

## **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 Monday 2 June 2025 there were present:

The Mayor: Councillor Christina Whitty - in the Chair

Councillors: Tracy Adams, Sylvia Berry, David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Kerry Cassidy, Simon Cassidy, Richard Dorling, Annette Lee, Jane Pascoe, Lori Reid and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk: Mr Stephen Vinson - Mayors Chaplain: Mark Wade - Town Crier: Mr Christopher Smirthwaite.

Honoured Burgesses of Liskeard: Mr Owen Hoskin & Mrs Jean Hoskin, Ms Anne Purdon, Mr Martin Gilbert and Mr Brian Oldham.

Mace Bearers: Rose Ramwell and Alex Hearn

Visiting Mayor: Mayor of Bodmin, Councillor Liz Ahren & Consort Mr Mike Barbery, Mayor of Launceston, Councillor Nicola Gilbert & Consort Mr Peter Gilbert, Councillor Karin Henderson, representing Lostwithiel Town Council, Mayor of Saltash Councillor Rachel Bullock & Consort Mr Matthew Bullock, Mayor of Fowey, Councillor Lynn Simms & Consort, Mayor of St Austell Councillor Colin Hamilton & Mayoress Mrs Maggie and Portreeve of Callington, Councillor Pound & Councillor Gold.

The Mayor then invited the Mark Wade to say prayers. The National Anthem was sung.

**024 / 25 APOLOGIES** - Honoured Burgess – Mr John Jackson - Mr Tony Wood.

Mayors of: Looe, St Columb Major, Redruth, Falmouth, Newquay, Torpoint, Wadebridge & St Ives

Councillors: Nick Craker and Tony Powell.

Also: Anna Gelderd MP and other invited guests.

**025 / 25 ELECTION OF A MAYOR FOR 2025/2026** – Councillor Lori Reid nominated, Councillor Jane Pascoe seconded the nomination, and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Chrstina Whitty as Mayor for the 2025/2026 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 Mayor then appointed Daniel Keddle as Town Sergeant of Mace. She then appointed Miss Rose Ramwell and Mr Alex Heard as Mace Bearers for 2025/2026 and returned the Maces to them.

Reverend Mark Wade Vicar and Oversight Minister of Liskeard and St Keyne was appointed as the Mayors' Chaplain.

**026 / 25 ELECTION OF A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2025/2026** – The Mayor said “that David has been a Town Councillor for just over 3 years, but he is a councillor that I can rely on to be at my side with all the civic events. He is the Chairman of the Facilities Committee and has just returned from Poland having just take humanitarian aid to Ukraine. David is also responsible for our Christmas trees and lights for the last 2 years and will be again this year.

05/25

Mayor Choosing 2nd June 2025

I owe him my thanks for stepping in for me and carrying out my civic duties visiting all the care homes before Christmas due to my illness. David took over the role of Deputy Mayor last year after we sadly lost Councillor Julian Smith and we have made a great team ever since. I am delighted to nominate David for Deputy Mayor this year". The Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty, nominated, and Councillor Tracy Adams seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor David Braithwaite as Deputy Mayor for the 2025/2026 year.

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

The Town Clerk announced an interval whilst the Mayoral Procession retired for robing and photographs. During the interval with the "Slow and Easy Band" entertained the audience.

**027 / 25 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR** – "Visiting Mayors, honoured burgesses, my friends from HMS Raleigh, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and friends a very warm welcome to you all.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate my fellow councillors for being elected to serve another 4 years.

Secondly, to congratulate, Councillor Jane Pascoe for being elected to serve as one of our Cornwall Councillors, a role that I know that she will carry out with hard work and dedication and is our towns link with Cornwall Council.

Our Council is made up of 15 councillors who are all hard-working volunteers. But we could not function without our staff headed by Steve Vinson our Town Clerk who always gives us very good advice. He is assisted by Yvette our RFO and Deputy Town Clerk. Also, in the office is: Trudy, Mandy, Zoe and Erin. All the team are hard working and dedicated to ensure everything runs smoothly. Our Facilities Manager Jacqui oversees, the building, allotments, planters, parks, benches the War Memorial, Pipe Well and the Fountain and her team of staff always make sure the buildings are clean and ready for use. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued hard work and support.

Talking about the buildings we have recently had the Mayors Parlour refurbished and it is now very popular for meetings with various organisations. Our Guildhall received some grant funding and after some maintenance and redecorating we are able to lease the building while we wait until we can start work on the project of repurposing and installing a lift.

In November of last year we took over the running of Castle Park and over the next 5 years we will be looking at plans for more items to be devolved from Cornwall Council over to our Town Council. We are still working on our Skate Park project at Rapson's which is much needed by our residents but as we all know raising money for projects takes time.

Nowadays when you drive through a town or village you will see some buildings of the same sort being constructed. We are no exception. We have Wainhomes just starting to build house on the Tencreek site after several years of talking about it. Of course, we have the Integrated Service Hub in the cattle market. This as many of you know will be where the staff from Luxstowe and Laity will be transferred to instead of having to move to Bodmin or St Austell. On the site of Laity plans have been approved for 60 later living flats which will be most welcome.

We also have two of our banks being converted one into flats and the other into a business. At one of our Planning Committee meetings we discussed the need for more houses to be built in our area now that the Government has increased the numbers required.

06/25

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We have some wonderful organisations in our town. Liskeard in Bloom who maintain all the flower beds and hanging baskets and last year they won some silver awards at the South West in Bloom competition.

We have the British Legion who always support the Town Council and through the Poppy Appeal raise a tremendous amount of money. Behind the scenes they have a very hard working secretary and this year Gwyneth has worked on a World War II project with posters on lampposts and in the shop windows of those who died in various areas and had a knitted poppy attached.

We also have the Royal Naval Association RNA and at last years Remembrance Day Parade. I presented them with the "Freedom of the Town". Also, attached to the RBL and RNA is Warrant Officer 1 Neil Walsh who is based in HMS Raleigh. During his time off he works tirelessly on our Commonwealth War Graves maintaining them and discovering lost ones. He also received a Certificate at Remembrance Day. We are grateful for all his hard work and dedication to our fallen.

As with most towns nowadays there can often be found a Lions Group. Here in Liskeard I am a member and we do a lot of fund raising which we give back to the community. We are getting ready for this year's Carnival events and also St Matthew's Fair. We were recently at the "Relay for Life" helping to raise much needed funds for Cancer Research. We have also just started to out plans in place for our panto. "oh yes we have", "oh no you havn't", "oh yes we have".

Some of our councillors belong to other organisations. One of these being Councillor Tracy Adams. Tracy is the Chairman of the Town Traders and often organises events. At Easter we had the Easter Bonnet Parade and raffle and on VE day with only 2 days' notice organised a street party in Fore Street supported by many of the shops. Anyone wandering through Fore Street was encouraged to join in the singing, dancing and enjoy the wonderful food. I hear that there is another planned for VJ day. Thank you, Tracy.

In September we will once again be having our "Liskeard Unlocked" which is organised by Councillor Rachel Brooks. Last years event was very successful. We linked up with our twin town Kopychyntsi in Ukraine and even had a song and dance with our past Mayor Simon Cassidy singing a solo. Both Councillor Brooks and Cassidy work closely with the Mayor. Councillor Simon Cassidy is our Twinning Chairman. Councillor Rachel Brooks is also our main organiser with the "Liskeard Lights Up" which takes place at the end of November and is always well received by the residents. Thank you both for all your hard work.

It is an honour and a great privilege to serve as Mayor of Liskeard the town where I was born but I couldn't do it all without the support of my wonderful husband and PR Terry. He may spend a lot of his time in Raleigh but when I need him he is always by my side.

I will of course carry on with all of my charity work. Chairman of the Memory Café, Lions RNA members secretary and RBL and other committees.

Myself and my fellow Councillors, will continue to work for the town of Liskeard.

I would like to present the Scouts with £118.50

I would like to present the Stroke Club with £118.50

My charities for this year will be the Scouts and the Breathers."

07/25

## **028 / 25 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

**029 / 25 GRANT APPLICATION – CARADON YOUTH THEATRE (ATTACHED)** – Nic Early Director / Founder of the Caradon Youth Theatre spoke in support of the application.

The Mayor noted the Caradon Youth Theatre out on performances here several times a year and are well supported by the Community. This Hall is being used a lot more by our community and as a council we should be supporting anything that is put on this Hall for our residents.

Councillor Simon Cassidy proposed, Councillor Tracy Adams seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** to support the Caradon Youth Theatre with a grant of £600 towards the costs of staging the production of “Annie” in Liskeard 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

## **030 / 25 STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk outlined that the Town Council meetings are usually held monthly being the last Tuesday evening in the month at 7.30pm.

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

08/25