

## Mayors Report – Annual Parish meeting

Firstly I would like to apologize for my absence this evening and thank my Deputy Rick Andrews for covering me.

For almost a year we have been down to 11 Councillors following the resignation of Simon Thytherleigh but can now announce that we will be back up to 12 following the co-option at the April meeting of Roger Hallam and look forward to welcoming him to the Council at the next meeting.

This year we have started to see the development to Millway and we will endeavour to ensure the provisions that were guaranteed to the Council are fulfilled including the cycle track from Cemetary Lane to Hele Road and that the houses are given to Bradninch people or people with a Bradninch connection.

The Council acting as the Bradninch Youth Centre Trust have now handed over the lease to the newly formed Youth Club, and have just secured funding for heating to be installed and fencing to be replaced in the outside space to the rear.

The youth club is now open every Wednesday from 7-9pm for all secondary school pupils and we are very fortunate to have an excellent and committed group of volunteers ensuring its success, however we are always looking for new helpers to support an evening for 2 hours once a month.

I have now recently taken on the role of chairman for the youth club and wish to thank Katy Taylor and Rosie Allaway who volunteer every week to take on the running of the club and have built a great repor with the young people of Bradninch and also a big thank you to our treasurer Cllr Mike Leonard who has done fantastic work securing much needed funds for the club and we hope you can come in to see the club during the musical gardens weekend where we will be displaying art and having a bbq.

Bradninch has continued well with its annual traditions and events and it's always great to see them so well attended. During the past 12 months it has been a pleasure to attend many of the events including the Musical Gardens weekend, the Music Festival, Bradninch Rocks, the fireworks display and the Twelfth Night procession. I thank all the tireless efforts made by all involved and look forward to all again this year.

As some of you may know our Town Clerk Lorna has tendered her resignation and I thank her for her 15 years of service and all the hard work she puts in to our community and has been a real asset to the Town, we have been fortunate for her knowledge and expertise and contributions to ensuring Council business runs smoothly and working above and beyond at all times.

With that in mind we are now advertising for the soon to be vacant Clerks position and invite people who maybe interested to apply. Details will be displayed in the Parish Magazine and are on the Council notice board and in the shop window.

Thank you to all Councillors for their support over the last 12 months and especially the four committee chairs. Joan Brown for her tireless efforts with the planning work. Elise Anne for her excellent work on the allotments. Phil Chambers for his work with Burials and having all burial

details catalogued on the Town Council Website, and finally Jane Webber for her outstanding contributions to the Recreation and Ammenities committee and I look forward to continuing to work with Jane as we look to secure funding for new pieces of equipment for the rec.

Thanks must also go to my Deputy Rick Andrews, he has been a real support to me and I am delighted to announce that he will formally be elected Mayor in May. Finally thank you to our County and District Councillor John Berry for attending our meetings wherever possible and giving us support and regular updates with information from Devon County and Mid Devon District Councils.

It truly has been an honour serving you as Mayor and I look forward to continuing my work with Council and owe so much to all for their continued support.