

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – AGM ON 14TH MAY, 2018

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Councillors.

It has been an honour to serve this community as Mayor for the last 12 months.

It has at times been difficult to say the least, but sometimes adversity brings out the best in people.

It is especially pleasing that we, as a Council, have yet again managed to provide a substantial amount of money to the Grant Account for worthy local organisations and it is particularly pleasing that we have representation from these organisations here tonight to explain how the funding has been used.

It amazes me that we have so many varied and vibrant organisations in a relatively small community.

Our many Sports Clubs continue to impress.

Both St. Just and Pendeen Football Clubs continue to thrive with a very active Youth Section at St. Just.

St. Just Cricket Club have started another very busy season and we wish them well.

St. Just Rugby Club have celebrated their fiftieth year with great gusto and supported many charities along the way.

David May has continued to produce table tennis players to County standard again this year.

As a community we are indebted to the people who run these and many other organisations in our community.

I would refer to our current problem regarding plastic waste and attached email informing of the progress being made in the community to alleviate this problem.

My Mayor's Sunday at Pendeen was well attended and it was a pleasure to be able to show off our community at its best to the many councils represented.

Once again, St. Just in Bloom pulled out all the stops – Well done to a small but dedicated team.

The Lafrowda Festival continues to go from strength to strength, bringing many people to St. Just each year.

I, like many on the Council and in the wider community feel frustrated at the prolonged negotiations with the devolution process, but I believe we will shortly have some positive response and hopefully this will lead to a speedy resolution of our hopes for our community.

With the county wide devolution of funds to Community Network Panels, I believe we have a great chance to prove our worth, by fully engaging with the process to improve our community. Hopefully, the initial four year period will be a success and lead to greater funding and opportunities in the future.

We, as a Council could not operate without the support and dedication of our staff. This year in particular has been especially difficult with the absence of our Clerk, Elaine Baker since September. I'm sure we all wish her a speedy recovery and that she soon feels much better.

I, personally, wish to thank the members of the chain gang, Chairmen and Mayors from other Towns and Parishes, especially Dick Cliffe, Mayor of Penzance and Clive Polkinhorne of Hayle Town Council, along with Penney Hosking of Marazion Town Council for their advice, wisdom and friendship over the past year.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for their commitment to Council and the community over the last year, especially Geoff Roberts for all his help over a seven week period before the appointment of a Locum Clerk and also our Internal Auditor for the support and advice in this time.

There are two people who work for Cornwall Council who should also be thanked for all their effort over the last 12 months: James Hardy, who must have been sick and fed up hearing my voice at times, but always acted promptly and professionally: also Helen Fincham who I believe, along with a little help from myself, could yet pull a white rabbit out of the hat, as long as the car park is in the same hat.

Last, but not least, two people who have had the dubious task of keeping the Council afloat, our ever youthful smiler of a Clerical Assistant, Shirley Darby, who has been my rock through some pretty stressful moments, and our Locum Clerk, Cas Leo, who has worked a minor miracle considering he had to hit the ground running to keep pace at a really busy time of year.

We could not function without our staff and they really need to be appreciated more.

Last but not least, I have to thank my staff, Travis, Liz and Ashleigh for covering when I disappear for hours at a time and my beautiful wife and Lady Mayoress, Val, a very private person who has been thrown in at the deep end and made a great effort for both myself and the community we represent, as well as running both the businesses allowing me to fulfil my commitments.

Lastly, I have attended as many functions as possible with and without the chain on, along with the many countless meetings to represent the beautiful town we live in. I have never claimed my allowance, nor would I. I do what I do as I always have for the community I live and work in and will continue to do so, with or without the chain on.

B.P. Clemens.