



MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

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Our New Town Mayor

A new way of holding meetings and a new Town Mayor. On Monday, 11 May, Councillor Mark Cooper was voted in as Marlborough's 710th Mayor by his fellow Town Councillors at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council. Current lockdown measures dictate that the traditional Mayor Making ceremony could not take place so, instead, it was held as an online virtual meeting. Also present, sitting on screen alongside Council members, were the press and members of the public.

Cllr Cooper joined the Town Council in 2017 to represent the West Ward and in that time, he has been Chairman of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee and a member of the Planning, Staffing and Finance & Policy Committees. As well as building up an all-round knowledge of how the council ticks, his work has included driving forward the building of new play areas at Coopers Meadow and Jubilee Field, Manton and setting up Marlborough Parkrun on The Common.

Treading in his family's footsteps, Mark follows a long tradition of civic duty - his father, Maurice Cooper, was twice Mayor and his great uncle, Henry, was also Mayor twice. To add to the family connections, his uncle, Stewart Dobson is a Wiltshire Councillor representing Marlborough's East Ward – another Marlborough Mayor twice over too!

Following the meeting, the Mayor said: "Marlborough has always been tremendously important to me. I was born close to here, grew up here and work here and now I'm proud and privileged to be elected to the role of its Town Mayor. Who wouldn't be? It's a town full of community spirit. Just look around at how so many groups and individuals have rallied and pulled together during this COVID crisis to help each other – a real sign that we'll come out of it much stronger."

Mark, who lives in Manton, has a degree in politics and modern history and works full time at St John's Academy. He's a sportsman too - a keen cricketer.

For the 2020/21 mayoral year, Cllr Cooper will be supporting local charities, community organisations and volunteers working towards the COVID recovery.

The Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021 is Councillor Andy Wilson who was also elected at the virtual meeting. The retiring Mayor, Councillor Mervyn Hall, completes his second term as Mayor and was thanked by all Councillors for his hard work and dedication to Marlborough.

Later in the year and when it is safe to do so, it is hoped that there will be a celebratory event to mark the traditional changeover of Mayors.

For more information contact:
Mrs Shelley Parker, Town Clerk at townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk
Marlborough Town Council, 5, High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1AA
Tel – 01672 512487 Email - townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk
www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk