



LISKEARD TOWN FORUM

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7 MAY 2008

At the Annual General Meeting of the Liskeard Town Forum held in the Council Chamber at Luxstowe House, Liskeard at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 7 May 2008, there were present:

Liskeard Town Council

Cllrs N Mallard (Chairman), R Holmes (Deputy Chairman), B Hawken, A Purdon, L Reid, E Hoskin.

Mrs B Furse (Town Clerk), Mrs B Yeatman (Minute Clerk).

Caradon District Council
Melbourne Road T & R Assoc
Trevecca Residents Association
Pengover Park Residents Assoc
CHAIN
Stuart House/Rotary
Liskeard and District Museum
Chamber of Commerce
Residents

Cllr J Turner.

Mr W Hillson.

Mr & Mrs A Groves.

Mr C Knill.

Mrs A Rochester.

Dr T Piper.

Mrs H Medlen.

Mr Parker Jones

Mr J Quiller, L Emment, Mr W M Gregory, Mrs A Bedford, Mr M Mort, Mr R Waxman, P & S Sanderson, Mr D Rowe and two other residents.

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

PCSO K Hooper.

987 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cornwall County Councillors G Hocking and R Jones, Mr J Goldsworthy, Mr M Taylor and Mr S Vinson.

988 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME ADDRESS

The Chairman said that the Forum was formed in 1994 and welcomed everyone to the 13th AGM of the Forum.

There had been good times when the funding for projects had been plentiful and our partners had undertaken a variety of schemes on behalf of the town. There had also been some not so good times when we had seemingly stood still due to lack of resource or an inability to access it.

In the last year, things had sprung to life again and, with the help of the regional Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, we were able to make vast strides in producing the new plan for Liskeard and the surrounding parishes. It had not been easy and there had certainly been moments when we had all wondered what we had taken on and whether it would ever be completed. The deadline for continued funding at the end of next month had, however, spurred us on we are all aware that if it isn't finally published by then, it probably never would be as I don't think there was any funding anywhere else to cover the costs. For this reason, the final consultation period had been a bit short but we were pleased to say that we had some very good inputs from individuals and organisations including the County Council Local Area Agreement team.

As a word on the side, if you come across anybody complaining that they haven't had time to comment, please explain that we had less than a year since we signed the contract with the MCTA and the decision to impose the end date is entirely at the door of the Regional Development Agency.

So we're nearly there. But that is only the first part of the job. Once the RDA has accepted the plan and it has been endorsed by other authorities either as a whole or in part, we have then to work up the ideas that have emerged into a series of projects which, as with the Single Regency Budget regeneration programme of the late 90's, we will try to encourage our partners to implement. The plan itself would be a powerful document in many ways, it would form a Statement of Community Interest to inform the Local Planning Authority in the preparation of a Local Development Framework, it would form an evidence base to enable access to EU and UK funding for regeneration and economic development and, of course, it will be a useful tool in persuading others to include the documented needs of the area in their own programmes.

The publication of the Town Plan however, does form a natural break point in the process and as reported at the last meeting, the Chairman thought this was a suitable break point in the Forum's life for new blood to take up the cudgels, but he would still attend in the body of the meeting.

He stated that everyone would shortly have to decide who was going to become Chairman but that it shouldn't necessarily be a member of the Council. Whilst he recognised that it was easier in some respects for the Chair to be taken by somebody who is perhaps more in touch with things through the Council, the Forum had two very successful Chairmen in the past with Owen Sivell and Bernie Wooster who were not Councillors but made use of other Forum members to provide the necessary briefings.

He then thanked everyone past and present who had played their part over the years. Without whom the Forum and many of the improvements to the town would not have happened. He was sincere when saying that it had been both an honour and a privilege to serve as Chairman of the Forum.

989 MINUTES

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Forum held on the 4 April 2007 having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

990 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members received the Income and Expenditure Report for 2007/08 and the Balance Sheet as at 30/4/08. The Chairman reported that the MCTI had purchased a projector so hire costs were included. The Chairman brought to the attention of Members the loan made to the Liskerrett Centre for the Film Club. Members also noted an amendment to last year's accounts.

It was AGREED to accept and adopt the accounts.

991 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mrs B Furse invited nominations for Chairman. Councillor Holmes was proposed and seconded and as there were no other nominations it was unanimously AGREED that Councillor Holmes be elected as Chairman for 2008/2009. Councillor Holmes took to the chair and thanked Members for their vote.

992 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr W M Gregory was duly proposed and seconded. It was unanimously AGREED that Mr Gregory be elected as Vice Chairman for 2008/2009.

The Town Clerk presented Councillor Mallard with a gift for his service over a number of years.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting closed.