

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good morning to you all, and welcome to Friday the 13th of May, the first Full Council meeting of the municipal year 2016/2017, better known as our Annual General Meeting.

I would like to start by welcoming our loyal viewing public, our esteemed officers and staff, my fellow councillors (of all political persuasions) and also our friends in the gallery, especially our Honorary Aldermen.

Finally, a warm welcome to the Very Reverend James Atwell, the Dean of Winchester, who will be leading us in prayers.

And now to Housekeeping. Specifically for your information and safety, I indeed to do this in full, as we have new members present.

I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce the Dean of Winchester.

James was installed as Dean of Winchester on the 25th of March 2006 and will be stepping down as Dean of Winchester on the celebration of the Queen's Official Birthday, Sunday 12th June.

Over to you James.

(MY PARTHIAN SHOT!)

A lot has happened since we last met. We have an altered Council and Cabinet. In addition, we have a new Mayor of London, and we in Hampshire have a new High Sherriff, Tom Floyd, and a new Police & Crime Commissioner, Michael Lane. I would like to congratulate all those who have taken up these new and important posts, and I would also like to pay tribute to all those who have served us well and stood down. In particular, I would like to mention Lady Louisa Portal, our out-going High Sheriff, and also my former County Council 1997 intake colleague Simon Hayes, our first-ever Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner.

I do hope you both enjoy the next 12 months before we all have to stand for re-election.

The following Honorary Aldermen are with us here today: Marilyn Tucker and Mike Woodhall.

Finally, I would like to congratulation Councillor Rob Humby on his recent promotion to the Cabinet. We all wish him the very best.

A quick look at the list of Chairman's Events for the past two and a half months and previously circulated to you, shows that we have not been idle.

The outstanding event over this period was, without doubt, the joint County Council/Lord Lieutenant Cathedral Service on 24th April to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. This was a unique event, beautifully coordinated by the Cathedral Administrators, providing guests and public with the opportunity to honour Britain's longest-reigning monarch on her personal milestone. It was a privilege not only for this to happen in my last month as Chairman, but also for me to be intimately involved.

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If asked what I will remember about this year, it will be my increased awareness of the role of volunteers. Thousands of people, young and not-so-young, all over Hampshire, give so much of their time and effort freely, for causes and charities that many of us would never encounter, let alone even know about. In this day and age, where we are governed by market forces, it is heart-warming to know that there are so many people who dedicate their lives improving the quality of life for the vulnerable and less-fortunate. To them all, and without any reservation or hesitation, I say thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, they are listening and watching us now.

Please be up-standing and turn to face the camera to show them our admiration and gratitude. Colleagues, I give you....the volunteers of Hampshire.

And now there are some personal thank you's I'd like to make. There is a multitude of people who back up the office of Chairman in so many ways. I would like to start by asking John Coughlan, our Chief Executive, to pass on my thanks for all his staff. However, my day-to-day thanks must go to the following people:

The Chairman's PAs

Natalie Jones & Sue May

The Lord-Lieutenant's Office

Kate Parkinson & Pauline Nelson

Democratic & Member Services & Legal Advice

Debbie Vaughan & Barbara Beardwell

Members Secretariat

Penny Mills

Leader's Office

Heather Gill, Paula Fryer & Sue Sylvester

Hampshire Catering Services

Karen Clarke & her team

The Events Team

Anne Lau

Hampshire Music Service

Jill Larner & the Music Service Team

Personal Assistants to all our Hampshire Mayors & Chairmen

Cathedral Clergy & Sidesmen

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The Dean's Team

Lorna Atwell & Jill Jarvis

The University of Winchester

Vice-Chancellor Joy Carter

High Sheriff

Lady Louisa Portal

High Steward

Dame Mary Fagan

And finally, the Chairman's Lady, Sharon Elizabeth Coe Glen who is better known to you all as sharon.glen1@btinternet.com. Among everything else, thank you for taking over the computer correspondence!

And now it is our pleasure to present to the County Council a set of certain Kings and Queens of England, cast in pewter and silver-plated by the Royal Hampshire Foundry. We hope they will adorn Serle's House for many years to come.

And now to the man who is taking over as your Chairman. So who is Keith Chapman?

Keith is much more than he seems. He became an integral part of this year's Chairmanship. Without doubt, he opened my eyes to the wonders of our Music Service. Did you know that in the last 12 months, more councillors than ever before attended HMDS events? Jill Lerner has asked me to pass on her particular thanks to you all.

Keith has an infectious enthusiasm and inner confidence that surprised even me at the start of the year. By working together, this is the first time that the Vice Chairman has been able to plan his year ahead of his Chairmanship. I hope this legacy endures.

Keith, thank you for all your support and may I wish you all the very best for the next 12 months.

It's time for me to go. Thank you all.

Debbie, please may we have the apologies.

END.