



Penistone Town Council



Town Meeting April 20th 2023

Good Evening

It had been a huge privilege serving this Community and Council as Mayor. There are so many people we have met and interacted with over the 12 months and Helen and I are really grateful for all the support and goodwill we received along the way.

No organisation works without a team and on this Council we have some fabulous people who work tirelessly for the Town and before I go any further I would like to personally Thank all 14 Councillors for their efforts and hard work through the year. Over 650 hours of volunteer time is given for the community's benefit.

We started the year with a lot of change in key roles with both the Clerk and Finance Officer roles requiring new personnel. I'd like to formally record our thanks to both outgoing staff for their time and commitment over the years and their contribution to our Council is duly noted. We were supported by some great people through the period of recruitment and handover – we did our due diligence and worked hard to get great people to come and join us and I am really pleased to report a functional, happy, well lead and managed team who is moving us forward and are committed to our team and our council. I would like to say a special Thank You to Elaine Miller who has been a constant in my year and helped me through the first few months as we drove change and kept the council moving forward. She has been a great asset in all my social activities and been there for all the events to support Helen and I and we are very grateful for her commitment and hard work.

The two key operational areas of the Council are the Community Centre (including the Resource Centre) and Cinema. We have circa 32 staff on our books and are responsible for circa £750k worth of revenue and turnover which has to be managed and accounted for and the H&S and welfare of all the users of the buildings. These facilities are critical to the community and the teams work hard to continue to maintain the buildings and keep them functional. With the cost challenges I am really pleased we managed to maintain hire costs and admission costs at such low levels for the community users. The key driver for all the decisions the council have made are in that vein.

We have worked collaboratively with the various stakeholders across council from the Borough Councillors, Area Council, BMBC officers and the Leadership team in the Mayor and Chief Executive.

We have worked with so many of the groups across the patch including the RBL , Round Table , HEG , Guides , Scouts , Churches , Schools , Penistone Show Committee , Archives , Warm Room Spaces projects , Penistone FM, etc

There have been so many highlights it's hard to pick one as the best – please see below a rough itinerary of my year :

Mayors Events 22/23
Handover
Beacon lighting for Queen at viewing point (attended Town event first)
Mayors Charity Concert Paramount
Falklands planning meeting
Gala exec final planning meeting
Mayors Charity 80's concert paramount
Mayors parade and Gala
Falklands memorial service
Barnsley Mayors Civic Service
Jubilee afternoon @ Penistone St Johns Primary
BMBC Transport Strategy briefing - Library
Thurgoland Primary school Celebration assembly
Armed Forced Day 2022 in Penistone
FO Induction and cinema visit & staff reviews
Armed forces window presentations
2 presentations of Heroes of Penistone
Swainefest races & start of Community weekend
St John Church Summer Fete
Carlecotes garden party
St Johns service for new Curate
Swainfest Well Blessing with Canon Keith and rest of festival
Hoylandswaine primary school sports day (PM)
Springvale Sports award ceremony (night)
Millhouse Primary school special assembly (Mayor Medals)
Thurgoland Village Fun Day
Thurlstone special assembly (Mayor Medals)
Hoylandswaine Village Hall meet (David went)
Thurgoland Summer School Production - Peter Pan
RBL planning meeting for Remembrance with Ian & team
Motor Rally presentation in Town Hall
Age UK launch meeting in New Inn
Yorkshire Day at Keighley (In Rotherham 2023)
Principal Town meeting in the Town Hall with Brian & Team
Planning meeting for Remembrance and Christmas Civic Service
Fr David Remembrance meeting in church
BMBC H&S Cinema review with team - solution clear & fit for purpose
Barnsley train station Mosaics official opening with Guides
Penistone Food Buddie Meeting
Penistone Archive meeting
Mayor presentations at Penistone Library
Mayor and Food buddies on the market AM
Hoylainswaine village meeting
Armed Forces Concert at Paramount as Mayor
Teams meeting with Paul Crook re bus shelter project
New Clerks induction

Book Club launch PCFC at Paramount
Cinema visit with new clerk
Food buddies meeting
Christmas Cinema meeting
Penistone FM Mayors interview
Launch of Poppy appeal as Mayor
Spooky Barn as Mayor
Meeting with Major Ade Kyle for Remembrance
Guy Falk's judging & Community bonfire - Deputy Mayor covered
Remembrance meeting - Michael B covered
Remembrance event as Mayor at PGS
Remembrance Sunday in Penistone
Age UK meeting for December event
Stottercliffe cemetery children's grave consecration
Baked Beans film premiere at Paramount
Planning meeting re 5G mast (special)
First Warm room events at Paramount
Wayfaring project meeting in Town Hall for PCFC
Town Hall development meeting
Age UK Christmas Party in Millhouse
Warm Rooms film attendance
Guardian reporter visit to Penistone - Robyn Vinter
Springvale Christmas Nativity
Community Centre build project meeting
Round Table meeting visit re visit to Old Folks home & Light switch on
Cinema for Thurgoland Primary Christmas film
Penistone Light Switch On
Penistone Mayors Civic Service at St John's
Cinema for Barnsley Wind Band Christmas Concert (invited)
Y11 GCSE certificate award giving ceremony
Thurgoland School Nativity
Mayor of Barnsley Civic Christmas in Barnsley
Crow Edge Tractor Run set off (invited)
Warm Rooms film attendance
Induction of new Councillor @ home - Ruth Pearson
23/24 New Council planning session
Mayors chain review with goldsmiths in Sheffield
IDAS film review for Arts week
Budget 23/24 sign off meetings
Principal Town meeting in the Town Hall with Brian & Team
Hoylandswaine events group meeting
PGS Music event – Drama & Theatre
PGS Arts department visit re Bus shelter project
Film Premiere - A Stranger in Your Bed for IDAS charity funds
Presentation to the President of RBL his lifetime award
Attendance AGE opening of the Elizabeth Centre
Good Friday @ St John's for Flour giving service & Easter Sunday

Attendance Town Hall with Mayor of Barnsley for year-end review
Attendance at PGS – Grease the musical

One of the key aspects for this year for me was my Charities – we have worked with 3 this year with the key objective of raising awareness and funding

Age UK Barnsley on Penistone facing projects

Lullaby Trust – support for research and families who suffer SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome)

IDAS – Independent Domestic Abuse Services

It's hard to measure success as a volunteer – it's not really why you do it - but for me the key objectives are to talk about these issues especially domestic abuse and we have spoken in many venues and to many people across Penistone about them. We have raised over £4.7 k to press with one more fund raising event to go. But most importantly because we have raised this awareness lots more people are talking about it and its helping people. The Age UK Christmas party at the Cinema was a real highlight with over 100 elderly of the Community attending for a film and lunch and a live band afterwards and we were able to invite along some of the families and organisers from the newly formed Food Buddies project. Funding for this came from the Round Table 41 Club.

In summary we have had a fabulous year and my Thanks again go to my fellow Councillors and the teams from the cinema and community centre. I must draw special Thanks to two outgoing stalwarts of the Council – Cllr Roger Hinchliffe & Cllr Joe Unsworth who are retiring from a life of public service and we are very grateful for their contributions to our town over many years. They have indeed made a real difference and will be missed.

We finish the year with a strong team and a number of key projects in the pipeline and some fabulous events planned and some new ones too. We are set fair in very demanding times financially and socially for our community. As we prepare to hand over the Council this time around - We will continue to work hard for you.

My Thanks to Deputy Mayor Cllr Andrew Millner and his wife Cllr Gill Millner who have helped and supported us through the year.

My very last Thanks goes to my wife and Consort Helen who has been fabulous and supported me through this year. Without her I couldn't have done what I've one



Yours – Mayor Nev

Cllr Neville M Shiggins