**The following Tribute to Our Beloved Queen Elizabeth was posted on Facebook by Bob Brawn our local Councillor on 12 September 2022.**

[**Bob Brawn**](https://www.facebook.com/BobBrawn4BlairgowrieandGlens?__cft__%5B0%5D=AZVVeY2g7un8e-g8xTK1_TE5HbgCFU7AM8nRcVZRS-TrVb6d9YG06Jns0h0oXrSy_Zi-xw1BKVkhpz3MaPSWCOt5MqxGbbmLkYug9-CBP97v9wnUA_kLKNHGV_tqRBlNaCpG68DOyJT_6RzOkFU-do-0Y8NPqV4cA4tl7-1jENrshg&__tn__=-UC%2CP-R)

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Today, we had a chance to pay tribute to the late Queen at a special meeting of Council. My text-

I know that most of us in this Chamber, including myself, have only ever known Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth as Sovereign. Her reign of seventy years, the longest ever recorded, encompassed immense change in this country. In 1952, as she ascended the throne, this country was still suffering the scars of war, rationing was still in play, and it was entering the sunset as an imperial power.

Today, we are a modern multi-racial, multicultural society, where Empire has evolved into Commonwealth. We live in the digital age where communication is in the blink of an eye. Our meeting today makes use of this technology and can be seen live and across the internet. But, amidst this we are witness to traditions, not seen for seventy years, that date back across the centuries, and will see even more in due course, some even dating back to William The Conqueror. The very core of our history is coming alive before us.

The outpouring of emotion that we are seeing, in such a public way, is almost unheard of. I can only recall such scenes twice before, as a boy, over half a century ago- following the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 and two years later the death of Sir Winston Churchill.

For the Queen, the seventy years, to quote Charles Dickens, “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

A family of her own leading to grandchildren and recently great grandchildren.

She had invited fifteen Prime Ministers to form her governments- from Sir Winston Churchill to most recently Liz Truss. And had seen the coming of thirteen Presidents of the United States.

As head of the armed services, she had seen servicemen and women in conflicts across the world and felt the loss of those that did not come back- The Malayan Emergency, Aden, The Falklands, and the Troubles in Northern Ireland. And in the latter, when peace beckoned, she showed no reticence in shaking hands with former terrorist Martin McGuiness with the dignity we would expect.

And when terrible, unexpected, tragedy struck, it was her presence that helped bind open wounds at places now marked indelibly on the national consciousness- at Lockerbie, at Dunblane, at Aberfan.

We can recall the jubilees, from the Silver Jubilee in 1977 to the Platinum Jubilee just a few months ago.

In 1969, she became a star of television with the Royal Family documentary which showed us that although Royal, this was still an ordinary family with the usual family fun and arguments. And her great sense of fun continued when she became a Bond girl in 2012 and took second billing to Paddington Bear just this year.

But what endeared her to so many for so long was her sense of duty, of service, of dignity, which may now seem dated and from another age but should be seen as an example for us all. A promise to serve kept throughout her reign. Duty before self and we saw that just two days before her passing when she invited new Prime Minister Liz Truss to form a government.

But all good things must end and drawing on Charles Dickens again “it is a far, far better rest that she goes to than she has ever known.” She has crossed the river to another shore, to another realm.

And, as you enter the eternal pages of history, we thank you for your service, ma’am.

An era has passed and, as seamlessly as the crown passes to a new King, a new era begins. The burden of monarchy now rests on other shoulders.

Our new King, of course, enjoyed the longest apprenticeship in history but now that Advisor who stood behind him has gone. He must now face the difficult and daunting task of Sovereign alone. And, as fate has done in the past, it has left him in uncertain times- with a new, untried, and untested Prime Minister, a cost-of-living crisis with rising inflation, people worried about paying bills, a war raging in East Europe- a world unsure of what the future holds.

For now, we can only offer our condolences to a family in mourning but as the weeks pass, we can help our new King by showing him the affection and loyalty shown to his mother.

God Save The King.