

Mayor's Diary 25th November – 19th January

Tues 6th December – Meeting between the Council's sub-committee and the Skatepark Management Committee (SMC). The council's policy was restated: it would be happy to have the SMC as a rent-free tenant of an area on the sports field (A similar arrangement already exists with Upton Sports Club) . However, the Council could not accept responsibility for any legal liability arising from the use or misuse of the skatepark. After a short planning meeting there was a meeting of the finance committee, open to all councillors, to discuss income and expenditure plans for the next financial year.

Weds 14th December – Town Carol Service in the Parish Church. This ecumenical service of lessons and carols was conducted by the Rev Jane Fraser, Fr Dominic Round and the Rev Ian Sim, and was well attended. The singing of the pupils of the Primary School and the younger members of Pepperpot Players was particularly enjoyable.

Tues 20th December – Last full council meeting in 2005. Agreed to use money from the capital reserve for emergency repairs to the fabric of the Hall and the cemetery chapel.

The 2006/2007 precept (the Council Tax collected by the District Council, on Upton's behalf) was agreed.

A vacancy on the council was filled by co-opting Mr Chris Mair of New Street.

Unanimously agreed that Upton Town Council would withdraw from discussions with MHDC about possible takeover of responsibility for all public toilets.

On behalf of the Chamber of Tourism and Trade, I presented cups to the winners of the Christmas window decoration competition.

After the meeting, Deirdre and I enjoyed hosting an informal wine and mince pie reception for fellow councillors and their partners.

Tues 10th January – The Deputy Mayor, Sheena Walsh, chaired a meeting of Skatepark sub-committee, to discuss a response to the latest letter from the SMC, received after the 6th Dec meeting.

Tues 17th January – Representatives of Town Councils of Tenbury, Malvern and Upton met and agreed to send a joint letter to MHDC, rejecting any schemes for changes in the management of public toilets and urging MHDC to continue to maintain these important facilities.

Planning Committee - Confirmation that the Town Council now has the right of address, without prior notice, at meetings of the MHDC Planning Committee.

Full Council Meeting – Approved recommendations of the Skatepark sub-committee. Discussion of need for a sub-committee to devise traffic calming and pedestrian safety schemes. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.