

Cllr. Peter Castle shares with us what's involved in being a Mayor for Faringdon



Cllr. Peter Castle

“The first role I perform is to Chair meetings of the Full Town Council which are held every month except August. The Mayor is also the ceremonial head of the Council at civic functions and social occasions, which may involve hosting events, welcoming visiting dignitaries and attending functions as a representative of the Council. I am invariably required to make speeches mostly of thanks or to welcome people.”

“A Mayor endeavors to raise the profile of the town and attract publicity for events and projects that benefit our town. My aim is to encourage participation in the life of the and community spirit of the town. As Mayor, I am also an ex-officio Member of all of Faringdon Town Council’s (FTC) committees.”

So, what does this look like on a day-to-day basis?

“Most Monday evenings I attend a Council or Committee meeting; they can last anywhere between 40 minutes to 2 hours. Other Sub-Committee meetings take place at varying times.”

“I get invitations to attend ceremonial and social events throughout Oxfordshire, some free and some require payment (more of that later). Examples of these are the Lord Lieutenants and County Chair of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Annual Awards Ceremony, fund-raising functions arranged by other Mayors and opening of new ventures. I am also by virtue of being Mayor, a Trustee of The Place and of the Folly Tower and these involve further meetings throughout the year.”

“The Mayor has no more power than the other Councillors, and does not, like the Mayors of London or Manchester, have executive power. The Mayor is elected annually at a Council meeting by the other Councillors so it is not a directly elected post. As Councillors, we are not paid for our work, but I receive an allowance to cover the costs of my role.”

**Peter Castle,
Mayor of Faringdon**



FTC stall Aug Play Day 2024