

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Town Hall on Thursday 23rd May 2019

19/01 Present	The Mayor	Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay
	Deputy Mayor	Cllr John Berryman Esq
	Councillors	Cllr Mrs R Cooke Cllr P Fassam Esq Cllr S Griffin Esq Cllr P Hughes Esq Cllr Mrs L Simms
	The Town Clerk	Sally Vincent
	The Mace Bearers	Andy McCartney Lesley McCartney
	Rev. Philip de Grey-Warter	

Civic Guests and members of the public

19/02 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

19/03 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’. Invited here tonight are some of the many groups in Fowey who volunteer for the various organisations and festivals which make Fowey special; fresh from one of the most successful Festivals last week - Volunteers from The Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature, The Memory Café, The Community Bus, the Regatta committee, Fowey in Bloom, Fowey River Lions, 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 and the Chamber of Commerce and our small, independent Museum which is 50 years old and has just won an award for audience initiative.

The first award from the Town Council is the Award of ‘Spirit of Fowey’, Citizen of Fowey 2019-2020, is in recognition of the outstanding contribution of Gaynor Edwards who has organised the Fowey Harbour Swim for the past ten years. Every year since 2008, about 80 – 100 swimmers swim and raise money which is split between the RNLI and other charities.

There are a lot of safety precautions which need to be taken when you ask the public to swim in the harbour for charity. Gaynor efficiently organises a team of local

supporters, providing safety /rescue boats and canoes, the RNLI, the Fowey Harbour Commissioners, Town Quay helpers who register all the swimmers, refreshments provided from local cafes hot soup and rolls when the weather is not good to cakes when it is. It is for this outstanding contribution to charity in Fowey that I have no hesitation in awarding Gaynor Edwards the accolade of Spirit of Fowey, Good Citizen of the Year 2019-2020.

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 award is in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by the Fowey Funnybone Youth Theatre Company which has been giving local children the opportunity for the past eighteen years to get involved in creating a pantomime production.

The leaders of this youth group give up many hours of their free time to local children to give them an experience of the creativity, teamwork and enjoyment of Youth Theatre. Auditions start in October with rehearsals every Sunday until panto week during February and then it's every night, finishing with four performances of the panto. The leaders then run many fund raising events throughout the year to be able to put on the next year's performance.

It is for this outstanding and imaginative contribution to young people in Fowey that I have no hesitation in awarding the Spirit of Fowey, Community Award to the Fowey Funnybone Youth Theatre 2019-2020.

Our final award is the Spirit of Fowey Inspiration Award, which is not an annual award but is presented for outstanding inspirational acts. This year it is in recognition of the significant contribution to the saving of the life of a young person on 30th March 2019 when a near fatal accident occurred near Fore Street /Bull Hill, Fowey. A local resident witnessed the terrible event and contacted local businesses for help. Between them they prevented certain death to the severely injured young man. It was the quick minded reactions of David Lorimer who administered first aid and gave continual support, by talking to him to keep him conscious until the ambulance and paramedics arrived. David dealt with the young man's horrendous injuries, without panic and dealt with the situation calmly.

This represents an act of humanity towards a fellow human and who with others contributed to the saving of life and it is for this outstanding response that I have no hesitation in awarding David Lorimer the Spirit of Fowey Inspiration Award, 2019-2020.

19/04 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2019/2020

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

Cllr Cooke proposed Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay and gave the following citation.

Given that the Mayor is partial to sporting the level of bling that many gangsters would be proud of, I thought it would be appropriate to propose her through the medium of rap.....

Now this is a story all about how
Her life got tipped turned upside down
I'd like to take a minute just sit right there
Let's talk about the brilliant Fowey Town Mayor
A Northumberland girl born and raised
At Fowey Academy was where she spent the first of her days
Teaching history, RE, educating us all
Until she thought becoming a councillor was cool

So she decided to use her new role for good
Which has led to the creation of the neighbourhood (plan)
From the Grammar School Gardens to the allotments too
You clearly have a Mayor who's looking out for you
With Paul her Consort as her number one
Surely they'll be glad when Place Road is done
After Council meetings she heads back to her pad
To sink a G&T with a spot of Breaking Bad
So this time Ruth you might need to wait
Until the vote is done before you celebrate
So everyone please put your hands in the air
And raise a toast to the Fowey Town Mayor

Cllr Scott Griffin seconded the nomination and gave the following citation

Good evening One and All.

It is my honour this year to say a few words about our mayor and welcome Mayor Ruth Finley back to the helm for another year.

It has been my pleasure to have known Ruth and her family for many years. Her daughter Laura worked for me for many years and our families spent a couple of holidays together on the Isles of Scilly under Canvas and sharing a porta loo.

The reason I am standing here today as a town councillor is due to Ruth's belief that I would be an asset to the team. She asked me so many times I thought she was stalking me

I have been on the council now for the last 6 months and to be honest it has been an eye opener with the procedures, rules and regulations that one must adhere to.

Something else has really struck me and that is the incredible amount of work Ruth does on behalf of the council and for Fowey. From the outside it would seem that the role of mayor is basically ceremonial, a bit of bling, with a few canapés and wine now and then. Well that's all true. But it's the other side of the role Ruth really excels at and works so hard to make a difference for the people of Fowey.

For me it all comes down to the belief.

Ruth believes in me and the other town councillors

Ruth believes massively in Fowey and its people.

Ruth also believes in herself and in her ability to get things done, working alongside others.

It has been my pleasure to second Ruth Finley for mayor this year and we are very lucky to have someone with as much passion, belief and willing to put in the hard graft.

Good luck Ruth and thank you.

There being no further nominations the Town Clerk called for a vote, which was unanimous, and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Ruth Finley would be Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2019/2020.

19/05 The Mayor recited and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and swore the Oath of Allegiance.

19/06 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 fifth term. I would like to thank my proposer, Cllr Cooke and my seconder, Cllr Griffin, 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. A town in a unique and beautiful position, which is noted for its friendliness and community spirit, a town which also has a strong cultural tradition.

This past year, has seen the visit of TRH’s the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall in July 2018 where they met local boat builders, gig rowers , the RNLI crew ; as well as visiting local businesses and community groups. A few weeks later HMS Montrose our affiliated ship sailed into Fowey for the first time for a splendid weekend visit. A few months ago in March the new Commanding Officer of HMS Montrose Commander Ollie Hucker, visited Fowey on an affiliation visit to the town shortly before taking command. We are looking forward to the 75th Commemoration of D-Day on June 6th to remember the unique role played by Fowey during 1943-1944, with many events taking place.

This year however has also been challenging for many in Fowey, with the closure of our last bank in Fowey in October , the closure of our Library in March, and Fowey Community Hospital remains closed now for over two years; while changes such as these may well be happening nationally, nevertheless the impact on small rural communities such as ours, can be considerable, which is why Fowey Town Council are working hard with local partners to find solutions to support residents with these changes.

What that means is our Cornwall Cllr Andy Virr, Helen Luther from the Fowey Hospital Welfare Committee, Fowey River Practice and Cllrs from FTC are working with NHS Kernow who are undertaking a review of community health services in the Fowey area, looking at what services are needed and how best to deliver those services. We hope NHS Kernow will have the results of this review by March 2020. Central to our plans for the coming year, Fowey Town Council are investigating the provision of a Community Hub within the old Barclays Bank to provide a library, computer facilities as well as providing a home for the valuable Quiller Couch collection, and the local History archives; also as a base for our Tri Services Officer, and providing local Information for residents and locals. We are pleased to have the support for this initiative from our local MP Mr Steven Double, Cllr Virr and the Fowey Chamber of Commerce.

As a Council we work closely with our very energetic and enthusiastic Chamber of Commerce who have worked so hard this year to promote local businesses and stage events such as the Fowey Christmas Market, our first Food Festival, and encourage tourism generally in Fowey. It is this collaborative approach which is important to the success of a small town such as ours.

I would like to thank 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.

19/07 Apologies for Absence

The Town Clerk reported apologies from Cllr Day and Cllr Woodside

19/08 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2018/2019

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

Cllr Hughes proposed Cllr John Berryman and gave the following citation

I would like to formally propose that Councillor John Berryman be Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2019/2020.

John has worked hard for Fowey for many years. He has been Mayor five times and Deputy Mayor four times and a Councillor prior to that. In his time there has been a huge change with devolution from Cornwall Council, who have stepped back from many of the services they provide. Fowey has faced difficult decisions in relation to what it can and should take over, with limited resources and powers.

John's experience, integrity and knowledge of the local area and people living here will continue to be invaluable in helping the council reach fair decisions.

We live in a time of very polarised views. For example, nationally and locally Brexit. In Fowey specifically, whether cycling should be permitted on the parade. It is a social media driven age with people coerced into taking sides and many refusing to even consider that the opposite view may also have its merits. John has the ability to evaluate all points of view.

In fact, he has a simple to solution to deal with the pressure of social media – he avoids it at all costs! This is probably something all of us should try from time to time.

In Council meetings, John brings experience, tolerance and balance to discussions. If he considers there is a view that may not have been expressed, John will voice it.

Furthermore, even if it is contrary to John's own beliefs, or unpopular, John will still express the view. An example of this occurred a few weeks ago in heated discussions regarding the Library. John expressed a view then added that the John Berryman 20 years ago would have taken the other.

We have had some excellent new Councillors this year with Rhianna and Scott joining us. It is great that John has been Deputy this year and will continue to serve in this role in the civic year to come. I have every confidence that John will continue to support the Mayor and the rest of the Council in these challenging times.

It is a great pleasure to formally propose Cllr Berryman to serve as Deputy Mayor in Fowey for the civic year 2019/2020

Cllr Fassam seconded the proposal and gave the following citation

It is a great pleasure to be able to second the proposal for Councillor Berryman to be deputy mayor for a further year.

As a relative newcomer to Fowey Town Council I have always found Councillor Berryman to be a quiet and considered voice of reason. His family has a long history of serving the town and community of Fowey and his vast knowledge and experience is always available to both new and more seasoned Councillors. He has been Mayor 5 times and this will be the 9th occasion that he has been Deputy Mayor. In addition to his role as deputy mayor he is also an active member of both the planning and finance committees.

Except on the occasion when he disappeared to The Caribbean with our Town Clerk, John has an impeccable attendance record whatever the weather or time of day. I hasten to add that he was chaperoned by his lovely wife!

I am proud to second Councillor John Berryman to continue in the role of Deputy Mayor for Fowey.

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 2019/2020.

19/09 The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election

Madam Mayor, fellow Mayors, counsellors and guests, firstly I would like to thank my proposer and seconder, not sure to whom they referred to in the address, I guess it must have been me as I have been asked to accept the position of Deputy Mayor.

Fortunately for you all my lap-top has a fault so I have not been able to access my previous 9 acceptance address remarks so you will have to sit through a new speech.

As always it is an immense privilege to wear this chain of office and I do so with the commitment to you all that I will do my utmost for the Town and Parish of Fowey especially in the light of ever increasing costs.

I thank the Council for their faith in my ability to still offer this Council something, but I am not sure what.

19/10 To appoint Members to serve on Committees for 2018/2019

The Town Clerk called upon Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms to propose the ratification of the proposal tabled at the council meeting held on 17th April 2019 in respect of FTC Committees. Cllr Simms proposed, Cllr Fassam seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following members should serve on Committees for 2019/2020

Planning: Cllrs Berryman, Day, Fassam, Simms, Woodside

Environment: Cllrs Cooke, Day, Finlay, Griffin, Hughes, Simms,

Town Hall: Cllrs Day, Fassam, Hughes, Woodside

Finance: Cllrs Berryman, Cooke, Fassam, Hughes

19/11 Announcements – The Town Clerk

- The Statutory Meetings of the Council will be held on 17th July 2019, 16th October 2019 and 15th January 2020
- 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. 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.

19/12 Closure of the Ceremony

The Town Clerk formally closed the meeting