

## **Report of the Town Mayor – 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019-05-20**

Good Evening Ladies, Gentlemen and Fellow Councillors:

Once again it has been a busy year for the Council with devolution taking up a considerable amount of time with many meetings having taken place. The Car Parks and Toilets plus Bus Shelters in both St. Just and Pendeen are more or less ready for hand-over. I am pleased to say that the final deal looks much better than the one first offered thanks to the Locum Clerk and myself having pursued very rigorous negotiations with Mike Bennett of Cornwall Council who has seen for himself after a site visit that Cormac knew nothing about the problems we have faced. This has helped our case in getting a deal whereby Cornwall Council will hopefully pay for work that would have originally been paid for by this Council. I have found Mike to be honest and upfront in all dealings I have had with him. Also, a full survey has been carried out on behalf of Cornwall Council saving this Council a considerable amount of money. We also discussed at length a rebate on the charges we are due to pay considering the poor service we have received and hopefully a considerable refund will be forthcoming.

The transfer of St. Just Library to St. Just Town Council is now progressing well with Directors' Approval granted and works are soon to be commissioned. I am glad that after this Council rejected the chance to take over the Library, I managed to negotiate a deal with Julie Zessimedes and Helen Fincham whereby the cost and timings to this Council could be made more realistic and affordable, so that this service could be retained for all our community. There are still many issues to be negotiated and many more costs connected to moving the Town Council into the building will be incurred and staffing levels will rise and re-organisation will occur.

The Town Council has once again provided a good level of support to many local organisations through our Community Grant Scheme and it is nice to see so many re-presented here tonight, thank you for attending.

We have a very busy year ahead for the community with the Gorsedh Proclamation Ceremony having already taken place, with the Bardic Ceremony to look forward to in September. The Old Cornwall Society Annual Gathering is to take place in the Miners' Chapel along with the Lafrowda Festival and Feast celebrations as usual. It is also a very special year for St. Just in Bloom as they prepare to represent not only our community, but the entire south west in the Small Town category for the first time. I am sure we all wish them well. For the first time in its history the Tour of Britain Cycle Race is coming to Cornwall and preparations are well under way for this great event which will pass through our community.

I would like to end my report with a few thank you's. To Cas and Shirley in the office, your advice and guidance through what have been very trying times, to say the least, has been invaluable and has helped me to focus on what is the most important part of my job, that I personally and we as a Town and Parish Council get the best we possibly can for our community at a cost that we can hopefully well justify.

I would also like to thank for all their help and advice, James Hardy – Cornwall Council Community Link Officer and my fellow Mayor and Mayoresses:

Penny Hosking - Marazion Town Council

Dick Cliffe - Penzance Town Council  
Clive Polkinhorne – Hayle Town Council  
Suzanne Tanner – St. Ives Town Council

And also Andrew Mitchell of Cornwall Council for the many hours of advice and encouragement over the last two years.

B.P. Clemens – Town Mayor