

Ilminster Town Council: Deputy Mayor's Report

18th July 2023

Since our last meeting in June, I have attended the following events on behalf of the Mayor and Town of Ilminster.

- **24th June 2023 (unofficial).** My wife Carol and I attended the inaugural Chard Town Crier competition. Hosted by Chard's Town Crier, Mr Stuart Cumming and his wife Viv (who is also the Town's Mace Bearer), we went there not only to offer support to our own Town Crier, Mr Andrew Fox and his wife Julie, but Stuart and the town of Chard too, as they embark on an event that we know only too well, brings colour and spectacle to the town.
- **25th June 2023.** Again, in the company of my wife, we visited Axbridge at the foot of the Mendips to witness the 400-year-old Town Maces being returned to the town for safekeeping. The Maces, due to their age and fragility, had been kept on behalf of the town in storage by Somerset Council. But now they are housed in a specially designed case within the museum at King John's Hunting Lodge in the centre of Axbridge.
- **1st of July 2023.** I attended the Somerset Armed Forces Day, held at Vivary Park, Taunton. Hosted jointly by Somerset Council and the new Taunton Council, this brought together many of the charities that have grown up in support of our armed forces over the years. These included two of the oldest: Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) (est. 1885) and Combat Stress (est. 1919). Sadly, greater demands are being made from all the charities involved in the event just as fundraising is becoming more challenging. Along with parachute displays, stunt quad biking, a Lancaster bomber fly-past and a visit from the Red Arrows, there were re-enactments and military displays old and new. It was an eventful day which attracted a lot of visitors, including some of Ilminster's residents, to the park.
- **2nd July 2023.** In Yeovil, Carol and I attended the Annual Town Council Civic Service and reception. This was a lovely event which combined a religious service with music from local choirs and musicians. This was followed by a reception at the Manor Hotel where

many of the 'Chain gang' from Somerset and from over the border in Dorset, were hosted by the Mayor and Town Council.

- **4th July 2023.** I attended the Annual General Meeting of Young Somerset. As a town that was looking to get involved with Young Somerset recently, this was an interesting insight into what the organisation was looking to do now and in the future. Sadly, as was explained by the CEO, Nik Harwood, at the time Ilminster looked to engage YS to help provide a service in the town, YS were looking to change direction and move away from the type of service we were hoping to contract from them.
- **12th July 2023.** I attended an on-line training event hosted by SALC delivered to help Town Councillors and councils respond to planning applications.

Brian Hamilton | Deputy Mayor | Ilminster Town Council