



Tiverton Town Council  
Annual Report 2016-2017  
June 2017

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## Mayors Annual Report

My year of office is rapidly coming to an end and I have reflected on how quickly it has gone. The Beadle and I have attended many events in Tiverton and other towns. There have been many highlights but visiting the schools to speak to over 500 pupils about Tiverton and the traditions was a favourite. The Beadle and I visited the care homes and personally spoke to over 100 residents. It was a particular honour to lead the Remembrance Day parade and to see so many people turn out to watch the parade go by. I turned on the Christmas Lights as part of the Winterfest celebrations.

A particular highlight was the purchase of the Town Hall from Mid Devon District Council on 1st April 2017. Initially we thought we were going to lose six paintings but I can confirm that at a recent MDDC cabinet meeting it was confirmed that the paintings would remain at the Town Hall.

The Town Council continues to provide more services to the town including, grass cutting, public toilets and litter picking. The Town hall is increasingly being used for weddings and corporate events and the New Hall for productions. We will shortly be employing an Event Co-Ordinator whose role it will be to increase the revenue from both of these venues.

I would like to remind you that HMS Enterprise is visiting the town on 30th April 2017 with a parade through the town and a reception afterwards in the Town Hall. Can councillors please inform the office if they are attending and if so the names of any guests.

Finally I would like to thank fellow councillors and members of the public for the support over the past year.

Councillor Steve Flaws

Mayor of Tiverton

## Town Clerks Annual Report

During the year we decided to place some counters on our two main toilet units, which are in the Market and Westex Car Park, to see what sort of usage there is on a daily basis. This is also coupled with the feedback from a number of members of the public that feel that there should be some form of public toilet facility nearer to the bus station. A small working party has recently been set up to investigate this.

On Sunday 30th April we were visited by the Captain and members of the crew of HMS Enterprise. This event took a great deal of organising, but was a fantastic day; although sadly the weather was not so kind to us.

The Council made the decision to take over the Town Hall from the district council. It is often said that life goes around in a circle, and as the then Borough Council had to pass the building over to the district in 1974, that seems to have a ring of truth about it. We did however have a bit of a battle over some of the paintings that hang in the town hall. The district felt that they might wish to take them away. Some of those paintings have lived in the town hall for the whole life of the building, and were actually in the previous Guildhall or Town House which stood on the same site. I am pleased to say that we managed to persuade them that they should stay, so they are now on loan to us. One painting, which is the property of the town council, of Viscount Palmerston, who was one of the Members of Parliament for Tiverton, and was also Prime Minister on two occasions, is at present being restored.

Despite the growing pressure to increase the services that we undertake we once again were able to keep our precept at what I would consider to be a very reasonable rate.

John Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD

Town Clerk

## Dementia Alliance Annual Report

Funding from Tiverton Town Council was secured to continue with this project until the end of March 2018.

At the moment we are classified as 'working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Community and will have our first full assessment in August.

At the present time we have 206 Dementia Friends. The hour long sessions have been run by Sue Moore and Jean Thislethwaite.

Awareness sessions have taken place for staff of Banburys, Tiverton Hotel, Weatherspoons, salvation army, the St George and St Pauls pastoral care team, Tiverton and District Community Transport, Tiverton Museum, Exe Valley Leisure Centre, the women's Institute and a session for town and district councillors.

A session has been arranged for staff at Castle Place Surgery next month.

A monthly network meeting was set up which is regularly attended by representatives from Age UK, Upstream, Involve, Unite, Alzheimer's Society, Memory Matters, Museum, Community Transport, Walking for Health, Tiverton Senior Voice, Tiverton Hospital, MDDC, Devon Carers and the Library.

Sadly the uptake from local businesses' is providing more challenging. Councillor Jordan approached a number of businesses, but only Banburys signed up. Our co-ordinator and Jean visited every shop in the town centre but had no uptake. Tesco has been approached twice and one of our champions is working on Morrisons and Heathcoats. Marks and Spencer whilst having their own in-house training on dementia are positively engaging with us and are having a session in store in May.

An event was held at the New Hall last year. The event was poorly attended, not helped by the fact that the Gazette got the date wrong.

Articles have appeared in the Village Green and in the current Weatherspoons magazine, which is distributed throughout the country. The Action Alliance has its own Facebook page.

Whilst coming a long way in the 11 months since being formed there remains more work to be done before we can truly say we are a Dementia friendly Town.

Sue Moore

Dementia Co-ordinator

## Allotment Committee Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the majority of allotment plots are in a reasonable condition. There are very few people on the waiting list and very few actions have needed to be taken against people who fail to keep their plots to the required standard during the year.

There have been a few people who having taken on a garden have only succeeded in growing weeds, maybe they underestimated the time and effort required to maintain a plot, or maybe something in their daily life changed, and therefore they were unable to keep up the agreed commitment to cultivate their site and keep it tidy.

We installed a new Eco toilet at Tomswell which is already saving us a great deal of money on water bills. The allotment Association also put a new base down for the toilet at Beech Road.

Bonfires continue to cause problems on occasions. Some years ago we made a ruling that states that you can only light a bonfire on the first weekend of the month. Having said that we must remember that some allotment sites are near to where people live, and consideration needs to be given to those neighbours. Whilst some allotment items are required to be burnt there are often more green ways of disposal that, if possible, we would ask you to use. By doing this we also hopefully assist in the protection of our planet for future generations.

After some debate, and having looked at the low number of people on the waiting list we decided not to go ahead with the site at the Walronds. Access to the site was poor and it was proving difficult to get any water supply put onto the site. The site would have also required a great deal of work done to it before we could have run it as a successful allotment site.

I feel that we have a good working relationship with the Allotment Association who attend our Allotment Committee meetings and discuss items and make some useful suggestions.

All that remains is for me to wish you happy gardening for the forthcoming season!

Councillor Gerald Luxton

Chairman

## Tiverton in Bloom Committee Annual Report

I am sure that you will all agree that the floral display in Tiverton last year looked magnificent, and indeed it received positive comments from many people, including visitors to the town. Unfortunately the South West in Bloom competition's criteria has changed, and it no longer has a complete focus on the floral side of our accomplishments but is focused on community involvement.

Sadly, having received a gold award for two successive years we did not reach that for the third year, and were dropped back to Silver Gilt last year. To get back to gold we need to have far more community involvement and a range of activities throughout the year, to this end I wish to make a challenge to you all,

and that challenge is to get involved in the community side of things so that we can once again obtain the gold status.

Park and cemetery groups and graffiti clearing, along with litter picking are just some of the things that we need to be able to demonstrate to show that things are happening within the community of Tiverton.

Once again Taunton Deane Nurseries are providing the hanging baskets for the 2017 displays. Whilst we have had to make a small increase in the cost of the basket, which I believe still provides tremendous value for money, we are getting a great deal of orders for baskets for this year. We need to put our order in next week, so if you have not ordered your basket time is running out!

Councillor Wallace Burke

Chairman

## Planning Annual Report

Since the last Annual Town Meeting the Planning Committee has dealt with nearly 200 planning applications. The days of being sent paper planning applications has gone, and now we have to download the applications and display them on a screen. In the main this system seems to work well, apart from when the technology lets us down.

We are lucky that when we get a very large application a planning officer will normally come along to our meeting to discuss the application. The planning committee finds this most useful.

We also look at any licensing applications that come along.

Planning can be a very emotive subject and we have to keep very much to material reasons for either supporting or not supporting a planning application. To this end we have regular training sessions to ensure that we keep abreast with changes in planning law.

We have been looking at developing a Neighbourhood Plan, however there does seem to be a lack of interest in this area, and we will shortly have to decide if we wish to continue with this idea or not.

Councillor Wallace Burke

Chairman

## Civic & Ceremonial Committee Annual Report

The Civic and Ceremonial Committee currently have thirteen members, and during this year we held four meetings.

Planning is now well in hand for the traditional Perambulation of the Town Leat which is to be held on Saturday 9th September 2017. It is being managed by a working group of five, including the Bailiff of the Hundred. We are very grateful to Julie in the office for all the work she is doing towards this event.

The weather was very kind for the Annual Town Crier Competition in May 2016 and saw a total of sixteen "Criers" and their escorts competing in an event that was enjoyed by all those who attended. We are very grateful to Mr Ken Purchase from Newton Abbot for organising this event.

The next competition is planned for Saturday 28th May 2017.

An event to commemorate the 100 years since Private Thomas Henry Sage was awarded his Victoria Cross on the 4th October 1917 is being planned this year. This will take place on Wednesday 4th October 2017.

There is a need to address the provision of a new Mayor's Board as the current board has room for only one more name, and also consideration of how to display future Mayor's names on the Mayoral Chain.

The Proclamation of the Fair took place in June and October 2016, but sadly with a notably dwindling attendance of school pupils along with a disappointing number of Councillors attending the October event.

We were delighted to eventually see the return of the Halsbury Casket in a fully restored condition. We are most grateful for the donations received towards these costs, however there is still a shortfall of £210.00 at this present time.

We are very grateful to Mr Alan Burnett our Beadle who has been very supportive to our Mayor and Council during the year.

On several occasions we had to enlist the help of a “stand-in” Mace Bearer, and we would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to be considered for this role. Anyone who is interested should speak to our Beadle or to the Town Clerk for details.

Cllr Janet Rendle

Chairman

## Finance & General Purposes Committee General Report

It has been a very busy year for this committee, for apart from keeping an eye on the budget the committee has been involved in one of the largest projects undertaken by this Council for many years, the purchase of the Town Hall. This has involved a great deal of negotiations taking place, however the building is now owned by the town council from the 1st April 2017.

Despite this major expenditure we are pleased that the precept demand from Tiverton Town council remains at a very reasonable level, far lower than some of the other towns in the area.

Because of Central Government cuts Tiverton Town Council has had to take on more responsibilities and also has been faced with some tough choices regarding the retention of other services, which had the Council not stepped forward to support could have been lost, which would have been to the detriment of the town. These services include grass cutting and a major contribution towards the upkeep of our play areas.

Now that we are the proud owners of the Town Hall we will be looking to recruit an Events Co-ordinator who will be responsible for generating as much revenue as possible for both the Town Hall and also the New Hall in Barrington Street.

It has been a very interesting year, and no doubt the year ahead will also be both interesting and challenging.

Councillor C Slade

Chairman

## Councillor List 2016-2017

WARD	COUNCILLOR	Tiverton Town Council	TELEPHONE	Email
Cranmore	Stephen Bush	53 Lazenby Road, Tiverton EX16 4AJ	07976641304	dramatechws@gmail.com
Cranmore	Susan Griggs	Old Vicarage, St Andrew Street, Tiverton EX16 6PH	07850375895	hs-g@hotmail.co.uk
Cranmore	Christina Daw	101 Palmerston Park, Tiverton EX16 5PG	01884 257829 07931407424	cpgdaw@sky.com
Cranmore	Clarissa Slade	8 Blackthorn Avenue, Tiverton EX16 6TY	01884 252301	Cels309@hotmail.co.uk
Cranmore	Kevin Wilson	49 Hawks Drive, Tiverton EX16 6WW	07974 623529	Kevin.wilson13@btopenworld.com
Cranmore	Leslie Cruwys	2 Ford Road Tiverton EX16 4BA	01884 563153	lescruwys@hotmail.com
Castle	Janet Rendle	Lower Mellguards, Park Road, Tiverton EX16 6AU	01884 254914	jr@mellguards.eclipse.co.uk
Castle	Benjamin Holdman	Flat 23D Gold Street, Tiverton EX16 6QB	07757651807	1benholdman@gamil.com
Castle	Elizabeth Slade	8 Blackthorn Avenue, Tiverton Ex16 6TY	01884 252301	Ejs309@hotmail.co.uk
Castle	Jeff Rawlings	73 Belmont Road, Tiverton EX16 6EQ	07753361836	Jeffrawlings13@gmail.com
Castle	Paul Young	Isca House, 12 Park Hill, Tiverton EX16 6RW	07767385373	PYPaulY@gmail.com
Lowman	Colin Slade <b>Deputy Mayor</b>	8 Blackthorn Avenue, Tiverton EX16 6TY	01884 252301 07948432942	Colin.slade@live.com
Lowman	Neal Davey	15 Devonshire Rise, Tiverton EX16 4QR	01884 257734 07971671623	nealdavey@yahoo.co.uk
Lowman	Dennis Knowles	43 Greenway Gardens, Tiverton EX16 5JL	01884 254775	Dennisknowles123@btinternet.co m
Lowman	John Jordan	8 Johns Way, Underhill Park, Tiverton EX16 6SE	07783476902	Johnjordan2@sky.com
Lowman	Alexandra Berry	Coach Hill, 28 Mayfair, Tiverton EX16 4NQ	01884 242470 07747763039	X6alb@live.co.uk
Lowman	Peter Robbins	11 Barton Road, Tiverton EX16 6BB	01884 242297 07957227097	Pete.jainault39@btopenworld.com
Westexe South	Wallace Burke	108 Lower Cotteylands Tiverton EX16 5BJ	01884 256402	mabe@a108bullens68.freemove.co .uk
Westexe South	Claudette Harrower	28 Besley Close, Tiverton EX16 4JF	01884 235891	Claude.harrower@outlook.com
Westexe South	Adam Walker	2A Bampton Street, Tiverton EX16 6AA	07936069043	Tivvyhelper2@hotmail.co.uk
Westexe South	Anthony Bush	Somerville House, Rackenford Road, Tiverton EX16 5AG	01884 255289	bushtelegraph@btopenworld.com
Westexe North	Steve Flaws <b>Mayor</b>	11 Mayfair, Tiverton, EX16 4NQ	01884 798557 07784022897	steveflaws@talktalk.net
Westexe North	Gerald Luxton	Palm Tree Cottage, 11 Patches Road, Tiverton EX16 5AH	01884 252671	gluxton@middevon.gov.uk
Westexe North	Tom Lindus	Hensleigh Cottage Annex, Hensleigh, Tiverton Devon EX16 5AH	07968215123	Tom.lindus99@btinternet.com

## Income & Expenditure – to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

	<b>Apr '16 - Mar 17</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Administration income	£ 586.58
Allotment Receipts	£ 4,269.91
Christmas Lights	£ 250.00
Civic & Ceremonial'	£ 8,943.11
DCLG Grant	£ 19,542.16
Dementia Friendly Alliance	£ 9,950.20
Grants Income	£ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous receipts	£ 1,065.59
Total New Hall'	£ 26,855.97
P3	£ 275.00
Police Boat	£ 1,990.44
Precept	£ 266,157.00
Street Cleaning.	£ 6,000.00
Tiverton In Bloom Income	£ 11,305.08
Town Hall'	£ 6,379.15
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 364,570.19</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Administration	£ 105,816.99
Adverse Weather Conditions	£ 1,830.16
Allotments	£ 10,397.80
Christmas Lights.	£ 16,744.32
Civic & Ceremonial	£ 13,157.87
Grants	£ 14,250.00
New Hall	£ 52,293.50
P3 Footpaths	£ 439.52
Payments from Mayor's Charity	£ 250.00
Police boat repairs	£ 2,186.47
Projects	£ 73,380.48
Public Conveniences	£ 42,688.54
Tiverton In Bloom	£ 16,529.57
Town Hall	£ 1.60
Town Hall Letting	£ 3,636.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>£ 353,603.32</b>



## 2016-2017 Grants for Distribution