

**Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting**  
**22 May 2026**

**Chair of Council Report**



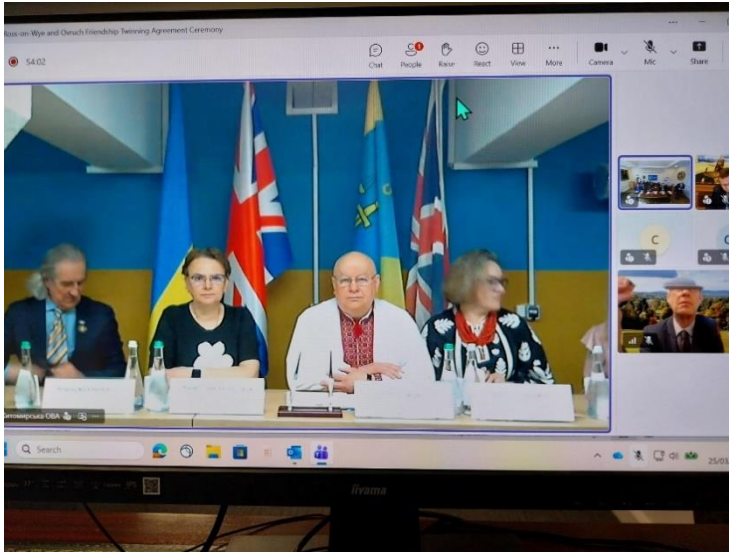
**I was delighted to attend the presentation of the King's Voluntary Award to Kington Walks recognised for their maintenance of pathways, walking festivals and public health promotion. The King's Award is granted for exceptional voluntary service to the community and Herefordshire received two recent awards the other being the Colwall Orchard group.**

**The King's award for enterprise is given to companies for exceptional delivery in five categories including innovation, sustainability and international trade. Useful for us all as elected members to be aware of these awards.**

**More details can be found on:**

**[The King's Award for Voluntary Service - official website](#)**

**[The King's Awards for Enterprise: About the awards - GOV.UK](#)**



**In recent weeks I was delighted to see two close relationships established with Ukrainian towns; Ross on Wye twinning with Ovruch and a friendship agreement between Hereford City with Zhytomyr. We have many Ukrainians in our County and establishing stronger cultural and cooperative**

**links between our communities gives support to those communities who have and are experiencing hardship and fear from the invasion of their county. It also helps us recognise the stability and peace we enjoy and better understand the plight of other nations.**

**Every year for nearly a thousand years a new High Sheriff is appointed by the Monarch and I attended the recent swearing in ceremony for Tasmine Clive from Wormbridge who succeeded Helen Bowden from Leominster. I invited both to a quarterly meeting of Town Mayors to report on their work over the year and ahead.**

**In May NMITE our local engineering university held its graduation ceremony and it is good to report the growing cohort of students and the excellent projects they are involved in. I joined over 200 delegates at the Visit Herefordshire annual conference and was impressed by the support they give individual tourism businesses and promoting our County.**

**The Vice Chair and I attended the presentation ceremony of the British Empire Medal to former Herefordshire Councillor Phil Edwards for his long standing commitment to the Belmont community. We have both undertaken many engagements including the monthly citizenship ceremonies which have now transferred from the Town Hall to Garner Hall.**

**This will be the last Council meeting attended by our Chief Executive Paul Walker before his retirement. On behalf of all of Council I thank him for his years of service to our authority and its communities. These are challenging times for local government and we have all benefited from his wise counsel and management. We wish him a healthy and happy retirement.**

**Cllr Roger Phillips OBE JP**

**Chair Herefordshire Council**