

Netherwall House
34 & 36 St John Street
Malmesbury

10 March 2014
Mr J Penfold
Town Clerk
Malmesbury Town Council
Town Hall
Cross Hayes
Malmesbury

Dear Sir

Position of Town Mayor

I hereby give notice that I would very much like to be considered for the position of Town Mayor. I am very aware of the importance of the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the Town and as representatives of the Town throughout the county and, if necessary further afield. This tradition must be maintained, as it is part of the unique character of this community.

Since being elected to the Council in September 2011, I have served on the Leisure & Youth Committee, Joint Burial Committee, Policy & Resources Committee and am currently Chair of Town Promotion and Tourism Committee. For the past year, I have had the honour of serving as Deputy Mayor, which I have found both challenging and very rewarding. I have already learned a great deal, and look forward to continuing to learn about the town and the functions of the Council, as well as continuing to work as an ambassador for both the town and the Council.

Although I personally have been a Councillor for a relatively short period, I feel that I have a great deal of previous experience to bring to the position of Mayor. As you are aware, I have been involved in Council activities for many years, supporting my husband in his role as a Town Councillor, and was very privileged to support him in his role as Town Mayor in 2006/7. I feel this has given me a special insight into the role for which I wish to be considered, and has given me some preparation for the hard work and time commitment demanded. As I am fortunate enough not to have to commit time to employment, I have the time, and energy to devote to the Town.

I care very much about this town of Malmesbury. I came to live in the town in August 1994, and, after having moved all over this country, and lived on 3 different continents, I finally know that I have come home. This is such a special town, and I am prepared to work as hard as it takes to maintain and enhance our unique community.

I was born in Cardiff, but have lived all over the UK and, as a teenager, was taken to live in Nairobi, Kenya. From there I moved to Toronto, Canada, finally returning to the UK in 1974. I went to Lancaster University as a mature student and succeeded in gaining an Honours BEd degree. I then worked as a teacher in secondary school, finally retiring as Head of Information and Communication Technology in 2008.

For most of my teaching career, I was also responsible for Industrial/Education liaison, organising up to 250 work experience placements each year. This honed my negotiating skills, and gave me a broad experience of industry as well as the world of education.

I have considerable experience of serving on and chairing meetings working with educationalists and industrialists. I also served on the Gloucestershire Branch of the Association of Teachers & Lecturers for many years, and served as Branch President for 6 of those years. I have attended and addressed National Conferences.

Wherever I have lived, I have endeavoured to play an active part in the local community. Here in Malmesbury, I have been a member of the Athelstan Players since 1990, having taken part in almost all their productions since, either on stage, or behind the scenes, and served on their committee. I am also Secretary to Malmesbury Jazz Society, and between 1995 and 2055 I (together with a small committee) ran a local Jazz Festival, which was very successful and draw visitors to the town from all over the country. We still run monthly live jazz sessions throughout each winter, which continues to draw audiences from throughout the area.

In the year 2000 I was privileged to be invited to serve the Warden & Freemen as Clerk to the Court of King Athelstan. I find the history and continued existence of this unique organisation fascinating, and have worked with a television production team on a programme about King Athelstan and his links with Malmesbury which was broadcast last summer, providing more good publicity for our town, encouraging more visitors and boosting the local economy. My interest in Malmesbury's history, and desire to share this with both the local community and visitors is also reflected in the voluntary work I undertake for Athelstan Museum, where I work on the reception desk on a regular basis.

I appreciate that, being an in-comer, I shall never be counted as a true Malmesburian, however, I hope I am becoming accepted as someone who really cares about the community and is prepared to put in time and effort to use my skills and knowledge in the best interests of the town. I am very fortunate that I married into a true Malmesbury family, which gave me an insight into that aspect of the town, but I also have my children and grand-children here, as well as links with the local secondary school, which gives me an appreciation of the community from the point of view of younger families and young people just starting out on their adult life.

I trust that my application will receive serious consideration, and look forward to a positive response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Poole (Mrs)

