

Press Release

Council Finance Officer Retires After 17 Years

A senior finance officer who spent two decades maintaining Hailsham Town Council's accounts has retired after 17 years of loyal service.

Responsible Finance Officer and former Deputy Town Clerk, Richard Diplock, described by the current Mayor of Hailsham as a "stalwart of the Council," called it a day on Thursday [29 September].

Born and bred in Eastbourne, Richard has worked in the finance and administration sector since he left school. He began his career with the Town Council in 1994 working as an administrative assistant, and between 1994 and 2000 he worked as the clerk to several of the Council's committees before taking on the role of Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer in 2000. In 2008, he became part-time, retaining his role of Responsible Finance Officer.

"Richard has been a stalwart of this council for many years and has been a dependable source of good, professional advice on everything relating to the Council's finances, said Town Mayor Councillor Jeff Bentley-Astor.

"He has been an outstanding officer and is well-known for helping his colleagues - members, officers and the public alike - in his usual conscientious, composed and courteous manner. I wish Richard a long, happy and healthy retirement."

Liz Jones, Hailsham Town Clerk, described Mr Diplock as an outstanding, reliable officer and a man of great veracity who will be missed by his colleagues: "I would like to thank him for his hard work and unflagging dedication to the Council. He has done an excellent job since becoming part of the team and leaves with our best wishes."

Following his retirement, Richard intends to spend more time on his hobbies which include coarse fishing, gardening and travel, but he has already been told by his wife Christine that home decorating is to come first!

Richard said, "Over the 17 years with the Town Council, he has worked with over 100 councillors all of whom had their own character and personality, and many have worked diligently for the benefit of the town and the people of Hailsham. I am proud of what I have helped to achieve with them."

"I have been fortunate that throughout my time with the council, I have worked with a great bunch of colleagues who I shall miss. I wish them all well for the future."

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