

## Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Town Hall on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

<b>18/01 Present</b>	The Mayor	Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay
	Deputy Mayor	Cllr John Berryman Esq
	Councillors	Cllr G Asker Esq Cllr Mrs F Day Cllr P Fassam Esq Cllr P Hughes Esq Cllr Mrs L Simms Cllr Mrs C Woodside
	The Town Clerk	Mrs S Vincent
	The Mace Bearers	Andy McCartney Lesley McCartney
	Rev. Philip de Grey-Warter	

Civic Guests and members of the public

### **18/02 Welcome by the Mayor of Fowey – Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay**

Fellow Mayors, Chairs of parish councils, Councillors and guests, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to our Annual Meeting of Fowey Town Council and to our Mayor Making ceremony.

The Mayor invited her Chaplain, Reverend Philip de Grey Warter, to lead the prayers

The Mayor took the Chair and appointed the Town Clerk, Mrs Sally Vincent, to take the minutes

### **18/03 The Spirit of Fowey Awards – The Mayor**

This evening of celebration is about the people of Fowey who are involved in the life of Fowey and represent the ‘Spirit of Fowey’. Here tonight we have some of the many groups in Fowey who volunteer. We have joint chairs of The Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature Lynn Goold and Melissa Hartwell as well as all the festival volunteers, The Memory Café, The Community Bus, the Regatta committee, Fowey in Bloom, The Seaman’s Mission, The Squires Field Community Centre and Fowey Harbour Heritage, as well as some of our local businesses who regularly support the events of the town; as well as the Chamber of commerce ; You are all welcome tonight, this is also a celebration of what you do for Fowey.

The first award from the Town Council is the **Award of ‘Spirit of Fowey’, Citizen of Fowey 2018-2019**, this year goes to Jonathan Pritchard in recognition of the outstanding contribution of Jonathan for 30 years of service in the RNLI. Jonathan joined Fowey RNLI in 1988 serving as crew, then as Deputy Coxswain and in 2010 he took up the post of Retained Coxswain in addition to his job as Tug Master and Deputy Harbour Master in Fowey. In best Hollywood tradition, Jonathan is on his annual holidays so I would like to ask Chris Ogg to collect this award on his behalf.

Our second award is a Group Community Award, now it is so hard to select one group over another in a town where there are so many community groups, this year however there is one very imaginative example of a group who decided to make a change in our community and just got on with it; the Fowey Forum – Bench Project. This award is in recognition of the outstanding contribution of the Fowey Town Forum – Bench project volunteers. In May 2017, Chair of the Forum Melissa Hartwell decided there were too many scruffy Cornwall council benches, she decided these benches should and could be renovated ; over 60 benches were identified, photographed and a team of mobile sanders stepped in to do the prep work before individuals took over ‘their bench’ painting it any colour they wanted. It is for this outstanding and imaginative contribution to Fowey that I have no hesitation in awarding **The Spirit of Fowey, Community Award to the Fowey Forum - Bench Volunteers**; Can I ask Melissa Hartwell to accept this award on their behalf.

Our final award is a new one this year; in many of our businesses in Fowey you will find young people who are working while also completing apprenticeships and other training. **‘Spirit of Fowey’ Young Worker of the Year**, goes to Laura Thomason in recognition of the progress and commitment made by Laura in her place of work at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club where she started in 2015 and her recent promotion to bar manager in April 2018. This award also recognises the encouragement and mentoring given to Laura from the Yacht Club in support of a young worker to enable them to reach their potential. Can I ask Laura to come and accept this award.

#### **18/04 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2018/2019**

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

*Cllr Woodside proposed Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay and gave the following citation.*

Madam Mayor, Mr Deputy Mayor, Madam Town Clerk, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen,

I propose Mrs Ruth Finlay for mayor for the civic Year 2018 - 2019. I know very little about the private life of my candidate, beyond the fairly common knowledge that her favourite tippie is a g and t. So no salacious revelations, I'm afraid.

When I think of Ruth, I am reminded of two people. The first is the Scarlet Pimpernel. That character from the pen of Baroness Orczy who rescued French aristos from the guillotine during the French Revolution. Not, you may think, a likely mental leap for comparison: a fictional character, an 18th century persona and - to cap it all - a man! Someone leading a double life at that - the flamboyant daredevil and the foppish, silly gentleman. None of those adjectives or nouns could be applied to Ruth, could they?

So why Does Ruth remind me of him? Well, one thing is the rhyme Sir Percy uses to describe the SP, but I must paraphrase it: it is not "they seek him here, they seek him there, etc. The opposite can be applied to Ruth: "You'll find her here, you'll find her there, those Fowey folk find her everywhere. She's sorting our problems or attending our dos, she's seen public gardening, even cleaning our loos!

So, one aspect she shares in common with Baroness Orzy's character is her absolute devotion to helping people, sacrificing her time and energy for others.

And that brings me to the second person she reminds me of. I go back to ancient times, to the Old Testament and an earlier Ruth. Ruth, as you know, was one of two widowed daughters in law of Naomi. When Naomi told the two young widows they should return to their families and find new husbands, Ruth insisted on looking after Naomi and going with her to Bethlehem. And our Ruth demonstrates this devotion

and selflessness. And the best example of this is perhaps her devotion to the dreaded Neighbourhood Plan. The hours, weeks and months she has invested in this are staggering. In the interests of brevity and sparing Ruth's blushes, I won't catalogue her many other achievements. What I will say is that, for all she has done for Fowey, she deserves a reservoir of g and t!

Ladies and gentlemen, I propose Councillor Ruth Finlay for our Mayor in this forthcoming civic Year 2018-2019.

*Cllr Mrs Frances Day seconded the nomination*

There being no further nominations the Town Clerk called for a vote, which was unanimous, and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay would be Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2018/2019.

**18/05** The Mayor recited and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and swore the Oath of Allegiance.

**18/06 The Mayor returned thanks for her election.**

Fellow Mayors, Chairs of parish councils, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted and honoured to accept the nomination as Mayor of Fowey for a fourth term. I would like to thank my proposer, Cllr Woodside and my seconder, Cllr Day, and also the Town Council for my election.

It is a great honour to represent Fowey as Mayor, a town I have lived and worked in for over 30 years and where my 3 children went to school and two of them still live – for the minute anyway.

As a council we have seen a lot of changes in the last few years from the return of assets such as the Town Quay, Town Hall, toilets, Squires Field with its playground, car park, Community Centre and Football Pavilion. The Town Council has become landlords of these returned assets, employers as well as service providers with public toilets, car parks, maintenance of green spaces around the town. We are also very involved with the future of Fowey Hospital and work closely with our Cornwall Councillor Andy Virr, who between us are trying our best for the residents of Fowey, the local businesses and the tourists who are so important to our economy as well as Cornwall's economy.

Our 'to do list' for the coming year there will be our Neighbourhood Plan, which is in County Hall at the moment being scrutinised and will be going out for public consultation very soon. We have a group of Councillors working on giving the Town Quay which is the heart of the conservation area and one of our main tourist attractions - a facelift, with a lot of painting, new bins, bunting etc. We are working with local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to adapt to the imminent closure of our last high street bank and finding alternative locations for 2 ATM's. This is running alongside the regular work of the Council of course and in particular providing the best advice on local planning applications we can to Cornwall Council Planning Dept.

At the heart of all this is our very efficient Town Clerk, Sally Vincent who works very hard on behalf of the people of Fowey.

**My first appointment** is to invite the Vicar of St Fimbarrus, Philip de Grey-Warter, to be my chaplain.

**My second appointment** is to appoint my husband Paul Finlay to be my consort for a fourth term. I would like to say publically a huge vote of thanks to Paul for supporting me this past year, from helping to empty toilet coin machines, working in the Grammar school garden, to becoming the unofficial maintenance man on the allotments as well as listening to my endless riveting discussions about Council matters, thank you.

### **18/07 Apologies for Absence**

The Town Clerk reported that eight apologies had been received

### **18/08 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2018/2019**

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

*Cllr Simms proposed Cllr John Berryman and gave the following citation*

The person that I'm nominating for Deputy May on the Fowey Town Council could not be more different from me. Whereas I am a short woman (and I really hope that age will not rob me of valuable centimetres), he is a tall man. I am unaccustomed to public speaking and am therefore quite nervous about making this nomination. Whereas he, as I have seen, is confident in this situation.

I am making this nomination for two reasons:

This is my first year as a councillor and during this time I have seen my nominee in operation and have observed his dedication, tenacity and effectiveness in working for this town of Fowey. In addition myself and the other new and keen town councillors would benefit from working with a Deputy Mayor with the experience of my nominee.

However, if this is all that I have tell you about my nominee this will be a very short and bland speech.

I needed to find out more. And so I googled him! My search results found a one hundred year old dead American poet, a university lecturer in international relations at Birkbeck and 74 people for which I could have if I wanted to have obtained addresses and contact numbers! It was interesting that one of John Berryman's knew about politics. The other one, the poet sounded interesting. He was born in 1914 in Oklahoma studied at Columbia College and Cambridge University and he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1965 for the 77 Dream Songs.

No connection so far then!

I delved into some of the poems in the hope that I could find some interesting little twist. Here are some quotes from the American poet John Berryman:

“We have reason to be afraid. This is a terrible place.”

“I'm so wise I had my mouth sewn shut.”

“These songs are not be understood, you understand. They are only meant to terrify and comfort.”

No possibility of these words being uttered by Councillor John Berryman. He is has a positive outlook, is approachable and communicates unambiguously. This John Berryman is Cornish and comes from a line of people who served their Community. His Father and Grandfather were County, District and Parish Councillors. John has been Mayor of Fowey five times and Deputy for seven years and I am confident that he will be a driving force on the council for this year.

I am very pleased to be nominating Councillor John Berryman as the new Deputy Mayor.

*Cllr Asker seconded the proposal and gave the following citation*

It is a pleasure to again be involved in the appointment of the leaders of the Town Council.

I have spoken before about what a special place I believe Fowey to be. In a world which is becoming more virtual where people live increasingly cellular lives, where we have a system of government that expects society's services to be increasingly run by volunteers, whilst at the same time creating an environment that drives people to become more introverted as they have little time for anything other than work, Fowey is living proof that it can be done and done well.

But that wouldn't be the case without people like Councillor Berryman, someone that we have heard has been involved in the running of the community services for many years, who has made the effort on those long wet dark Cornish nights to turn out month in month out year in year out to try and ensure Fowey remains special. On those balmy summer nights when through the window come the sounds of people enjoying themselves on the quay he has turned up and without seeking acknowledgement or adoration he has contributed more than his significant share to the continued good governance of our town.

I very much see John like our wonderful Mayor as shining lights that help make Fowey a beacon of what is possible if you are prepared to be selfless and shun the virtual, cellular world and actually engage in the community for the betterment of all.

That is why I am proud to second the proposal for Cllr Berryman to continue in the role of Deputy Mayor.

There being no further nominations the Town Clerk called for a vote, which was unanimous, and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Mr John Berryman would be Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2018/2019.

### **18/09 The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election**

Firstly I would like to thank my proposer and seconder and also my fellow Councillors for their support and I will undertake to do my best for Fowey not only over the next 12 months but for our total term of office. May I at this stage offer my thanks to Ruth our Mayor for her TOTAL commitment she has made over the last 2 years as Mayor, and leader of the Neighbourhood Plan group, without Ruth I doubt if Fowey would have a plan. You may have heard the rumours that as an Unitary authority Cornwall would be allowed an elected Mayor, I would prefer to ask or start the rumour, when will Town Councils be allowed to make a small monetary recompense to our volunteer Mayors for the hours they now devote to the position? As last year may I reminded everybody that although I have moved to Lostwithiel I am always available at the end of the phone, or email (I do not do Facebook) if anyone has a problem or question.

### **18/10 To appoint Members to serve on Committees for 2018/2019**

The Town Clerk called upon Cllr Mr Peter Fassam to propose the ratification of the proposal tabled at the council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in respect of FTC Committees. Cllr Fassam proposed, Cllr Hughes seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following members should serve on Committees for 2018/2019

Planning - Cllrs Asker, Berryman, Day Fassam, Simms

Environment- Cllrs Day, Hughes, Finlay, Simms

Town Hall - Cllrs Asker, Fassam, Hughes

Finance - Cllrs Asker, Berryman, Day

**18/11 Announcements – The Town Clerk**

- The Statutory Meetings of the Council will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Meetings are also held on most of the third Wednesdays of other months and are always advertised on our Notice Board outside the Town Hall and on our website [www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk). Members of the public are very welcome to attend any of these meetings and there is always an opportunity for public questions at the beginning of the session.

Finally on behalf of the Mayor may I thank everybody for attending this evening and invite you all to join her and her Consort for canapés and a glass of wine.

**18/12 Closure of the Ceremony**

The Town Clerk formally closed the meeting