

## **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 3 June 2025**

### **15 May – Samaritans AGM**

I was grateful to attend the Stafford Branch of the Samaritans on the 15th of May for their Annual General Meeting. Hearing the stories from the volunteers made it clear how important their work is, and that their compassion is matched by emotional resilience. I was absolutely blown away to hear of a stone resident that has been volunteering at the organisation for 48 years. We should be very proud of our residents and their efforts in the wider Staffordshire area.

### **17th May – Stafford Borough Mayor Making**

It was a great turn out for the Borough Mayor making ceremony and service on the 17th, with members of Stafford and surrounding areas scouts, guides, cadets and youth organisations. This being one of my first events I was particularly grateful to the other civic heads that took the time to introduce themselves to me, as well as some of our town councillors that facilitated some wonderful introductions to some of the other individuals in attendance. Borough Mayor Jennifer Baron took over and facilitated a wonderful reception with her consort, Ray Baron, and I am looking forward to the forthcoming year with two very dedicated representatives for the borough.

### **20th May – Sir Gavin Williamson MP - Town Council Engagement**

It was a refreshing change of pace following the council meetings to have the opportunity to host Sir Gavin for an amicable exchange of ideas and strategy in tackling local issues. We are grateful to have a keen public servant engaging with all stakeholders from across his constituency. The opportunity afforded to the town council was valued and appreciated by all in attendance.

### **22nd May – Moddershall Oaks - Accommodation Grand Opening**

Myself and Sarah were given wonderful treatment at a reception at Moddershall Oaks to celebrate the opening of the pod housing luxury accommodation that has been added to the list of services provided by the business. The Borough Mayor, Jenny Baron cut the ribbon and attendees were given a semi-structured tour about the estate to show the offerings and value provided to customers. Penny, our host and partner of the business was eager to show how the team there had focused on their unique value proposition, and how this brings further tourism to the rural area around our town. It was evident to see how they had grown their business by consistent reinvestment over the years, and their tenacity through adversity over recent years will hopefully pay off by their strategic approach to providing value to their clientele. Sarah and I were incredibly impressed by the thoughtfulness and diligence of the staff at the venue, all of whom were locals from around the area. We wish them all the success in the future.

## **TOWN DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 3 June 2025**

### **Friday 16 May – HMS Collingwood Ceremonial Divisions**

I attended the HMS Collingwood Division Ceremony on 16th May. It was a lovely day, weather was great, and the base looked wonderful. The parade went well and was enjoyed by all. Afterwards I attended their awards ceremony in which they gave out awards such as medals and plaques to the officers doing well in their training. A longtime service award of a sword was given to one of the teachers at the base which was very nice.

I met the Lord Mayor of Southampton who was a nice man whose day job was a secondary school maths teacher. We were both new to all the proceedings, so it was nice to experience it together. The base commander introduced himself to me and asked me to pass on his congratulations to Jason for becoming this year's Stone Mayor. He expressed an interest in coming to Stone and I mentioned civic Sunday which he was going to look if he could attend.

A great day was had by all, and it was an experience I'll never forget.