

Deputy Mayor's Report

Ilminster Town Council

27th September 2022

Since the last meeting I attended on the 19th July, I have had the honour and privilege of being present at the following events, either in company with or on behalf of the Mayor.

It is an odd sensation to be writing a report following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, when only a few months ago I wrote in my June report that: "I [...] had the pleasure of attending, on behalf of the Mayor, various functions surrounding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations". Therefore, sadly, my report refers mostly to those events surrounding the passing of our late Monarch.

- Monday the 12th September, in company with the Mayor, I attended and witnessed the Declaration of King Charles III, being read out in the Minster by our Town Crier, Mr Andrew Fox. It was a short ceremony which ended with the singing of our altered national anthem. Possibly the first time it has been sung in the Minster for over 70 years.
- On Sunday the 18th September, on behalf of the Mayor and town of Ilminster, I attended Wells Cathedral in the company of Mrs Hamilton, for a service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for her late Majesty's life and service to our country. This was a beautiful service led by the new Bishop of Bath & Wells, the Most Reverend Michael Beasley. Readings were given by General Sir Peter Wall GCB, CBE, former Chief of the General Staff and Mrs Annie Maw CVO, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Somerset. I have to report though, that throughout an emotive service, both Mrs Hamilton and I managed to hold it together until the lone piper struck up toward the end of the service!
- Later that day, joining the Mayor, my wife and I attended the Minster for the town's service of Thanksgiving for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This was a well-attended modest service that gave the community a chance to come together and celebrate the

long life of dedicated service she gave to our country. No lone piper this time, but equally as moving.

- At 8pm the same evening, again joining the Mayor, our Town Crier and several members of our community, we assembled at the Market House and observed a national minute silence in tribute to the passing of the Queen. Especial thanks must go to the marshals supplied by the Carnival Committee, who helped ensure the safety of the event.
- Finally, I would like to thank those involved in organising this year's Ilminster "Party On The Park." Although both my wife and I attended the event on Sunday the 28th August, this was not in an official capacity. It was a very enjoyable day, made more so by the excellent weather conditions that seemed to lend themselves to a convivial atmosphere that encouraged a seemingly well attended day. Certainly, judging by the queues, those traders who took pitches must have done well.

Brian Hamilton | Deputy Mayor | Ilminster Town Council