

## **Mayor's Speech – Annual Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

As I said in my speech at the At Home Reception, it has been a great honour and pleasure for me to be Mayor and Chairman of this Council over the last twelve months.

I don't think it is humanly possible to beat the number of appearances as Mayor set by former Mayor Tony Church, but I have done my best with the support of the Lady Mayoress to attend as many events as possible and represent the Town to the best of my abilities.

I suspect you are all quite tired of hearing me speak, so I do not intend to go on for long. However, I should thank again Beverley and her team for making my time in office so enjoyable and for laughing at all my rather poor and questionable jokes. Special thanks go also to Geraldine for her organisational skills in respect of the Town Show, Christmas Market and the At Home. Geraldine has also acted as secretary to planning and neighbourhood planning meetings which I chaired, and I have probably sent Geraldine quietly mad!

One principle has been very clear to me during my term. This Council works best as a team and the underlying principle is that we are here to act on behalf of the residents of the town and work in their best interests. Whatever your political persuasion, I think team work and consensus is how we have been able to achieve all our projects and work over the last twelve months. I hope this will continue as there is lots of work to do in the coming term.

I am handing over the chain to Grahame who I am sure will be a very good Mayor. I wish him good luck and thank him for his support as my deputy.

Thank you