

Mayors Report May 2022- May 2023

It has been a very busy year and I've attended over forty meetings but, this is a reduction on last year's total of just over sixty. There have also been many very memorable events which have taken place, that have been quite delightful such as in June welcoming the Ukrainian family to Llanwrtyd and later that month the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The launch of Kathy Biggs's book, The Luck, was a pleasure and also Mrs Anabelle Thomas's Centenary Birthday celebrations was a lovely event, as was the opening of the Pharmacy with James Evans MS. I was also invited to open many events such as Coffee Mornings food fayres etc.

Sadly during September 2022 we were faced with the death of our late Queen Elizabeth 2nd. But Llanwrtyd responded as it should and followed Operation London Bridge in the efficient and well organised manner we would have expected and wanted, many thanks to all who organised this in my absence.

Earlier this Month we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III which was a lovely weekend of celebrations and my thanks go to all that made the Big Lunch event a successful event and a special thanks to Cheryl, Town Clerk for pulling it all together at such short notice.

The one thing I have learned about being Town Mayor is that you have to enjoy tea and cakes. Another thing I have learned is that there is always something new waiting to cause problems for the community. For example the ongoing access to the side of the Victoria Hall is still taking a lot of time and effort to overcome. Thankfully we have managed to see that the claim for adverse possession has been dropped, but the right of access for maintenance to the side wall of the Hall is still an ongoing problem. I am grateful to the members of this Council and others who have been working tirelessly on this; I had hoped that this would have been sorted in my time as Mayor, but unfortunately not so. However we did have a little bit of good news recently which is that DAS have agreed to take on our claim for damage to the side wall of the Building. The Town Clerk will give you more details in our business meeting shortly. There are of course, always the difficult planning decisions which don't always please some people. I am hoping that PCC will organise another training session for us so that we can all keep up to date with rules and regulations as they develop.

There are also other issues that are ongoing and still requiring the attention of this Council. Things like the sewerage system, Town Regeneration Plan, Twinning with Meriel.

I would like to pay thanks to the Dolwen Field Committee for their hard and dedicated work in transforming the Dolwen Field area from a neglected field into a usable asset for the town. This work is now drawing to a close, as they have completed the work and developments as planned. The Field now has been transformed with the completion of the car park, perimeter footpath, ample seating, sensory garden, sculptures, outdoor table

tennis and boules court. The Pavilion however still is not paying its way and we need to look at either better promotion of its facilities or reducing its costs such as solar panels and more economic heating and ideally both.

Finance is always a struggle and is as you all know one of the drawbacks of being the smallest town, we have the smallest precept. However I am proud of the fact that we have done our best to keep the precept down which does benefit the businesses and households of Llanwrtyd.

I would like to thank you all as members of Llanwrtyd Town Council for your input, help, hard work, patience and attendance during the past year. The meetings can be long and arduous and it can be quite a thankless job especially when we have to sometimes tell people what they don't want to hear after a decision has been made. But you have all made a great effort to work as a team and I appreciate the help you have given me in carrying out my role as Mayor and Chair of the Council. My thanks also to the contractors we have to keep the maintenance of our facilities in working order namely: Ken Price, Kim Jackson, John Bolton and Anthony Croker, also the temporary volunteer work of Jason Lambi-Baker. My thanks also to the Trustees of the Victoria and Abergwesyn Halls who look after our assets with great care. Sarah, as Deputy Mayor I appreciate the work you have put in. For standing in for me when needed and when quick decisions had to be made it was reassuring to know you would always be there to help and advise and finally, I would like to thank our Town Clerk Cheryl Hood for making my job as Mayor so much easier, pointing me in the right direction and giving me help and advice whenever needed. You always show great professionalism and carry out your position as Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with great dignity and patience. I know your patience has been tested to the limit with some of the things you have had to deal with.

Thank you

Councillor Jim Davies

Mayor and Chair of Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council

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