

Iminster Town Council: Deputy Mayor's Report

20th June 2023

Since our last meeting in April and at the Annual Town Council Meeting in May, I have attended the following events.

- **28th April 2023.** The second 'Huggers' (Herne Hill Users Group) meeting was held in the Council Chambers, North Street. Open to anyone who has an interest in the usage and future of Herne Hill, we discussed a wide range of issues, including access provision, signage and general maintenance. Another meeting is scheduled for the end of the month and thereafter a report will be taken to Open Spaces in due course.
- **5th May 2023.** Coronation weekend kicked off with a visit to both the Silver Street and Ditton Street sites of Herne View School. This was in the company of the Town Crier and his good lady, where we were witness to the 'Crown & Gown' competition. Prizes were given out to year groups for their impressive headdresses. It was good fun and the children seemed to be impressed with their gifts from the Town Council and waved their flags enthusiastically during the event. Some to the point of destruction!
- **6th May 2023.** In company with the Mayor, I attended the 'Loyal Cry' led by our Town Crier, Mr Andrew Fox. This was held at the Market House, but sadly, due to the terrible weather, few people were there to witness this historic event. There was a blessing by the Reverend Jo and a hearty first verse of the National Anthem sung.
- **7th May 2023.** Again, in company with the Mayor, I attended the 'Songs of Praise' held at the Minster on Sunday evening. This was followed by a small reception, for those who attended and hosted by the Mayor. Everyone there seemed to appreciate the service and it was good to chat to those who made it.
- **10th May 2023.** In company with my wife Carol, we represented the Mayor and Town at the Axbridge Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony. This was the first time we had been to this medieval town nestling at the foot of the Mendips. It was a lovely evening and we wished the new Mayor, Francesca Mitton, all the best for the coming year on behalf of the Mayor and Town of Iminster.

- Did you know that Axbridge, not only have a Town Crier, but a Town Bailiff and Sergeant at Mace too? They also possess two maces which are over 500 years old this year.
- Also, to emphasis what a small world we live in, Carol discovered a connection with the Town Crier, whose wife taught at the same school Carol's mother was secretary at!
- **20th May 2023.** *Saturday Councillor Surgery* in company with Cllr McKillop. During this session, we had a resident of Greenways bring up the issue of speeding along the old A3037 to the 'Sea bends' and A358.
- **26th May 2023.** The third 'Huggers' (Herne Hill Users Group) meeting was held in the Council Chambers, North Street. As above, this meeting is open to anyone who has an interest in the usage and future of Herne Hill. Led by Jake, we were taken through the prospective plans for the improvement and management of the Hill with a view to applying for the Green Flag initiative.
- **4th June 2023.** In company with the Mayor and Cllr Osborne, we set out to judge the Annual Scarecrow competition. It was certainly a long walk around town and an interesting view of how different households and organisations interpreted the 'Best of British' theme. From the three witches of the 'Scottish Play', to a builder's bottom and divebombing seagulls! Many were interested in the eventual winners and appeared to agree with the outcome I am glad to say.
- **1st to 8th June 2023.** Although I did not attend any events in an official capacity, I wanted to mention the range and breadth of the subjects covered by this year's Ilminster Literary Festival. I and my wife Carol attended many events across the week and enjoyed all of them. Many talks were sold out and it looked very positive for the future of the festival, although like a lot of volunteer led events, they are always on the lookout for fresh blood and funding.
- **10th June 2023.** Ilminster Town Council stand, IMEX 2023. This again was a wonderful opportunity to engage with many of our townsfolk, visitors and newly arrived, or about to arrive, residents. It was uplifting to hear of one family who are moving into Ilminster from up country, because they thought it was a wonderful place to live and bring up their

children. A special mention to Cllr Karchud who went above and beyond to collate the views of some of our younger residents.

- **11th June 2023.** In company with the Mayor, I attended the Ilminster Car Show. Another classic year and the weather held out. At the last minute I was seconded into the car judging team and accompanied Cllr Shearman as we toured the varied vehicles on show. With so many wonderful cars there on the day, it was a very tough choice to pick a winner. The whole day seemed to go well and it was good to see so many attending, both residents and visitors. Well done to all those who put this weekend together and showed Ilminster off at its best.

Brian Hamilton | Deputy Mayor | Ilminster Town Council