

Mark Vaughan-Ellis presented for the first time, the trophy to be awarded annually to a member of the community for their outstanding contribution or service to architecture, research and or protection of the heritage of Liskeard, to George's longtime friend, keeper of his records, researcher, proof reader and confident, Eileen Crouch.

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

35/17 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR

Firstly, I would like to thank Cllr Jane Pascoe our outgoing Mayor for all her hard work over the past year in her term of office as our Mayor and of course Paul who has supported Jane through a very busy year. Jane has attended well over 100 events ranging from AGMs, formal dinners, swimming for BHF and civic events, this is on top of the Town Council meeting throughout the year.

Secondly, I would like to thank the outgoing Councillors for their hard work and support. We see Cllr Anne Purdon retiring after 15 years of service and having served twice as Mayor. Cllr Phil Seeva after serving 4 years during which time he was Deputy Mayor for one year and Mayor for two and is now a Cornwall Councillor for Menheniot parish having being re-elected on the 4th May. We wish him well. A special thank you goes to James and Lorna Shrubshole for the 4 years they both served on the council. James and Lorna have been working tirelessly over the last 2 years on the Neighbourhood Plan along with several Councillors and volunteers. The plan will shortly be submitted to Cornwall Council for Regulation 16 consultation and hopefully will be returned to the Town Council very shortly and then will go out for a Public Referendum for acceptance. James has agreed to stay on as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan committee to see the process through to a successful conclusion and this will then be our Town Plan until 2030.

Continuing with my thanks, I would like to thank the Councillors who stood again this year and for their continued support for the Town Council. This year we welcome 3 new members Susan Shand, Jan Raines and Anna Clark. This year we had the opportunity for an election but sadly not enough members of the public came forward so as a result we had 13 members nominated and we have 2 vacancies. Sadly, Cllr Hella Tovar came into the office last week and after serving 4 years on the council has decided to resign from the Town Council but will continue as a volunteer in the Museum. There is now the opportunity for members of the public to come forward as co-opted members.

I would now like to thank our staff for the fantastic support they give the Councillors. Last year we had a new member, Yvette who joined the office staff and following the retirement of Stuart and Domini two other new members joined in February and March. We welcome Erin and Mandy to the team and together with Trudy they work with our Town Clerk Steve to keep the office running smoothly. Talking about Steve

he has been working extremely hard and has passed his CiLCA which is a Town Clerk award and this has helped the Town Council to gain the Foundation Award for the Local Council Award Scheme, for which the Council accepted the certificate from Councillor Paul O'Brian who is the Chairman of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils at the full council meeting on Tuesday 25th April. Liskeard is 1 of only 6 of the 213 town and parish councils in Cornwall to have received this award and we will now be working towards Quality Status. Thank you, Steve, for all your hard work and support and for coping with us the Councillors.

The other staff we need to thank are Tony and the facilities staff who keep the buildings clean, tidy and set up for the many events which take place over the year whether it be Bridge, the Farmers market, the Lions panto or council meetings.

I could not let the evening go by without mentioning some of the many volunteers of Liskeard. We have John Goldsworthy who as well as being one of our town Burgess is a Past Mayor, a Lions member and chairman of United charities. John Lennon another of our Burgess, President of the Royal Naval Association, a Rotarian, Trustee of the Liskerrett Centre and the main man for our wonderful Lights Up. Stuart a past member of staff a Lions member and an active member of the Ploughman's festival committee. Geoff Harris a Lions member, a Liskerrett male voice choir member. And then of course there is Terry my husband who is a retired Chief Petty Officer, having served 27 years in the Navy, and is still serving as a mentor at HMS Raleigh, he is a committee member of the RNA and the Royal British Legion and is also a volunteer at the Stroke club and at Passmore and of course now my consort and as they say in Game of Thrones "And now his watch begins"

There are many others in this room tonight who have given countless hours to different charities and organisations and without the good people of Liskeard supporting these organisation and charities many would have folded over the years. We thank you all for your support.

I would like to talk about Liskeard in Bloom. Last year due to the tremendous amount of hard work Liskeard was fortunate enough to win some prizes for its wonderful displays in the town. This was through the hard work and dedication of a small group of volunteers. This year under the guidance of the Town Forum the challenge has gone out to be better this year. John Hesketh who is chairman of the Forum would like volunteers to come forward to assist him and the Town Traders. This year with the aid of a grant new hanging baskets have been purchased and there will be more baskets and planters around the town than ever before. The planters and 15 hanging baskets around the Parade are the property of the town council and will be planted up shortly with new flowers and plants. As for the plants and flowers for next year John is asking for volunteers to come forward and assist by planting and growing flowers at home and then donating them to the Forum. This will enable the Forum to enter a new category in Caradon in Bloom. So, if you are green fingered and can help in any way please come forward.

Looking at the forthcoming year the council and its committees are looking at up grading our CCTV system. Cllr Goldsworthy, the Town clerk and I went to look at Looe's system and we are looking at possibly a similar system for Liskeard. The

Community and Engagement committee is working towards producing 3 Town Criers our council magazine and the Facilities committee will be continuing the work on the refurbishment of the Public Hall. The Town Council is also looking at taking on the joint management of Westbourne gardens with Cornwall Council. With the help of the public more functions and events such as the Ploughman's festival can be held there. Years ago, I remember the Lions holding events during their carnival week and if anyone has any ideas please feel free to come along and speak to the council. The council is also taking the lead on the possible creation of a new Agricultural Hub on land just outside Liskeard and if successful will bring much needed employment to our town. So, as you can see myself and fellow Councillors have a very full and busy year ahead of us.

Over the next year, I would like to see the Lions carnival week and St Matthews Fair supported and I will work with the local organisations to promote more involvement and a greater promotion of Liskeard. We have many organisations of Liskeard represented here tonight, I would like to invite you to join the Town Council for the Heartswell Defibrillator training on Wednesday 7th June at 5.30pm. The training will take place at Liskeard School and Community College

I have been a very proud member of this council for 14 years, having been born here in Liskeard and it is great honour to serve as its Mayor for the ensuing year. I would like to see Liskeard continue to grow and prosper and would love to see more of our empty shops occupied. We have a great number of houses being built and maybe when they are occupied some of the people dwelling in them will be business people.

As for business coming into the Town we are asked many times if JD Wetherspoon is still coming to Liskeard. We are told that they are still interested and as soon as we have any information we will ensure that the community is informed either in the newspaper or on the town council website This is the same for the Cattle Market following the consultation last year the results went to Cornwall Council and we are awaiting further information.

This year as Mayor I am having a raffle to kick start my charity fundraising. Many of the prizes have been donated by the shops in Liskeard for which I would like to thank them for their generosity. My charities are The Stroke Club at Liskerrett and following on Jane's theme of the youth of Liskeard I would like to support Hillfort and St Martins Schools.

36/17 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Bennetts thanked those who had supported him. He stated that he had wanted to be a Councillor in order to give voluntary service to the town. He saw Liskeard as a busy, thriving town with lots of potential and he wanted to be part of that. He pledged to do his best.

37/17 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Powell proposed, Councillor Holmes seconded and the Council

.7.

16/17

RESOLVED that the Members as listed serve on the Council's Committees and represent the Council on outside bodies for the ensuing year.

38/17 RESOLUTION TO RETAIN THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (LOCALISM ACT 2011)

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Pike 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.

39/17 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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

40/17 CIVIC SERVICE

The Mayor invited all those present, and the bodies that they represent to attend the Civic Service at the Parish Church of St Martin's on Sunday 11 June 2017 at 11 am.

41/17 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 6 June, 27 June, 29 August, 31 October, 19 December, 27 February and 24 April.

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

COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS 2017-2018

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Councillors: Rachel Brooks (Chair 2016/2017), Anna Clarke, Roger Holmes, Sue Pike, Jan Raines and Susan Shand.

FACILITIES

Councillors Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy (Chair 2016/2017), Sally Hawken (Vice Chair 2016/2017), Jane Pascoe, Sue Pike and Tony Powell.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

3 Committee Chairs plus Councillors Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe and Sue Pike.

PLANNING

Councillors: Roger Holmes (Vice Chair 2017/2018), Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell (Chair 2017/2018), Jan Raines and Susan Shand.

All Council and Committee meetings will commence at 7.30pm.

APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES **2017-2018**

Association of Larger Local Councils of Cornwall (ALLCC): Councillor Sue Pike

Caradon Heritage Partnership: Councillor Sue Pike

Cattle Market Working Group (Cornwall Council Working Group): The Mayor, Councillor Jane Pascoe and the Town Clerk

Clean Liskeard: Councillor Sue Pike

Community Network Area: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other members as required

Cornwall Housing Tenant Scrutiny Panel: Councillor Jan Raines

County Association of Local Councils (CALC): Councillor Sue Pike

CCTV: Councillors Ian Goldsworthy and Sue Pike

Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership (Looe Valley Line): Councillors Roger Holmes, Tyler Bennetts and Susan Shand

Footpaths and Rights of Way Co-ordinator: Councillor Sue Pike

Library Partnership RIO: Councillors Sally Hawken and Sue Pike

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 Sue Pike

Liskeard Lights Up Committee: Councillor Susan Shand

Liskeard and Looe Multi-Use Trail: Councillors Rachel Brooks and Tyler Bennetts

Liskerrett Youth Group: Councillor Anna Clarke

Museum Management Team: Councillor Jan Raines

Neighbourhood Plan: Councillors Chair of the Planning Committee, Rachel Brooks, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe and Susan Shand

Save the Children: Councillor Sue Pike

SECTA: Councillors Jane Pascoe and Roger Holmes

South and East Cornwall Local Action Group: Councillors Jane Pascoe and Roger Holmes.

Sports and Recreation Provision Working Party: The Mayor, Councillors Sally Hawken and Ian Goldsworthy, and Nick Craker Cornwall Council Liskeard North

Stuart House Trust: Current Mayor

Town Forum: Councillors Jane Pascoe, Sue Pike and Christina Whitty

United Charities: The Current Mayor and Councillors Sue Pike, Tony Powell and at the request of the Town Council – Annie Purdon.

Philip Blamey Trust and the Eva Bowles Memorial Fund: The Mayor for the current year, and the Town Clerk are both Trustees for the Philip Blamey Trust and the Eva Bowles Memorial Fund

Alex Page Trust: The Mayor for the current year is a Trustee

Other possible groups to add

Liskeard Traders Association – (Sue Pike) – group contacted to ask if they would like a Town Council representative

AONB

Other (not yet formed)

Agri-Business Hub Group: The Mayor and Councillor Jane Pascoe

Transformation Challenge Award: Councillors Sally Hawken, Sue Pike, Rachel Brooks, Christina Whitty and Roger Holmes