

Liskeard Town Council

At the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held IN THE Public Hall on **Monday 10 March 2025 at 7 p.m.** there were present:

The Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty – in the Chair
The Town Clerk – Mr Steve Vinson

Councillors – Tracy Adams, Sylvia Berry, Rachel Brooks, Kerry Cassidy, Simon Cassidy, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling, Jane Pascoe and Naomi Taylor.

Liskeard Town Council – Zoe Harris and David Martell

37 Members of the public

The Mayor thanked the Council staff for the Chairmen of each of the Committees. The Mayor asked the Councillors present to briefly introduce themselves to the community.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors David Braithwaite, Tony Powell, Lori Reid and Lucy Alison – Community Safety Officer – Safer Liskeard, Mike Allsop Liskeard / Looe Radio.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE PUBLIC HALL ON THURSDAY 21

MARCH 2024 – Councillor S Cassidy proposed, Councillor Dorling seconded and the Town Meeting approved the minutes.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT 2025

The Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty gave the following report:

The Annual Town Meeting is where we reflect on the past year and the things that have happened in our town. We have seen the start of the Hub in the cattle market. This will keep jobs in our town rather than the staff from Luxstowe and Laity going to Bodmin or St Austell and our residents having to go to St Austell to register Births & Deaths and where the Registrars would perform marriages. Anyone needing to go to the Job Centre would also have issues. Cornwall Council have invested a lot of money in Liskeard.

In September we had our Liskeard Unlocked event where we linked with Ukraine and had successful song and dance routine with their Mayor and others and with Simon Cassidy as our Town Council Envoy. He will continue the much-needed aid assistance travelling once a month to Poland with Darren from Callington Lions and other volunteers.

In November the Town Council took over ownership of Castle Park as part of a Devolution Package and more items will follow in future.

In November we had our Lights Up Event which I think was bigger than the previous year. We must thank Cllr David Braithwaite once again providing the Xmas trees and their lights.

Also in November we had our Remembrance Day Parade which I also think was bigger than the year before.

The Rifles and the Liskeard Royal British Legion have been awarded the Freedom of the Town so after the Remembrance Day Parade when we returned to the Legion for refreshments. I presented the Royal Naval Association with the Freedom of the Town as an appreciation for supporting the Town Council, the town and the wider community for nearly 50 years.

On housing some of you will have seen that Wain Homes have just started on the Tencreek site and with the Government raising the number of houses that need to be built this will be a welcome site for Cornwall Council.

Unfortunately, for our town we have just seen the closure of Lloyds Bank, but this is a national issue. Hopefully, it will not be empty for too long. Barclay's Bank is being altered for a different business and Galvin's is now being changed into a flat. We have other shops and businesses in the town-centre which are also in the process of being altered.

Liskeard in Bloom won Silver Awards at last year's Award Presentations in Bath and are starting to look at this year. Back in November Cllrs Jane Pascoe, Cllr Sylvia Berry myself and other volunteers ran a charity shop for a week to help raise some funds to help with the purchase of bulbs etc. The flowers on the Parade are already looking lovely and spring like.

As a team we must remain positive and love the town we live in.

4. SAFER LISKEARD

Lucy Allison (Community Safety Officer) was unable to attend due to illness. The update would be given to a future meeting.

5. LISKEARD ARMY CADETS – How they used a grant from Liskeard Town Council of £725 in April 2024 to help purchase a new detachment flag to support Remembrance and Civic Parade events

Bugle Major Matthew Lang – talked about the Liskeard Army Cadet detachment and its role in supporting various Remembrance Day and Civic events. He showed a picture of the old detachment flag. He then showed the new detachment flag pointing out the differences. He then showed a picture of the Liskeard Army Cadets detachment (some of whom were also present in the audience this evening – James Taylor and Hannah Welsh). and their new standard. He thanked the Town Council for providing a grant to enable the purchase to happen.

6. GRANTS AVAILABLE

Liskeard Town Council allocates a grants budget annually to assist other organisations within the town to achieve projects, services, exhibitions and events of benefit to the town and its residents. Applications are considered monthly at Council meetings and applicants are welcome to attend and discuss their project.

Eva Bowles Memorial Fund helps local young people to take part and enjoy music making in all its various forms. Grants are available to students up to and including age 18 who live within the Liskeard town boundary. Applications must be supported by a professional music teacher. There is currently approximately £507.79 remaining in the fund.

Alex Page Trust supports young people, under the age of 21 living in the Liskeard area who want to pursue their career through a college or a work-based apprenticeship.

During the last year no grants have been awarded.

The trust started the year with £11,111.29 and after income of £1,503.43 we now have £12,614.72 to help more young people with their career.

Full details of all of these funds together with application forms are available on the Town Council website <https://www.liskeard.gov.uk/services-info/grants/>

7. LISKEARD TOWN VISION – Feedback from the projects list from the workshop

Liskeard Town and Cornwall Councillor Nick Craker updated on progress to date and indicated the next steps. He thanked everyone for their support and input to the process which should stand the town in good stead going forward.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions

9. COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARDS 2025

Awards were made to people and groups who have made a positive difference to life in Liskeard. Following some amazing nominations, Awards were presented to:

Individuals

- Kieron Jewell – Kieron is an inspiring member of the community. At a time when few younger people seem to want to step forward he gets involved, even in organisations that find it difficult to recruit the younger generation.

Kieron is never afraid to roll up his sleeves with a smile on his face, no matter what task or what weather. He helps to run the 1st Liskeard Scout Group, is part of the Liskeard Lions and the British Legion, he has helped with putting up the festive lights and at various town events.

Kieron actively encourages the young people to take part in remembrance and other town events. As well as all this, he has a family that are fully involved in what goes on in Liskeard.

- Barbara Rogers – Barbara has been a volunteer at Cornwall Hospice Care for over 50 years.

When Barbara was a nurse one of her patients asked if she could sell bricks to help fund the building of a new hospice. So, she filled up her car and went around selling bricks, several times. They fund raised with cake sales and lots of inventive ideas. Finally, the funds were raised and the build began.

Cornwall Hospice Care will be celebrating its 45th birthday this October because of amazing people like Barbara who has played her part in everything since the very beginning.

- Kim Tolfrey - Kim was one of the four crew members of Oars of Thunder which has just completed a 40 day, 3,000 mile, row from Grand Canaria to Antigua. They came 6th out of 36 boats – well done.

It was Kim's idea to complete the challenge, at 50. She only started gig rowing in 2018. They are raising funds for the RNLI and hope to raise £50,000. Kim is a local business owner who has supported many local events and organisations. She is indeed a very inspirational, local, lady.

- Owen Jewell – Owen is an amazing young person who attends many of the town's events and helps in the background. He comes along with his Dad and works in any way he can. He has recently helped with the Christmas events around town which were very successful.

Thanks for being an amazing young person Owen.

- Power Runs Cornwall - Power Runs started in 2021 to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone. The group is aimed at all members of the community and is free to join. The group meets twice a week as well as weekends.

Grant funding has enabled training for six Run Leaders who volunteer to support people as runners / jeffers. These Run Leaders support and guide new members who may be new to activity. This reinforces the ethos of making everyone feel valued. The group can be spotted with their running kit on when out and about, the Town Council supported this with a grant. They have a strong bond with the community and have supported many local events, recently they helped with marshalling the Lights Up Lantern Parade. They have supported the Liskeard & Looe Foodbank, Man Down, run a route around the public defibrillators raising awareness and joined with Diabetes UK.

The group champions improving mental health and raises awareness of various campaigns, it offers support, fitness and friendship to anyone who wants to join them. Why not have a chat if you're interested.

- East Cornwall Search & Rescue - The team help rescue injured and lost people in our area.

Called out by the Police and NHS Ambulance Service to assist at a serious accident that I'd had in a remote and very muddy area, the team were very quickly on site and within 3 hours they had me stretchered to the ambulance and off to Derriford Hospital. There were many people who helped at the scene and I am in awe of what the team does.

I am now home recovering after spending 4 days in hospital with 3 fractures of my lumbar vertebrae. Where would we be without amazing volunteers who turn out for incidents like this, without question?

The East Cornwall Search & Rescue will be presented at a later date.

The Mayor invited everyone to partake of refreshments and closed the meeting.