

## 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 2024 there were present:

The Mayor: Councillor Simon Cassidy - in the Chair

Councillors: Tracy Adams, David Braithwaite Rachel Brooks, Nick Craker, Richard Dorling, Ian Goldsworthy, Jane Pascoe, Lori Reid, and Christina Whitty.

Town Clerk: Mr Stephen Vinson - Mayors Chaplain: Kevin Grant - Town Crier: Mr Ron Tremain, Launceston Town Crier

Honoured Burgesses of Liskeard: Mr Owen Hoskin & Mrs Jean Hoskin. Mr Martin Gilbert Mr Brian Oldham

Mace Bearers: Rose Ramwell and Ethan Mort

Visiting Mayor: Mayors of Launceston, Lostwithiel, Saltash and Torpoint.

The Mayor then invited the Kevin Grant (substitute Mayors Chaplain) to say prayers. The National Anthem was sung.

**1/24 APOLOGIES** - Honoured Burgess – Mr John Glanville - Mr John Goldsworthy - Mr J Jackson & Mrs M Jackson -Mr Tony Wood - Ms Anne Purdon.

Mayor's Chaplain - Theresa Conway, Officer in Charge of the Citadel

Mayors of: Bodmin, Looe, Wadebridge, Newquay, Callington, St Columb Major, St Austell, Redruth, Falmouth & St Ives

Councillors: Kerry Cassidy, Annette Lee-Julian, Tony Powell, Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor. Also: Sheryll Murray MP and other invited guests.

**2/24 MAYORS BRAVERY COMMENDATION:** - The Mayor Councillor Simon Cassidy recalled the armed robbery at the SPAR shop in February. Three people had been involved in stopping the robbery. One included off duty Police Constable Alexandar Wilmot whom the Mayor Councillor Simon Cassidy presented with a Bravery Commendation.

**3/24 ELECTION OF A MAYOR FOR 2024/2025** – The Mayor Councillor Simon Cassidy nominated, Councillor Nick Craker seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Christina Whitty as Mayor for the 2024/2025 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 Daniel Keddle (who was not present) as Town Sergeant of Mace. She then appointed Miss Rose Ramwell and Mr Ethan Mort as Mace Bearers for 2024/2025 and returned the Maces to them.

Theresa Conway, Officer in Charge of the Citadel (who was not present), was appointed the Mayors' Chaplain.

**4/24 ELECTION OF A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2024/2025** – Councillor Lori Reid nominated, and Councillor Tracy Adams seconded the nomination and the Council **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Julian Smith as Deputy Mayor for the 2024/2025 year.

Not being present the Oath of Allegiance and the Declaration of the Acceptance of Office would be signed later.

The Town Clerk announced an interval whilst the Mayoral Procession retired for robing and photographs. During the interval the “I Thought I Couldn’t Sing” choir sang a number of songs to the audience.

**5/24 RETIRING MAYOR – SPEECH AND PRESENTATIONS** – “Becoming Mayor was the greatest honour of my life. To be re-elected twice since was amazing and I am grateful to the Council for placing their trust in me. I hope that I have done what you wanted from your Mayor. I’ve tried to be more than a simple ceremonial figure.

We have come a long way since I began, and I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped me on that journey. I would especially like to thank Christina and her Consort Terry for their steadfast support over the last three years. I’ve had some pretty tough times along the way and you have always been there for me.

I have tried to be a listening Mayor, available to all of our people all of the time. I have rebuilt bridges with our neighbouring communities and I am grateful to them for that opportunity. I have also reached out beyond Liskeard to build relationships far and wide and to continually shout about how amazing Liskeard is. Whoever would have thought we would receive an International Award – But we did it!

I could not have done any of this without the support of my family and I am especially grateful to my sons Daniel and Charlie for all their love and support.

I have been lucky to work alongside some truly amazing Councillors who work tirelessly to make our town a better place. Thank you for your dedication to our town and thank you to your families and friends for supporting you.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to those who work so very hard, often in the background, and that is our Town Clerk Steve and his truly amazing team. You work so very hard and give so much to making Liskeard great. You put in so many extra unpaid hours and your contribution doesn’t go unnoticed. It has been the greatest honour of my life to represent our Town as Mayor, but I could never have done it without the support of you - our amazing Council Team! You all work so very hard in making Liskeard a better place (even though sometimes it can often seem a thankless task) but in my opinion we are very lucky to have such a great team!

Liskeard is a great place – I often say that it’s a small town with a huge heart, and that has been evident during some of the tough times we have experienced over the last three years, emerging from Covid, the passing of our Queen, the tragic incidents at Merrymeet and Bodmin to name but a few. Liskeard is great at rallying around when times are tough and has a great community spirit. We have some truly amazing individuals and organisations across our community who work hard every day to make our lives better. Many are unsung heroes and I say to them – thank you for your service to our community.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Mayors of our Twin Towns Michael and Bogdan. We live in an ever-changing world and I am proud of the relationships we have built up internationally and will continue to support ever closer links going forward. These relationships give our children hope and the opportunity to come together making our world closer to all.

As I say my farewell as Mayor of this amazing town, I say thank you to each and every one of you for all your support on this journey – We are in a Better place today thanks to you, and I am grateful to everyone for everything they have done – but here we are at the end and, yes its sad to leave this role but I am sure Christina and Julian will continue to work hard for Liskeard and they will always have my support.

I wish Christina and Julian all the very best of luck going forward, and i wish each and every one of you all the very best for the future! Take care – God Bless

**6/24 ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE MAYOR** – “Distinguished guests, honoured burgess, ladies and gentlemen, family and friends. Thank you for joining us tonight at our Mayor Choosing Ceremony. Another year, another Mayor Choosing, where has the time gone?

A lot has happened in the past year. We saw the Worksheds in the Cattle Market completed and now in the building businesses are starting to take up the rooms and the hot desking is very popular. The twice weekly markets on Saturday are also very popular and there are plans for other events to be held in the canopy such as this year’s Lions carnival and St Matthew’s Fair as well as others.

The number of houses being built or completed over the year has grown which has meant an increase in our population and there are plans for ever more houses. As a Council we work very closely with our partners Cornwall Council, Cormac, Chamber of Commerce, Town Traders, Wainhomes and Persimmon and in doing so we hope to make Liskeard a better place for our residents to live and work and raise their families.

Our Council is working with Cornwall Council at the moment on the development of our Cattle Market. Work has started on phase 2 which is the Integrated Hub and hopefully in the near future the work on the doctors extension and the bus terminal will begin.

We are also nearing the completion of taking over the running of Castle Park from Cornwall Council which has been a devolution project that has taken our Facilities team, lead by Councillor Julian Smith, my Deputy Mayor and Jacqui Orange, our Facilities Manager, quite some time.

Last year we had our Public Hall toilets refurbished and this year we have plans to refurbish the Guildhall as well as looking to refurbish our Skatepark in Rapsons. ~Some of our councillors visited the new one in Millbrook and were very impressed with it and when they reported back to Council they said “lets have one like that”. Of course, some of these projects take time to work on and may take 2-3 years before they are completed, but if they are within our power we have a dedicated group of councillors who will work extremely hard to try and make things happen.

Of course, our Council can’t function without the support of our staff headed by our Town Clerk, Steve, who keeps us all on our toes. Yvette, our Assistant Town Clerk and RFO, Trudy, Mandy and Zoe who work extremely hard in the office. Then we have Jacqui and her team who maintain our buildings, toilets, Thorn Park, Rapsons and our other facilities.

During the year several events are put on in the town, some by the Town Council. The Liskeard Lights up is organised by Councillor Brooks along with other Councillors and last year we had new lights for our town. We also had a wonderful display of new trees and lights which were supplied by one of our fellow Councillors, Daivid Braithwaite. The lantern parade returned following a gap due to Covid, all of which was enjoyed by our residents. In September we have our Liskeard Unlocked. This is lead by Councillor Brooks. Each year we have a different theme and some of our historic buildings are opened to the public to view. We also have some historic walks lead by one of our town Burgess, Brian Oldham. This year’s theme is cooperation and twinning and work is well under way.

3/24

On the topic of twinning, last year we had the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of our twin town, Quimperle visit us and next week Liskeard & Looe Girls Rugby team are going to Quimperle for a tournament. Our Council gave them some funding towards this trip. Our twinning relationship lapsed for a few years, but, Simon through a lot of hard work has started up relationships again. He has also been working with a town in Ukraine which we are now twinned with. Since December he has been travelling monthly with Callington Lions and other volunteers to take much needed aid to Poland for the people of Ukraine and he will be carrying on this role and is on his next journey, leaving this Saturday and we wish him a safe journey.

I have some very special guests here tonight. Please could they stand. These are some of the Royal Naval veterans who work along side the staff at HMS Raleigh. They give their time voluntarily to work with the new recruits who join the Navy and their wealth of knowledge helps the new recruits make it to week 10 when they pass out and join the Fleet and become part of our Navy which protects our country. Terry, my husband, is the lead mentor with 19 other mentors working alongside him.

It is an honour and great privilege to be elected again to serve as Mayor of Liskeard and I would like to thank Simon and my fellow Councillors for their continued support. Simon will be a hard act to follow and shoes to fill. He tells me he wears a size 15, so very big shoes, but I will do my very best for the Council and the town that I love so very much.

I will carry on with all my charity work, such as Chairman of the Memory Café, Lions, members Secretary for the RNA, Committee member for the RBL as well as all the other committees I support. Simon and I could go on talking for hours, but some of you have travelled some distance so we don't want you to miss your pasty and glass of wine, so I am going to finish by saying Thank You one and all"

Finally, I would like to thank my husband Terry for his continued support even though he is extremely busy in Raleigh. He is always by my side when needed."

**7/24 PRESENTATION OF THE GEORGE VAUGHAN-ELLIS TROPHY** – The Mayor Councillor Christina Whitty presented the George Vaughan-Ellis trophy to Sioux Dunster from Stuart House and read the proposing statement:

"Sioux has been the House Manager of Stuart House in Barras Street since 2004, overseeing pretty much everything, booking exhibitions, running functions, sourcing new crafters and volunteers, overseeing and organising the maintenance and upkeep of the house.

Makes cakes and soups for the café, already ready with a welcome, loves promoting the house and its history. Christmas sees the decorations in keeping with the age. Her work is numerous, but Sioux always takes time to listen and promote the town.

Outside of her work she quietly does many acts of kindness. My personal thoughts are that she is a deserving asset to the town and its heritage and should be considered for the trophy" Jackie Jenkins".

### **8/24 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Rachel Brooks proposed, Councillor David Braithwaite 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.

### **9/24 RESOLUTION TO RETAIN THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (LOCALISM**

**ACT 2011)** - Councillor David Braithwaite proposed, Councillor Rachel 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.

### **10/24 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

– The Mayor Councillor Christina Whitty proposed, Councillor Simon Casidy seconded and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were adopted and shall remain unaltered except by due process.

### **11/24 STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk announced that the next Town Council meeting is 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Town Council meetings are usually held monthly being the last Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

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

### **COMMITTEES AND THEIR MEMBERS 2024-2025**

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Councillors: Nick Craker (Chair), Annette Lee-Julian (Vice Chair), Tracy Adams, David Braithwaite, Rachel Brooks, Simon Cassidy and Naomi Taylor.

### **FACILITIES**

Councillors: Julian Smith (Chair), Richard Dorling (Vice Chair), Tracy Adams, David Braithwaite, Kerry Cassidy, Simon Cassidy, Ian Goldsworthy, Annette Lee-Julian, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell and Lori Reid.

### **PLANNING**

Councillors: Naomi Taylor (Chair), Annette Lee-Julian (Vice Chair), Tracy Adams, David Braithwaite, Simon Cassidy, Nick Craker, Jane Pascoe, Tony Powell, Lori Reid and Julian Smith.

All Council and Committee meetings will commence at 7.30pm.

## **APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2023-2024**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representative/s</b>
Alex Page Trust	The Mayor for the current year is a Trustee.
Cornwall Association of Local Councils Larger Councils Group (CALC):	Councillor Christina Whitty and Deputy Naomi Taylor.
Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) – Larger Councils Committee	Councillor Christina Whitty.
South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership – Cornwall Council	Councillor Christina Whitty. Deputy Councillor Naomi Taylor.
Cornwall Council - Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group	The Mayor, the Chair of the Planning Committee, the Chair of the Facilities Committee.
Cornwall CCTV Management Group	Councillor Julian Smith.
Liskeard Community Speedwatch	Councillor Richard Dorling
Cornwall CCTV Management Group	Councillor Julian Smith.
Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership (Looe Valley Line):	Councillors Kerry Cassidy and Julian Smith.
Footpaths and Rights of Way Co-ordinator	No one specifically nominated
Liskeard Chamber of Commerce	Councillor Jane Pascoe and Julian Smith
Liskeard in Bloom	Councillors Annette Lee-Julian, Jane Pascoe and Kerry Cassidy.
Liskeard Lights Up Committee	Councillor David Braithwaite and Annette Lee-Julian.
Looe Valley Heritage Group	Councillor Rachel Brooks.
Museum Management Team	Councillors Simon Cassidy and Annette Lee-Julian.
Safer Liskeard	The Mayor Christina Whitty and Councillor Simon Cassidy.
SECTA	None.
Stuart House Trust	The Mayor
Town Forum	The Mayor and Councillors Tracy Adams and David Braithwaite.
United Charities	The Current Mayor and Councillors Annette Lee-Julian and Jane Pascoe. Currently Councillors Christina Whitty and Nick Craker are also both cooperative trustees but have not been nominated by the council)
Eva Bowles Memorial Fund	The Mayor for the current year
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Councillor Advocate Scheme.	Councillors Simon Cassidy, Julian Smith and Naomi Taylor.
Youth Council	Councillor Naomi Taylor.