

**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 Wednesday 22 May 2019 there were present:

The Mayor: Councillor Christina Whitty - in the Chair

Councillors: David Ambler, Ian Barlow, Tyler Bennetts, Rachel Brooks, Simon Cassidy, Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Sandra Mitchell, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, Susan Shand, Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor.

Town Clerk: Mr Steve Vinson

Mayors' Chaplains: Kevin Grant and Rebecca Bell

Town Crier of Liskeard: Mr Chris Smirthwaite

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

Sergeant of Mace: Daniel Keddle            Mace Bearers: Jake Hibbin and Alex Lockley

Visiting Mayors: Mayor & Mayoress of Bodmin - Councillor Jeremy Cooper & Mrs Nicola Cooper, Deputy Mayor Elect & Deputy Mayoress Elect of Saltash - Councillor Pete Samuels & Councillor Brenda Samuels, Mayor & Mayoress of Launceston - Councillor Dave Gordon & Mrs Carole Gordon, Mayor of Torpoint - Councillor Chris Goodman, Deputy Mayor/Portreeve of Callington - Councillor Sue Tolman & Councillor Mike Tagg, Mayor Elect of St Austell - Councillor Tim Styles, Representing Lostwithiel Town Council - Councillor Pam Jarret

Other invited guests

The Mayor invited her Chaplain Kevin Grant to say prayers

**1/19 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Councillor Ian Barlow  
Mayor & Mayoress of Looe, Mayor & Mayoress of Wadebridge and the Mayor & Mayoress of St Columb  
Sheryll Murray MP and other invited guests.

**2/19 ELECTION OF A MAYOR FOR 2019/2020**

Councillor Clarke nominated, Councillor Taylor seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Rachel Brooks as Mayor for the 2018/2019 year.

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

1/19

The new Mayor then appointed Daniel Keddle as Town Sergeant and Sergeant of Mace and Mr Jake Hibbin as Mace Bearer and returned the Maces to them. Rebecca Bell was appointed her Chaplain and presented with the Chaplin's scarf.

### **3/19 ELECTION OF A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2019/2020**

Councillor Shand nominated, Councillor Cassidy seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Sandra Mitchell as Deputy Mayor for the 2019/2020 year.

Having been elected, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mitchell 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.

### **4/19 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR**

The Mayor proposed and the Deputy Mayor seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty and her consort Terry Whitty.

### **5/19 SPEECH OF THE OUTGOING MAYOR**

Councillor Whitty felt it an honour and privilege to serve as mayor for two years in the town where she has grown up, raised her family, worked and volunteered. It was a town she was very proud of. She had carried out nearly 400 engagements and enjoyed every one. She thanked her husband and consort Terry for his dedicated support, and also the town council staff, fellow councillors, the local organisations and residents who she had enjoyed working with and meeting. She planned to continue to serve the town.

### **6/19 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR**

My a dhynergh pubonan hag a rass agas dos dhywgh-hwi oll.

Which means I welcome everyone and thank you all for coming.

It's wonderful to see a wide range of people here from Liskeard and to welcome representatives from our neighbouring towns. I'm so pleased we've been able to showcase Ethan Willett, one of the great young musicians from Liskeard School. Thanks very much to him for his performance and to Lizzie Stroud for playing the piano so beautifully.

Most importantly, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors for the honour they have done me in electing me Mayor. I keenly feel the responsibility that places on me to represent the Town Council and Liskeard.

To me, it's not enough to BE the Mayor, slightly daunting though that is, the important thing is to use the role to DO things, so I'd like to focus this speech on the challenging aims the Council set itself in 2017.

How are we doing on those and what's in store for this year?

The first is: *Build a strong local community which is proactive, involved, resilient, cohesive and proud of where we live*

The main reason I love living in Liskeard is because it is already such a friendly and active community. Many of you are involved in the wealth of local organisations which contribute so much to our town. I'm sure that those of you who came to the Annual Town Meeting last month were moved, as I was, by the range of outstanding individuals, young and old, who were recognised as community champions. Celebrating the contribution of people who have worked for years to make Liskeard better in so many ways, who have overcome addiction to help others, who have a learning disability, who campaign on mental health - that makes me proud to be part of the Liskeard community.

But there are at least two ways in which we need to do even better.

The first is to bring together the many different organisations and individuals to work more collaboratively and so that local people know what's happening and how to get involved.

Over the last few years we've developed both the Community Fair and the Annual Town Meeting as events which connect a wide range of people and celebrate what is already happening in Liskeard. This year we had over 50 charities, groups and services represented at the Community Fair and both events were packed. As a result, groups are working together, gaining grants, publicity and new members. I'm very much looking forward to working with Sandra Mitchell as Deputy Mayor this year, not least because of her links with so many community groups which really helps in this part of our work.

We also couldn't run events like this without the hard work and organising ability of staff in the office, led by our new Deputy Town Clerk Yvette Hayward, who do so much in general to make things run smoothly and also play a big role in working with the wider community and organising events. Mandy Hancock was a huge factor in the success of the Community Fair, and I'd like to thank Trudy Chatting for all she has done in organising tonight.

The council also plays a key role in informing people about what is going on. Many of you will know Vicky Cutts and Tina Barrett at the TIC who week in, week out are imaginatively promoting Liskeard and all the events which happen here both online and in person.

Last year, working with other organisations including the Liskerrett Centre, RIO and Liskeard School, we launched the Lyskerrys community magazine to celebrate all the positive things going on in Liskeard and get information to everyone, regardless of income, mobility or internet access. Lots of people have contributed to it and most copies are delivered by volunteers, including the Scouts, Air Cadets and Army Cadets.

The second way to strengthen our community is to reach out to a wider range of people - young people who may not feel there is much for them locally, older people who may be socially isolated, people on low incomes, people with disabilities who may find barriers to involvement, people living on estates around town who may not feel connected to what happens in the town centre. We want everyone to be and feel part of the community, nobody to feel left out or left behind.

Some areas in Liskeard are amongst the most deprived in the country and the use of our food bank continues to grow. In response to this, Liskeard Town Council was the first organisation to commit match funding to Liskeard Together. This was an ambitious grant application, led by John Ede of ECCABI, for European funds to work with local people likely to be affected by the roll out of Universal Credit. After many delays, I'm delighted to say that over £900,000 in funding has been confirmed and the programme will start this summer. The Town Council will be an active partner in Liskeard Together, which will build on the successful SMART Tenants courses to provide programmes which help people manage their finances while gaining in self-esteem and community involvement and exploring routes to work.

I'm also excited to announce that we're going to be setting up a Youth Council to give our young people a bigger voice and a way to work on important issues. Anna Clarke and Naomi Taylor are leading on this from the Town Council, working with Lily Crocker, Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament, who I'm really pleased to see here tonight.

The Town Council is a core member of the Safer Liskeard initiative, working with the police and Cornwall council on practical measures to improve community safety. We have also recently signed up to the Disability Confident scheme. We want to play our part in making Liskeard accessible and welcoming to everyone, including those with disabilities and long-term conditions. Councillors Sue Shand and Tyler Bennetts are particularly involved in this area of our work.

I've chosen as my Mayor's charities this year, two organisations which support local autistic people. Get Together Cornwall is based at a farm close to Liskeard and enables autistic people and their families to enjoy a wide range of activities, including feeding and stroking pigs, chickens, ducks and dogs, building Lego, crafts, and computer games. You can even take the pigs for a walk! The Dreadnought Centre runs two 'Aspires' youth clubs in Liskeard for autistic young people, as well as one to one support. My son Jago is autistic and found his year with Aspires really valuable. Claire Finnegan Vyse is here from Get Together Cornwall and Jo James from Dreadnought and they've both brought displays with them.

Bringing the community together was also a major theme at the Charrette for the Cattle Market site. Liskeard was one of only two government-supported pilots in the country for this sort of large community planning event. A really wide variety of local people contributed ideas, there were some strong and united themes and we now have a clear vision for the site.

In fact, the themes from the Charrette closely match several of our existing objectives, not only in bringing the community together but also *improving social and*

*leisure facilities in Liskeard* and economic regeneration, of which more in a minute.

We all recognise what an important site this is for Liskeard, with huge potential to benefit our town, and having undertaken such effective community consultation and developed an overall vision is a major step forward. It will be one of my highest priorities to work with others to explore what this all means in practice and how the different elements can be paid for to make our ideas a reality. We also want to make imaginative use of the site and start building links with potential users while the longer-term plans are being developed.

Cornwall and Town Councillor Sally Hawken has been the major driver in progress so far and has the challenging task of leading the Cattle Market Working Party, which has been working behind the scenes on the project. Our other Cornwall Councillors, Jane Pascoe and Nick Craker are also active members and I look forward to working with them on this and other issues. We're fortunate to have hard-working Cornwall Councillors in Liskeard who work collaboratively with the Town Council.

As I have mentioned, the Cattle Market will be an important element of another key aim: *Support the growth of good quality local jobs and businesses*. Whenever we've consulted with local people, one of the clearest messages has been that we need more good jobs locally.

The Cattle Market will include small shed, workshops and larger workspaces, and facilities for open-air and covered markets, all of which help new and small businesses prosper, as well as encouraging customers to come to town. With partners, including Cornwall Council, we're also looking at other ways to support local businesses and increase jobs, including increasing the number of business units around Liskeard to attract new companies and enable local businesses to grow. Our Town Clerk, Steve Vinson's background in economic development is really useful in this.

Commenting on planning applications is another of the Town Council's key roles and one we carry out rigorously and in response to local views, led by Tony Powell and Naomi Taylor as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee. Another of our aims is *deliver the development priorities which the community has set out in the neighbourhood plan*. We've now agreed a set of priority projects from the Neighbourhood Plan, including the Cattle Market, the development of playing fields and leisure facilities at Roundbury Park, and Councillors David Ambler and Ian Barlow are working on improving walking and cycling access around the town.

Liskeard has a rich history and a lively cultural life. Our aims commit us to *Protect and enhance the culture and heritage of the town*

We have a gem of a museum, owned by the Town Council, which has developed hugely in recent years due to the imagination and hard work of volunteers, supported by our coordinator, Karen Partington. We also work with others in developing events like Liskeard Unlocked and Nadelik Lyskerrys and this year have been supporting the Lions in reinvigorating Carnival week. Councillor Simon Cassidy has played an important role in this and in helping raise money for Lights Up.

Finally, we aim to *develop and promote the Council's assets for the benefit of the community.*

The major renovation of the Public Hall means it is now much more usable and accessible. As you can imagine, putting lifts into an old building, as well as all the other works, was a complex job, especially as most of the building remained open for most of the time. The fact that it worked so well is down to Ian Goldsworthy and Julian Smith, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Facilities, Tony Misson, Erin Trevethan, and the rest of our excellent Facilities team, and the flexibility and hard work of our contractors. We were also grateful for the patience of regular users. I've already seen and heard how much easier it is for people to use the building. And that loops back to strengthening our community, because the Public Hall, as the name suggests, is first and foremost a place where people can meet, and now we've made it much more accessible to all.

I see my role as helping the Town Council to work together in three ways to build on these achievements and make the most of these opportunities.

Working together efficiently and effectively - bringing together our volunteer efforts with the professionalism and commitment of our dedicated team of staff who, led by Steve Vinson and Yvette Hayward, are always willing to go the extra mile.

Working together constructively and in a way that gives everyone a role. As councillors, we are a very varied group of people with different life experiences and views. That's good, because it's also true of those we seek to represent. To borrow a phrase from the inspiring Jo Cox's maiden speech to parliament, "we have far more in common with each other than the things that divide us,". We're all here, giving our time voluntarily because we want to make things better in Liskeard. I hope the next year will see plenty of heartfelt debate and I will do my best to make sure that we also all treat each other with respect and recognise what we all have to contribute.

Thirdly and most importantly, working together with other individuals, organisations and businesses in and beyond Liskeard. I like to think of it as knitting Liskeard together. In reality we are a small organisation with limited funds and powers. What we do have is the ability to bring people together around key projects and events such as the ones I have mentioned. Since I've been on the Town Council the really magical moments for me have been when we realise that we can achieve new things by public, private and voluntary sector organisations contributing their different resources and skills. We saw that very clearly when the Man Engine came to town a few years ago.

More recently, as part of Cornish Christmas last year, we organised a Santa train - a low-cost, fun family event on the Liskeard to Looe line which got people speaking a bit of Cornish. Different organisations came together to figure out how it could work with no additional funding. GWR provided the trains; the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership provided publicity, refreshments, decorations and the chief elf; Golden Tree provided Tas Nadelik (Cornish Father Christmas), and the Cornish language materials; the Methodists provided a team of elves; Puckator and the Coop provided

the presents; and Mandy Hancock in our office, in addition to a 1001 other things she did for Cornish Christmas, wrapped up them all up. The event was completely full, and everyone had a great time. This year we're going to make it bigger.

Not all the challenges we face in Liskeard are as easy as running a Santa train, but we have a huge number of organisations and individuals that do want good things for the town. If we can channel that spirit of working together to achieve more than we could achieve on our own, it's going to be a great year and I will be very honoured to be part of it.

### **7/19 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor Mitchell was new to the Council and honoured her colleagues had supported her to be Deputy Mayor. She thanked outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ambler who had given her a warm welcome when she joined the Council. She wanted to extend the work she does as a Co-operative Member Pioneer helping those in the community who are in need. She thanked her husband for his support as these two roles meant that she was away from home more as they got older rather than less.

### **8/19 SPEECH OF THE OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR**

I have to first thank the Town Clerk, office staff, our facilities team, Tourist Information Centre (TIC) staff, museum co-ordinator and volunteers; without you, a lot of what we take for granted like clean parks, town museum, open toilets, TIC, well maintained buildings and professionally prepared briefing papers would just not happen.

I secondly wish to thank the members of the council I have had the privilege to work with over the last year. I can't say that we are always harmonious, but I can say members work with selfless determination to see the best achieved for Liskeard and its residents. It has been a privilege, and 'occasionally a curse' to work with you all.

The year has seen the progress of several projects for the town, (not all town council), though I don't have the time to list the individuals, I trust residents, outside employees, volunteers, organisations, town council staff and members will know who they are and accept my heartfelt thanks for the work and support you give to Liskeard residents and the outside community.

A highlight of the year was attending the World War I Commemorations in Westbourne Gardens. I would like to especially thank the Royal British Legion and others for their efforts in keeping the commemoration of those who gave everything, fresh in Liskeard's consciousness.

I thank lastly the residents of Liskeard for sticking up with me for a year. For the mistakes or missed opportunities I apologise. For the warm welcome and love shown by many in our community I am truly thankful, and I hope I can continue to do my best to serve Liskeard this year, especially with projects around employment, CCTV, the Scout's Hut, walks, cycle ways, our environment and of course, seagulls.

**9/19 PRESENTATION OF THE GEORGE VAUGHAN-ELLIS MEMORIAL TROPHY**

The trophy awarded bi-annually for outstanding contribution or service to architecture, research and/or protection of the heritage of Liskeard was presented to Brian Oldham.

If, in the last few years you've learnt something new about some aspect of Liskeard's heritage there's a good chance Brian Oldham was involved in some way. As President of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, active Museum volunteer and mainstay of Liskeard Unlocked he is an expert at ferreting out interesting historical nuggets and then presenting them in a lively and interesting way.

He's a really good person to work with, full of ideas, very generous with his time and knowledge and always willing to search out new information.

**10/19 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Cassidy proposed, Councillor Smith 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.

**11/19 RESOLUTION TO RETAIN THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (LOCALISM ACT 2011)**

Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Cassidy 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.

**12/19 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Councillor Cassidy 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.

**13/19 CIVIC SERVICE**

The Mayor invited those present, and the bodies they represent to attend the Civic Service at St Martin's Church on Sunday 2 June 2019 at 11 am.

**14/19 STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk announced that meetings took place on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Public Hall and would be held on 25 June 2019, 27 August 2019, 29 October 2019, 17 December 2019, 25 February 2020 and 28 April 2020.

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

## **COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS 2019-2020**

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Councillors: Ian Barlow, Tyler Bennetts, Rachel Brooks (Mayor), Anna Clarke, Simon Cassidy, Sandra Mitchell (Deputy Mayor), Susan Shand and Christina Whitty.

### **FACILITIES**

Councillors: Rachel Brooks (Mayor), Anna Clarke, Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Sandra Mitchell (Deputy Mayor), Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, Julian Smith and Christina Whitty.

### **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

Rachel Brooks (Mayor & Chair), Sandra Mitchell (Deputy Mayor & Vice Chair), 3 Committee Chairs plus Councillors Simon Cassidy, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe, Julian Smith and Christina Whitty.

### **PLANNING**

Councillors: Ian Barlow, Tyler Bennetts, Rachel Brooks (Mayor), Simon Cassidy, Sandra Mitchell (Deputy Mayor), Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, Susan Shand, Julian Smith, Naomi Taylor and Christina Whitty.

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	vacant
Cattle Market Working Group (Cornwall Council Working Group)	The Mayor, Chair of Planning, Councillor Julian Smith and the Town Clerk
Clean Liskeard	
Community Network Area	The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other members as required

Mayor Choosing Ceremony 22 May 2019

County Association of Local Councils (CALC)	Councillor Christina Whitty
CCTV	Councillors Ian Goldsworthy
Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership (Looe Valley Line):	Councillors David Ambler, Tyler Bennetts, Susan Shand and Julian Smith
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	Councillors Simon Cassidy and Susan Shand
Liskeard and Looe Multi-Use Trail	Councillors Rachel Brooks and Tyler Bennetts
Liskerrett Youth Group	Councillor Sandra Mitchell
Museum Management Team	Councillors Simon Cassidy and Anna Clarke
Neighbourhood Plan	Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillors Rachel Brooks, Sally Hawken, Jane Pascoe and Susan Shand
Safer Liskeard	Councillors Anna Clarke, Simon Cassidy and David Ambler
SECTA	Councillors Jane Pascoe
South and East Cornwall Local Action Group	Councillors Jane Pascoe and Christina Whitty.
Stuart House Trust	The Mayor
Town Forum	Councillors Jane Pascoe and Christina Whitty
United Charities	The Current Mayor and Councillors David Ambler, Sandra Mitchell and Jane Pascoe
Philip Blamey Trust Eva Bowles Memorial Fund	The Mayor for the current year and the Town Clerk are both Trustees
Alex Page Trust	The Mayor for the current year is a Trustee
Plastic Free Liskeard	Councillors Anna Clarke, Sandra Mitchell and Naomi Taylor
Transformation Challenge Award	Councillors Rachel Brooks and Anna Clarke