



LISKEARD TOWN FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 6 MAY 2009

At a Meeting of the Liskeard Town Forum held in the Council Chamber at Luxstowe House, Liskeard at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 6 May 2009 there were present:

Liskeard Town Council

Cllrs R Holmes (Chairman), B Hawken, T Powell

Mrs B Furse (Town Clerk), Mrs K Olver (Minute Clerk)

Pengover Park Residents Assoc

Mr C Knill, Mr D Howard

Barras Cross Residents

Mr and Mrs Willing

Age Concern

Mrs A Rochester

Liskeard and District Museum

Mrs H Medlen

Liskerrett Centre

Mr J Lennon

Transition Liskeard

Ms Klaudia van Gool

Residents

Mr W M Gregory (Deputy Chairman), Ms S Lewis, Mrs J Powell, Mrs S James-Smith, Ms J Hargreaves, A Langdon, Ms A Bedford, Mr J Goldsworthy

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Sergeant J Williams, PCSO Mark Horton

Cornish Guardian

Ms E Haines

1068 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors A Purdon, N Mallard and G Hocking, Mr and Mrs Groves, Mr Mort and Mr M Garrington.

1069 MINUTES

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Forum held on the 11 March 2009 in the Council Chamber at Luxstowe House, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

1070 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Aldi (Minute 1055(1))

There was nothing new to report on this matter. Councillor Hawken commented on the public enquiry which he considered to have been a farce. The Caradon District Council officers had not objected to anything and there had been no counter arguments to the statements made by Aldi. Aldi had put forward evidence which he considered should have been challenged. All other possible sites for the Aldi store within the Town had been dismissed by the inspector and no objections to the siting of the store had been raised by Highways. He considered that the public had not really been represented at the meeting and was disappointed that none of the Liskeard Councillors had spoken up against the Aldi application. He considered that for future applications of this type, written representation alone would not be sufficient and that it was necessary to arrange for a Councillor to attend.

Councillor Powell commented on the planning procedure and felt that the Chairman of the Planning Committee had not been aware of the views of the Town Council. He did not consider that Caradon District Council had fought the application. He noted that the Inspector had commented on the lack of a Town Plan when one had been in place and considered that it was important to ensure that the new Cornwall Council adopted the Town Plan's contents as part of the local development framework. He considered, however, that the plan was already out of date and required revision. He noted the results of the sequential test which had been carried out for the Aldi store and the recently proposed Pets at Home store and which did not reveal any other suitable sites within the Town. He considered that there were a number of lessons to be learnt from the application.

It was noted that there had been no planning gain from the Aldi application.

2. Grant Funding (Minute 1055 (5))

A letter had been sent to Mr Besford-Foster regarding the request for funding to support the Town Forum, a reply had been received stating that the letter would be forwarded to the appropriate department.

3. Pig Meadow Lane Mural (Minute 1055(8))

The repainting of the Mural had now been started.

4. Chairman's Report (Minute 1057)

No further action had taken place regarding the Section 215 legislation, however, it was noted that the Boots building had been cleaned up, as had some of the gullies within the Town. Mr Goldsworthy was disappointed that there had not been more work carried out on the gullies in the rest of the Town.

5. Police Report (Minute 1056)

It was noted that former PCSO Ian Kenny had now started his Police training to become a Constable.

6. Thorn Park (Minute 1059)

The Thorn Park project was progressing. Installation of the new equipment was due to commence on 1 June 2009.

7. Liskerrett Centre (Minute 1060 (2))

The consultation event had been well attended as had the Open Day. Plans for the outdoor area at the Centre were nearing completion. Thanks were expressed to the Forum for their continued support for the project.

1071 POLICE MATTERS

Sergeant Williams reported that she was currently on light duties following recent surgery. PCSO Kenny was currently undergoing Police training and would be re-joining the team at the end of December. PCSO Mark Horton would be joining the team on 11 May 2009. Although he was due to join the rural team, he would initially be covering for PCSO Steed who was expecting a baby and currently on restricted duties.

Crime figures for the year to 31 March 2009 were now available. In the Liskeard policing area there had been 1070 crimes reported which was a reduction on the previous year of 7%, exceeding the 2% target. The target for the current year was a reduction in total crime of 5% which would be hard to achieve. The figures for burglary and violent crime in the area were the best in Cornwall, however, the team had been unable to meet the target for vehicle crime. There had been an overall slight increase in crime in the Liskeard North area, with reductions in the South and rural areas.

Sergeant Williams commented that it would be hard to meet targets for the coming year. The Sector Inspector had drawn up a plan for the year. The team were starting to use restorative practices and positive outcomes in the area. The detection rate for Liskeard area had been 43%, against a target of 31%. The high detection rate in the Liskeard South area was significantly attributable to the Shop Watch scheme.

Councillor Hawken questioned whether there would be a loss of resources in the area due to the low crime rate. Sergeant Williams commented that there was an acknowledged link between the number of crimes such as vehicle crime and burglary associated with times of financial crises. Although the Police had not seen an increase to date, it remained early days. She considered Liskeard to be unusual in that it had a relatively small, insular population with well known offenders. In addition, she commented on the number of schemes and activities within the town, both those with Police involvement and otherwise, and the CCTV system which provided a good deterrent.

1072 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The Chairman commented that the Plan needed to be kept under continuous review. He had invited Ms Klaudia van Gool of Transition Liskeard to the meeting to give a short report.

Transition Liskeard was a project looking at the longer term future of Liskeard, a future without such large oil reserves. The project sought to raise awareness and to identify

and map existing trees in the Liskeard area as well as identify where further trees could be planted. The project also concentrated on land use and Town Planning, looking specifically at land which could be used to grow food locally.

The Chairman considered that such things should be taken into account when looking at the Town Plan for the future.

1073 COMMUNITY FUND

Two applications had been received for the Community Fund. A contribution towards the Phoenix Mine Project had been agreed in principle earlier in the year and it was agreed that the application met the necessary criteria. It was AGREED that the Phoenix Mine Centenary Project be granted £200.00.

A further application had been received from Liskeard Community Murals Group requesting £250.00 to repaint the Teddy Bear mural in Westbourne car park. A grant of £250.00 was AGREED.

1074 CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported that the annual insurance for the year had been paid. The insurance company had offered to increase the cover at an additional cost of £75.00 but this was not considered necessary.

It was noted that the latest Market and Coastal Towns newsletter and Action for Market Towns newsletter were available from the Town Council offices or by e-mail from the Town Clerk.

The Regional Economic Profile April 2009 had been received. It was noted that the profile now covered the whole of Cornwall rather than the six regions previously covered by the District and Borough councils.

1075 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Parade Resurfacing

The large pothole which had appeared in the Parade at the pedestrian traffic lights was commented upon. The Town Clerk had informed Highways of the situation but no action had been taken to date.

1076 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 17 June 2009 – Council Chamber, Luxstowe House.

Wednesday 22 July 2009, Special AGM – Council Chamber, Luxstowe House.