



LISKEARD TOWN FORUM
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 22 JULY 2009

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Liskeard Town Forum held in the Council Chamber at Luxstowe House, Liskeard at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 22 July 2009 there were present:-

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| Liskeard Town Council | Councillors: R Holmes (Chairman), N Mallard, L Reid, T Powell |
| Cannon Terrace Residents | Mrs S James-Smith |
| CN4C | Ms J Hargreaves |
| Trevecca Residents | Mr and Mrs A J Groves |
| Station Road Residents | J Markes, G Bowman |
| Plymouth Road Residents | S Quiller |
| Transition Liskeard | N Ammer |
| Liskeard Chamber of Commerce Residents | A and J Masters Mr W M Gregory (Vice Chairman), Mr J Goldsworthy, I Rowe, A P Langdon, Mr R Waxman, Ms S Lewis, W Mutton |
| Cornish Guardian | Emma Haines |
| Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | Sergeant J Williams |

1088 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cornwall Councillors Jay Schofield and Janet Powell.

1089 MINUTES

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Forum held on 6 May 2009, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

1090 ACCOUNTS 2008/2009 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2009

Councillor Mallard reported that there had been a slight error in the accounts prepared for the Annual General Meeting. There had been some problems during the period of the MCTi where monies had been received and then the bills requiring payment had been smaller. The books for the previous six years had now been passed to the Town Council. There had been an excess of expenditure over income, in part due to receipt of a cheque from the Town Council at the end of the financial year. It was noted that, when this cheque was paid in, there would appear to be an excess of income over expenditure in the current year. There had been an excess grant of £294.37 from the MCTi. Councillor Mallard had discussed this matter with the Regional Development Agency who had said that they did not require repayment. It was proposed that this amount be passed into the general fund. It was AGREED that the Accounts be accepted.

1091 ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

The Chairman reported that a new document had been drawn up based on the previous Constitution but taking into account various comments received. He noted that there was no longer support from the MCTi and no fixed future time-line for the Forum, however, he considered that the Forum allowed members of the community to contribute to the Town and that the Forum helped to contribute to a healthy economy in the area. He considered that all Members needed to support the Forum and that the work of the Forum needed to re-start as soon as the summer break was completed. He commented that the Membership of the Forum needed to be representative.

Councillor Mallard commented on Appendix B and was concerned that St Ive had been excluded from the list. He considered that since St Ive Parish had approached the Forum previously and had expressed a wish to be included within the Community Network Area (CNA) that it was important that they were included within the Forum. It was AGREED that St Ive parish be included within the Forum membership.

Councillors Reid and Hawken both questioned the voting system which they found to be confusing. Councillor Hawken had contributed a number of comments, one of which included comment on the confusion regarding the voting system. Mr Waxman considered that all regular Members taking part in the Forum should be entitled to vote. Councillor Powell considered that, should there be a controversial issue of any kind, a number of persons might attend the meeting. He felt that it would be difficult to allow everyone present to vote in these circumstances. Mr Goldsworthy also felt that members of the public should have a say in the running of the Forum.

Councillor Mallard commented that, historically, only Members had been permitted to speak at the Forum and that there had been community representatives voted onto the Forum each year. Part of the rationale for this had been that a number of the Members had been providers of funding for the Forum and were only able to make funding contributions under strict guidelines relating to the organisations that they represented. However, things had changed and there were now no financially supporting organisations, other than the Town Council as Members of the Forum. Additionally, organisations represented on the Forum had had to be legally constituted groups.

Mr Waxman commented that he felt it was important that in financial situations, there should be measures in place to prevent “stacking” of votes, however, he considered that there should be representation for individual people within the Town. He questioned whether there should be a membership application procedure in place. Mr Goldsworthy questioned whether the community representative scheme could be reinstated.

Councillor Reid requested that those present be allowed to reconsider the document presented to them and report back to the meeting. However, the Chairman did not consider this appropriate and requested that the revised Constitution be determined during the current meeting to allow the Forum to move forward.

Councillor Mallard moved that the Forum accept the proposed Constitution, with the amendment already agreed, but considered adding a statement regarding voting which could be later amended if required. Councillor Hawken commented that the statement in the Constitution referring to a working group considering financial requests and reporting to the Forum had never taken place and suggested that this paragraph be removed. Mr Waxman had understood that this paragraph had been previously removed at an AGM and questioned why it was still included. He considered that members of the public would not attend meetings if they did not feel that they would be allowed to take part in decision-making processes.

Councillor Mallard recommended that any person attending the Forum should be entitled to vote. He suggested that the paragraph relating to voting rights be suspended and reviewed and that the paragraph relating to a sub-committee making recommendations be removed. He further suggested that no person with any connection with the organisation applying for any financial benefit should be entitled to vote in that matter.

Mr Waxman suggested that individual Membership should be defined as someone who had attended at least three meetings during the previous twelve months. Councillor Reid agreed with this suggestion. It was AGREED that the above recommendations be carried.

Councillor Mallard recommended acceptance of the draft Constitution subject to these amendments, however, Councillor Hawken was not happy to accept the present mission statement for the Forum. He had suggested two alternative versions for consideration. He did not consider that the Forum could secure re-vitalisation of the Town on its own, and instead wanted the organisation to bring together interested parties to draw together ideas of what the Town needed. He considered that the mission statement needed to be succinct and that the aims needed to support the mission statement.

Councillor Powell considered that the relationship between the Town Council and the Forum should be included. Councillor Mallard commented that the Forum had been through the MCTi programme and could, therefore, operate as a Community Development Company. He commented that Saltash had undertaken this route and had obtained a grant from the RDA for £30,000. The Forum had not decided to take this action, however, he did not wish to see the Forum labelled as just a lobby group either.

It was suggested that the mission statement be amended to:-

“To bring together organisations, businesses and individuals in and around Liskeard to identify and promote measures needed to enhance the Town’s attractiveness to those who live, work or visit the Town.”

It was proposed, seconded and AGREED that the proposed Constitution and mission statements be accepted, subject to the revisions and amendments. Copies of the revised mission statement and Constitution would be circulated.

1092 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mallard proposed Mr Gregory as Chairman. This was seconded and AGREED. Mr Gregory thanked Councillor Holmes for his work as Chairman over the previous year.

1093 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr Waxman proposed Councillor Holmes as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded and AGREED.