



LISKEARD TOWN FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

At a meeting of the Liskeard Town Forum held in the Council Chamber, Luxstowe House, Liskeard at 7.30 pm on 21 September 2011 there were present:-

Liskeard Town Council	Councillor R Holmes (Vice Chairman), Cllrs B Hawken
Residents	Mr M Gregory (Chairman), Mr J Goldsworthy, Mrs A Rochester, Mr M Mort
Cornish Guardian	Ms J Farrington
Trevecca Residents	Mr Groves
Barras Cross Residents	Mr and Mrs Willing
St Cleer Parish Council	Mrs S Newns
Rotary Club	Dr A Piper
PENCIL	Ms T Dawe
Minute Clerk	Mrs K M Olver

1290 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received Mr A Deacon, Cllrs N Mallard, L Reid and I Goldsworthy, Mr R Waxman and Ms J Markes.

1291 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Interest either Personal or Prejudicial.

1292 MINUTES

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Forum held on 3 August 2011 in the Council Chamber, Luxstowe House, Liskeard, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

1293 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1294 POLICE MATTERS

A written report, submitted by PCSO Ian Chambers, was reported by the Vice Chairman.

The Police presented their apologies for non-attendance at recent meetings which had been due to the change in shift patterns, known as Blueprint. The shift patterns were currently under review as they made working with partner organisations very difficult.

There had been a slight rise in total crime in the Liskeard area, with a rise in burglary, theft and damage. Overall there had been approximately a 1% increase in total crime.

The Shopwatch scheme was operating well. The antisocial behaviour reports were similar to before, although the shift patterns were causing some problems with dealing with these issues.

There had been some complaints regarding licensed premises in the Town with some public order complaints during the summer. The Cornish Ivy was the only premises with a license to stay open until 2.00 am. There had been some instances of noise nuisance complaints from people living in the Town, however, the Town remained on an even keel with no major concerns at the present time.

A drug dealer had been evicted following a joint working initiative between the Police and the Environmental Health team.

1295 CONCESSIONARY BUS FARES

The issue of bus fares had been passed to the Cornwall Council cabinet and had been suspended for four months pending further investigation. The Chairman considered that the Forum should take a firm stance on the matter due to the number of local people dependent upon the buses to enable them to shop in the Town and visit the local surgeries. PENCIL offered to circulate petitions in this respect if required.

Councillor Hawken stated that he was not aware that the free bus service was to be cut. The cuts proposed were to the amount of subsidy provided to the bus companies by Cornwall Council. It was noted that the current subsidy was 73.5% and that it was proposed to cut this to 50%. Cornwall Council received £400,000.00 towards this subsidy from central government but this amount was no longer ring fenced to this specific budget area.

There was a need to remember those within the Town who also relied on the buses to get around the Town. It was also noted that the number of Post Offices in local villages had been reduced and that buses were needed to provide transport into the towns to access these services.

Ms Dawe commented that there did not appear to be sufficient buses available to meet demand at times during the day and that people had to wait an hour for the next bus due to overcrowding at times.

The Chairman stated that he felt it was important to keep up the pressure on Cornwall Council and it was AGREED that a letter be sent from the Forum. St Cleer Parish Council would also be asked to write in support.

1296 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had attended the funeral of Cornwall Councillor Mike George's wife on behalf of the Forum.

Cornwall Council had accepted the idea of having a more competitive rate for two hours of parking and had proposed a charge of £1.00 for two hours, however, there was now no one-hour rate available and the minimum charge was £1.00. A charge of £2.00 per day had been proposed for Rapson's car park. Unfortunately, the three hour limit had been retained for Westbourne, which was awkward for both businesses and those using the Public Hall. The matter would now pass to cabinet for consideration.

An article on the car parks would be run in the Cornish Times at the end of the week. More shops had closed within the Town and it was anticipated that the new charging would have a further effect on the Town. It was noted that Eurospar was due to close at the end of the month and that other shops were proposing reduced opening times.

Dr Piper considered that the car parking charges should have been considered along with the cuts in concessionary transport as part of an over-arching transport plan for the County.

It was noted that the number of visitors to St Cleer Church had increased as visitors were stating that they could not afford the parking charges in the Town. Mrs Newns proposed that Cornwall Council be requested to provide free-parking for local rate payers. It was noted that the former Caradon Council Parking scheme had been scrapped and that Cornwall Council had not been prepared to re-instate this.

Councillor Hawken commented that Cornwall Council had to balance their books and that the income projected to be received from car parking had to come in from somewhere else if there were insufficient receipts. It would be interesting to see the half year figures for the car parks as, if they were down on previous receipts, there would be a stronger argument to reduce parking costs to increase usage.

Ms Dawe commented on the high price of groceries within the supermarkets compared to other areas of the country and that there was little money in the local economy. She considered that Cornwall Council should consider the local areas and price car parking in accordance with the needs of the locality rather than imposing a blanket charge across the County.

It was AGREED that a letter be sent to Cornwall Council asking them to send a representative to the next meeting of the Forum and that the Cornwall Councillors for the area be asked to attend the next meeting.

A planning application had been received in respect of Morrisons in regard to a proposed new extension to the supermarket with revised access/exit arrangements for the store. A letter of objection had been sent on behalf of the Forum.

The Chairman reported that the Minute Clerk would be retiring following the meeting and thanked her for her work on behalf of the Forum.

The paper bank in the Westbourne car park had been placed well into the corner of the recycling area, causing difficulty for wheelchair users entering the car park from Westbourne Lane. This had also allowed an accumulation of silt to develop. The matter would be raised with Cornwall Council.

1297 UPDATES AND REPORTS

All items had been covered during the meeting.

1298 COMMUNITY FUND

1. George Hyslop

An application had been received for funding to support Mr Hyslop to play for the Cornwall under 15 cricket team tour to the West Indies in 2012. Mr Hyslop had played for Menheniot as well as the county team.

Mr Mort questioned whether the application met the criteria for funding. It was agreed that the application be deferred to the next meeting to allow inspection of the criteria for donations to be investigated.

2. Memory Café

The Memory Café meet on the first Friday of the month in the Methodist Church hall and receive no formal funding. The sessions consisted of activities and craft work and support was requested to enable those attending to visit the Theatre Royal pantomime in January 2012. Those running the Memory Café had offered to provide a short presentation to the Forum should they wish to receive this. It was considered that the Café should be supported as a community activity and a donation of £50.00 was proposed and AGREED.

3. Liskeard Lights Up

Rik Jones had asked that thanks be passed to the reporters of the Cornish Times and the Cornish Guardian for their support for the Liskeard Lights Up charity auction which was taking place at the same time as the Forum meeting.

4. PENCIL

Trina Dawe requested support for the PENCIL campaign and was advised on the process for application for funding.

5. Liskerret Centre

An application for support was received from the Liskerret Centre. It was noted that the main hall building at the premises required major work or replacement. Applications were to be made shortly for grant funding to replace the hall with a purpose built building which would be developed following questionnaires to the community and user groups. The Liskerret Centre wished to know if there was a need for the Forum to use the facilities and wished to request formal support from the Forum to support their grant application.

Councillor Hawken considered that there was a need for the Forum to support facilities which augment and support facilities already available in the Town rather than building repeat versions of buildings already in existence within the Town.

It was AGREED that a letter of support be sent on behalf of the Forum.

1299 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

1300 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Sun Girt Lane

Mr Goldsworthy reported on the poor condition of Sungirt Lane. The lane was overgrown and in poor condition generally. Councillor Hawken reported that there had been no weed control undertaken along the lane during the summer.

Mr Mort reported that there had been no weed prevention carried out during the last two years around the Town. This year trees had started to take root in the pavements and this would shortly lead to breaking down of the pavement surfaces. He commented also on the public buildings in the control of Cornwall Council within the Town. Westbourne House and Graylands were starting to look very poor and had received very little maintenance over the previous year. The poor condition of Luxstowe House was also noted. Hedges had not been cut back in Woodgate Road and the Barras Cross area and were growing across the pavements. A number of the smaller roads in the area were also considered to be in very poor condition. It was felt that, if the works to these areas were not carried out in the very near future, huge expense would be required to restore them in the future. It was AGREED that a letter be sent to Cornwall Council and the local Cornwall Councillors regarding the lack of maintenance of the footpaths, road, hedges and the public buildings in the Town.

2. Traffic Enforcement Officers

Ms Dawe commented on the over-zealous work of the Traffic Enforcement Officers within the Town with local businesses appearing to be particularly targeted and this was having an effect on their future. The Traffic Enforcement Officers had been rude when speaking to people and had not allowed trade vehicles to load and off-load goods.

It was AGREED than an investigation of the traffic enforcement regulations be undertaken in order that the Forum could formulate a letter to Cornwall Council. Councillor Hawken commented on the extremely poor parking in the Bay Tree Hill area of the Town.

1301 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2 November 2011

7 December 2011

All meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Luxstowe House, Liskeard starting at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.