

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony  
held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015

<b>15/01 Present</b>	The Mayor	Cllr John Berryman Esq
	Deputy Mayor	Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay
	Councillors	Cllr Mrs K Alexander Cllr Mrs A Boosey Cllr T Delves Cllr Mrs C Eardley Cllr Mrs S Gudmunsen Cllr Mrs L McCartney Cllr D Willmore
	The Town Clerk	Mrs S Vincent
	Mayor's Chaplain	Revd P de Grey-Warter
	The Town Crier	Michael Penprase
	The Mace Bearers	Andy McCartney Lesley McCartney

Civic Guests and members of the public

- The Town Crier announced the arrival of the Mayor, the Mayoress, the Deputy Mayor, the Town Clerk and the Council of Fowey.

- The Mayor, Cllr Berryman, welcomed everybody present.

*Fellow Mayors, Chairs of Parish councils, councillors and special guests. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to you all on behalf of myself and my fellow councillors to our Annual Meeting of FTC and to our Mayor Making Ceremony which follows.*

*Having welcomed you all, I will now proceed to point out the means of escape, but only to be used in case of an emergency, doors to my rear left and the front left. The toilets, open and free I might add, are up the short staircase and along the passage.*

*Please ensure all mobile phones are switched off or onto silent, thank you.*

*This year our ceremony is different from previous years in as much as we are Making a New Mayor not just copy and paste last years' Mayor.*

- He then invited his Chaplain, Revd de Grey-Warter, to lead the prayers.
- The Mayor took the Chair.
- The Mayor appointed the Clerk, Mrs Sally Vincent, to take the minutes.
- The Mayor presented Good Citizens Awards to Mr Colin Liddicoat and Mr & Mrs Graham Jane for their outstanding service to the Fowey community.
- The Mayor presented a gift to Mr Michael Phillips for always being on hand to repair, renew and service FTC's IT equipment at no cost to the council.

The Mayor continued his opening address

*I would like to take this last opportunity of saying a few words before we proceed with the main purpose of this evening, I do so whilst I am still Mayor and no one can stop me.*

*During the last 5 years there has been 2 ladies in my life, as Mayor that is, and I would like to thank them both, firstly Mo for giving me the space and encouragement to carry out the duties of Mayor and to Sally, our clerk, for steering and guiding me through the office of being Mayor.*

*To, hopefully my successor, one piece of advice - amidst the work and commitments do not forget to enjoy the office and all that brings of being Mayor of Fowey.*

*Going back over the records I note that as a Council we have regained ownership of several lost assets— TH/TQ came back into the town's ownership in 2012. The allotments and the Iacre Meadow, came back into the town's ownership in 2014. Squires Field and the Public conveniences are still under negotiation, but hope to complete within the month.*

*Before I sit down I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my fellow Councillors who along with everyone else in town have made these past 5 years a real pleasure and privilege to be Mayor of Fowey.*

The Town Clerk announced that the first item of business was the election of the Mayor for the next civic year and invited nominations.

### **15/02 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2015/2016**

Cllr Gudmunsen proposed that Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay should be Mayor of Fowey for 2015/2016 and gave the following citation.

*Ruth came to Fowey from Northumberland 25 years ago. She attended Bangor University and received a degree in History and Archaeology. Ruth and her family live in Vicarage Meadow and she has been a Councillor for several years and served as Deputy Mayor in 2014/2015. Ruth is very much a people-person and for the last year has been working with residents to refurbish the existing allotments and adding new one. There are now 31 allotments in use and with the help of the Environment Committee of which she is Chairman and of the allotment holders they are creating an apple orchard specializing in Cornish apples. Ruth has been given a grant to help establish the orchard and has been working with her Committee to create something special. Ruth stepped up when the Mayor went on an extended holiday, writing the Mayors Column and got herself known by Fowey residents for writing an interesting piece in the Fowey News. Ruth was also responsible with her Environment Committee in re-organising the Old Grammar School Gardens and I am sure she will be doing much more for Fowey by getting to know its residents and business community in the coming year. I have great pleasure in proposing Cllr Ruth Finlay as Mayor of Fowey for 2015/2016.*

Cllr Delves seconded the proposal.

*FOR ME THIS SEEMS LIKE DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN. THIS TIME LAST YEAR I SECONDED COUNCILLOR CAROLE EARDLEY'S PROPOSAL OF COUNCILLOR RUTH FINLAY FOR DEPUTY MAYOR. 12 MONTHS ON AND I'M SECONDING COUNCILLOR SHIRLEE GUDMUNSEN'S PROPOSAL OF RUTH. THIS TIME FOR MAYOR. SO THAT QUALIFIES ME AS EITHER YOUR BIGGEST FAN UP HERE RUTH OR A SERIAL SECONDER. LAST YEAR I SAID THAT THE RETIRING DEPUTY MAYOR, THE REDOUBTABLE COUNCILLOR ANNE BOOSEY, I MAY BE IN TROUBLE FOR CALLING HER THAT, WAS A HARD ACT TO*

*FOLLOW. WELL GUESS WHAT COUNCILLOR JOHN BERRYMAN, OUR EXCELLENT MAYOR FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, IS TOO. SO WE KNOW THAT RUTH ISN'T AFRAID OF THE SORT OF CHALLENGE THAT WOULD BE DAUNTING TO MANY PEOPLE. SHE IS FAST MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF AS A SUCCESSFUL FOLLOWER OF HARD ACTS. RUTH HAS BEEN A GREAT DEPUTY MAYOR AND CHAIR OF THE ENVIROMENT COMMITTEE. SHE HAS BROUGHT CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM SKILL AND NEW IDEAS TO BOTH ROLES.*

*BUT FOR ME IT'S RUTH'S WORK ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN THAT IS HER GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR. FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE PLAN RUTH, TOGETHER WITH COUNCILLORS KATHERINE ALEXANDER AND CAROLE EARDLEY, HAS BREATHED LIFE BACK INTO THE PROCESS THAT WAS REALLY GOING NOWHERE BUT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR TOWN. SHE PROPOSED THAT FOWEY SHOULD GO IT ALONE AND PREPARE ITS OWN PLAN WHICH WAS CONTROVERSIAL AT THE TIME BUT HAS PROVED TO BE ABSOLUTELY THE RIGHT THING TO DO. SHE SECURED FUNDING AND PUT TOGETHER AN IMPRESSIVE WORKING GROUP THAT HAS MADE FANTASTIC PROGRESS IN A VERY SHORT SPACE OF TIME.*

*AS SHIRLEE HAS ALREADY MENTIONED, RUTH DEPUTISED ADMIRABLY DURING THE MAYOR'S ABSENCE LAST WINTER CHAIRING COUNCIL MEETINGS, KEEPING US ALL IN ORDER AND GENERALLY POINTING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. SHE EVEN INTRODUCED HOT DRINKS AT MEETINGS WHICH IS A GOOD START. BUT A POINT TO NOTE FOR THE FUTURE PLEASE RUTH COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLMORE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, BRINGS CHOCOLATE HOB NOBS TO HIS MEETINGS. I'M JUST SAYING.....*

*WE KNOW THAT FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL FACES SOME SERIOUS CHALLENGES OVER THE COMING YEAR WHICH I DON'T INTEND TO COMMENT ON NOW FOR THE SAKE OF EVERYONE'S SANITY. I KNOW RUTH WILL MAKE A GREAT MAYOR. SHE HAS CERTAINLY EARNED THE RIGHT TO HAVE A GO AND TO LEAD THE COUNCIL OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. SHE CARES ABOUT FOWEY AND THE COMMUNITY OF FOWEY AND IS PREPARED TO WORK FOR THE TOWN. WHERE MANY VOICE OPINIONS AND NOT MUCH ELSE, RUTH IS PREPARED TO ROLL UP HER SLEEVES AND GET ON WITH IT FOR VERY LITTLE THANKS TO BE HONEST. WELL, I'M SAYING IT NOW. THANK YOU RUTH*

*I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SECOND COUNCILLOR SHIRLEE GUDMUNSEN'S PROPOSAL OF COUNCILLOR RUTH FINLAY FOR MAYOR OF FOWEY FOR 2015 – 2016. THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME SHIRLEE. I WISH RUTH AND PAUL HER CONSORT ALL THE VERY BEST IN THEIR ROLES IN THE COMING YEAR. AND FINALLY RUTH, I HOPE THE HAT FITS. BOTH PHYSICALLY AND METAPHORICALLY.*

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 the Mayor of Fowey for the 2015/2016 civic year.

The Town Crier announced the withdrawal of the Mayoral party for robing.

The Town Crier announced the return of the Mayoral party

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

The Mayor returned thanks for her election.

*I would like to thank my proposer, Cllr Sherlee Gudmunsen and my seconder Cllr Tony Delves and also the council for my election.*

*Can I also thank John Berryman who is a long serving Councillor on Fowey Town Council, five of them as Mayor. John has steered the council through some frustrating*

*problems with knowledge and understanding. I will be certainly be looking for his support in the coming year.*

*And on behalf of the Town Council can I take this opportunity to thank our Town Clerk Sally Vincent who works tirelessly on behalf of the council managing leases, licences as well as providing useful guidance for many of our decisions. As the work of the council becomes more complex, so the legal aspect of our work increases as does our reliance on her expertise.*

*I became a town councillor six years ago, personally to continue working in the community in which I have worked in for many years. I taught at Fowey Community College for 25 years. My three children were taught at the primary and secondary school in Fowey, and they have also worked part time in the different businesses in the town, before going off to university or in my son's case taking an apprenticeship with Fowey Harbour Commissioners.*

*My husband Paul now retired from teaching is enjoying setting up his pottery studio and escaping off sailing whenever he can. It is this link with the community which I think is important. During my term as Mayor I will endeavour to represent all sections of Fowey.*

*As Mayor I hope to lead the Council through what should be an exciting year ahead, with the remaining toilets and Squires field and car park about to be returned to the people of Fowey imminently. These assets, once in the possession of Fowey, will be managed and maintained by the Town Council to a standard which we will be able to monitor and react to if the need arises.*

*Squires Field, an important green space to the people of Fowey is used by local football teams and children, will need careful planning to deliver the amenities which are being asked for and are required. There is already a group of people who would like to set up a community centre at the top of the town to provide a space for all the community groups who don't have a home at present.*

*I am also chair of the steering group of the Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan started last December and we hope by this December we will be working on the draft plan.*

*The Neighbourhood Plan should represent the views of the people of Fowey, young and old. This week, I went to the primary school to talk to the Year 6's about What makes Fowey Special, their ideas have been painted onto tiles with the help of ceramic artist Heather Hunt. This work will form part of an exhibition in September together with local photographs and paintings all on the same theme. This will form part of our introduction to our draft plan. The neighbourhood plan is an important statutory part of a town's planning armoury, especially for one in such a lovely location as Fowey.*

*As Mayor, I hope to support and represent the people of Fowey in particular affordable homes to buy and to rent for local people, to support the business community in keeping Fowey a thriving and viable economy and to protect our beautiful environment in as sustainable a manner as possible.*

The Mayor appointed her husband, Mr Paul Finlay to be her Consort  
*My first duty is to invite Paul to become my Consort.*

The Mayor appointed Philip de Grey Warter to be her Chaplain  
*My second duty is to invite The Vicar, Philip de Grey-Warter, to be my chaplain.*

### **15/03 Apologies**

The Town Clerk recorded apologies from Cllr Hughes and 18 invited guests.

### **15/04 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2015/2016**

The Town Clerk invited nominations for Deputy Mayor

Cllr Willmore proposed Cllr John Berryman as Deputy Mayor.

*It gives me great pleasure to nominate Cllr. John Berryman to be Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2015/2016.*

*I have known John for more than 4 years now, mainly through his being Mayor and by sitting on various committees with him. John always uses the sensible approach and gives sound advice; and during his years as Mayor, which had been littered with obstacles – usually in the form of Cornwall Council, John and the Town Council has gradually managed to regain for Fowey - the Town Quay, the Town Hall, the Town Quay toilets and very soon the toilets at Caffa Mill.*

*John will be a great prop forward, supporting out new Mayor, who will, no doubt, have John's phone number on her speed dial!*

*To close I would like to formally propose that Cllr. John Berryman be duly elected as Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2015/2016.*

Cllr Eardley seconded the proposal, saying that she was delighted to support John's nomination and that she was confident that he would be an excellent 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 2015/2016.

Cllr Berryman returned thanks for his election. He thanked his fellow Councillors for their support and pledged to serve the parish of Fowey as Deputy Mayor.

### **15/05 To appoint Members to serve on the under-mentioned Committees**

Cllr Alexander proposed, Cllr McCartney seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following members would serve on the FTC Committees for 2015/2016

Planning: Cllrs Boosey, Alexander, Delves, McCartney, Willmore

Environment: Cllrs Finlay, Alexander, Berryman, Eardley,

Town Hall: Cllrs Eardley, Gudmunsen, McCartney, Willmore

Finance: Cllrs Willmore, Berryman, Boosey, Delves

Webmaster: Cllr Eardley

### **15/06 Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor**

Cllr Boosey gave the vote of thanks

*When the Town Clerk asked me to propose this vote of thanks, she prefaced the request by saying "as the oldest member of the Town Council" Gee, thanks Sally. I might be the longest serving Member but not quite the oldest! So instead of Father of the House I suppose I am Mother of the Town Council, which doesn't sound much better!*

*But nonetheless, I am delighted to do this. John has been our Mayor for five years, and he was my Deputy for the previous three. He didn't choose a very calm time to*

*undertake this stint –starting with the seemingly endless process of getting Town Quay back, and following on with the toilets, still ongoing at quite a cost in legal fees, valuable time and endless meetings. But through all these he has been a calming and knowledgeable presence, and the business knowledge gained from running his farm has been invaluable when dealing with County Council officials.*

*John has taken Council meetings with humour and firmness, an ideal combination. We have agreed to differ about various things at various times, but I think that that makes for a healthy Council. He has guided us through some intense negotiations on assets and the like, always with a clear idea and a clear intent of where we should be going – and time has proved him right.*

*I am pleased that he is not relinquishing the reins totally, as he has agreed to go back a few years to become Deputy Mayor again. A job he is admirably suited to do with all the knowledge he has acquired.*

*So, thank you for all the work you have done, and perhaps you can plan another long break in the Antipodes?*

On behalf of the Town Council the Mayor presented Cllr & Mrs Berryman with a small gift in appreciation of their dedication to FTC over the previous 5 years.

#### **14/07 Announcements**

The Town Clerk announced that:

- The Civic Service would be held at St Fimbarrus Church on Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 am.
- The Statutory Meetings of the Council would be held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- Meetings were also held on most of the third Wednesdays of other months and were always advertised on the Notice Board outside the Town Hall and on the website [www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk). Members of the public were very welcome to attend any of these meetings and there was always an opportunity for public questions at the beginning of the session.

On behalf of the Mayor the Town Clerk thanked everybody for attending and invited all present to join her and her Consort for canapés and a glass of wine after the closure of the ceremony.

#### **14/08 Closure of the Ceremony**

The Town Clerk called upon the Town Crier, Mr Michael Penprase, to close the ceremony.

The Town Crier closed the ceremony.