

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

16/02 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2016/2017

Cllr Willmore proposed that Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay should be Mayor of Fowey for 2016/2017 and gave the following citation.

It is a great honour to nominate Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay to be Mayor of Fowey for the Civic year 2016/2017.

I have known Ruth since I joined Fowey Town Council and I know that she always gives a 100% to the council and the town, most especially since she has become Mayor. This is not always an easy task. Not only does Ruth attend various Fowey Town Council meetings, but also many others outside of Fowey.

She chairs the monthly Council meetings with a fair hand, having gained knowledge from being Deputy Mayor and from being assisted by Cllr. John Berryman when he was Mayor, but stamps her own authority on the meetings.

Ruth has resurrected the Neighbourhood Plan, which a lot of hard work has gone into, and it is coming along well, she has a good team working with her on this.

Following on from Cllr. Berryman, she has been instrumental in getting Squires Field back for the people of Fowey.

Ruth sits on numerous committees, the list goes on – if it has happened in or to Fowey you can bet that Ruth is or has been behind it.

She is a stickler for doing things the right way and expects others to follow her example. She has taken on Cornwall Council and won on many occasions.

Being Mayor or even a Councillor is not easy. You are open to constant criticism and people saying “What you need to do is”. You just have to smile politely and remind them if they have any comments that they would like to make that they are more than welcome to come along to the monthly council meetings. – They never do. But then I am preaching to the converted, by the fact that you are all here to join us in our mayor making ceremony shows you care about Fowey and hopefully your Town Council – grumble over.

I would like to thank Ruth’s husband Paul Finlay for his help and support – as I said it is not easy being Mayor or Lady Mayor in Paul’s case.

To close I would like to formally propose that Cllr. Mrs. Ruth Finlay be duly elected as Mayor of Fowey for the Civic year 2016/2017.

Ps I did not mention the toilets once.....

Cllr Eardley seconded the proposal and gave the following citation..

In 2014 I proposed Cllr. Finlay as Deputy Mayor of Fowey. In my proposal I described some of Ruth’s attributes of character such as tenacity, determination and being fair-minded. These characteristics have definitely shown through, and her sense of humour, during her year as Mayor. To take on the job of Mayor of Fowey, and yes it is a job now, is a daunting undertaking.

As stated by my fellow Councillor, David Willmore, Fowey Town Council has had a very busy year and Ruth has taken it all in her stride, leading from the front.

Nothing seems to phase her, not that she lets it show, and she tackles her tasks head on from challenging Cornwall Council over various issues, celebrating the opening of the new Windmill House flats to planting 100 snowdrops in the Old Grammar School

Garden.

They say behind every successful man there is a supportive woman in the background. In Ruth's case that scenario is reversed. Paul supports with the necessary coffee, planting the apple orchard in the new allotments and putting together the new toolshed in the Old Grammar School Gardens. He also makes a tasty glass of mulled cider!

Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to Second Cllr Willmore's proposal that Cllr. Ruth Finlay be duly elected Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2016/2017.

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 2016/2017 civic year.

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 Willmore and my seconder Cllr Eardley and also the Town Council for my election.

I am often asked by people, what does a Mayor do? To be totally honest I don't think I really appreciated this either until I took over the reins last May. I can tell you, I have not kissed a baby in my official role or held a pair of scissors to open anything, but I'm still hoping.

There are of course, the usual emails and phone calls to answer, meetings to attend, but I think one aspect I have most enjoyed have been the projects such as the development of the allotments, redesign of the Grammar school gardens and last year being part of the opening ceremony of Windmill House and of course the Neighbourhood Plan. These are real projects which can help to bring changes to Fowey which the Town Council is actively involved in.

2015-2016 has been a very busy year for the Town Council. As I said at the Parish meeting in April, the role of Fowey Town Councils has changed dramatically over the past five years, due to the devolution of "assets" from Cornwall Council. The process of devolution is far from a precise science and when the general public hear about the return of a local beauty spot or much needed toilets in a tourist town, managing expectation with what can be realistically delivered, is not easy for small councils like Fowey.

Do we get a better service as a town and parish by having the assets returned? Well I think we do. We can respond far more quickly than CC because we live here, we have Councillors who respond within the day to complaints; our caretaker will try to fix anything small or else we call in a builder. Delays do however occur if we are dealing with something owned by Cornwall Council, it has to be said.

Squires Field has now been transferred to the Town Council and we are in the process of signing leases with the new Community Centre committee and the Football Club. It is wonderful to be at the start of such a popular new development as the Community centre; they have raised a lot of money in a relatively short time and have some very exciting plans.

In my second term of office, it's not going to be 'business as usual – or more of the same' – because the Town and parish face new challenges in 2016, managing our

Town Hall, Town Quay, licences for fishing boats and pleasure craft, toilets, the future of our local library, as well as developing our Neighbourhood Plan.

What is our biggest challenge therefore in the year ahead? Engaging with the community, getting their understanding of what we do in the Town Council. I was invited in to Fowey primary school recently to face a quite demanding Q and A session about what I do as a Mayor, the children asked some very perceptive questions.

The Town Council has engaged with the community through the Neighbourhood Plan with an exhibition last October and a major survey of opinions on topics such as housing in Fowey to concerns about the infrastructure of services in Fowey. We have held two workshops in March and April one on Housing and the other on Quality of life in Fowey, which were well attended.

Residents may not be happy with some of the decisions going on in local government, if this is the case they need to come and talk to us – come to a meeting.

One of my priorities will be the Election of new Councillors; next year, the Town Council will see a major change of personnel and I would urge anyone who might be thinking of applying to become a member to get in touch. The Town Council is an important part of our community in Fowey, but the Council is only as good as the people who are part of it. We need to represent all sections in our community, all ages should be represented here – it is not a ‘closed shop’.

And finally, Fowey is not only a town with outstanding natural beauty, but the quality of life here is also very special. We can all be quick to criticise but this small town through the hard work of local volunteers can do so much for Fowey and bring the different aspects of our town together.

Last week, we had a very successful Festival of Arts and Literature, this event which is run largely by volunteers brought hundreds of people into Fowey for the week. Culturally as well as economically the Fowey Festival is important to the town and to Cornwall.

It is also through volunteers that the Community Centre at Squires Field has been so successful at raising money and of course the summer in Fowey would not be the same without Royal Fowey Regatta again run by volunteers. I could continue to name the many small groups who help to transform our community and many of them are here tonight.

It gives me great to accept the nomination of Mayor, for a second term, of such a special place.

The Mayor appointed her husband, Mr Paul Finlay to be her Consort

My first appointment is to appoint my husband Paul Finlay to be my consort for a second 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.

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.

16/03 Apologies

The Town Clerk recorded apologies from Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey and 8 invited guests.

16/04 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2016/2017

The Town Clerk invited nominations for Deputy Mayor

Cllr Alexander proposed Cllr John Berryman as Deputy Mayor and gave the following citation.

I would like to nominate Councillor Berryman to be Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2016/2107.

John has been a consistently hardworking, dedicated Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor over the last 13 years and a stabilising influence within the council. The knowledge that he has built up over this period has become a great resource for the council and is called upon regularly by all.

During the last year Councillor Berryman has taken on a wide range of responsibilities including the management of the Squires Field assets from their transfer from Cornwall Council to Fowey Town Council and the on-going battle to resurrect the lights at St Catherine's Castle. Both of these projects have on occasions tried the patience of all concerned but Councillor Berryman has battled away and we are now in a position where Squires Field has been transferred to our ownerships and the St Catherine's lights are near completion. I wonder what a Fowey Town Council agenda will look like without these two items appearing as topics for discussion. For John's efforts in this we are all very grateful.

John is supportive of all, gives sound advice, has a sense of fairness and injects a sense of humour to many of the challenging situations faced.

To close I would like to formally propose that Councillor Berryman be duly elected Deputy Mayor for Civic year 2016/2107.

Cllr Asker seconded the proposal and gave the following citation

As a very new Councillor I was not aware until the Town Clerk told me about 2 minutes before the ceremony began that as the seconder of Cllr Berryman as Deputy Mayor Elect I am expected to make a speech tonight – hence my lack of a piece of paper containing my notes. I promise to do better next year! However, I am pleased to support John's nomination, he has been a great support to me as a fledgling member of Fowey Town Council with his wise counsel and in depth knowledge of how Council's operate. I am, therefore, delighted to second the proposal that Cllr Berryman be elected Deputy Mayor for 2016/2017. .

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 2016/2017.

The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election

I would like to thank my proposer Cllr Alexander and my seconder Cllr Asker for their kind words and also to the Council for their misguided faith in my ability.

At this stage I would like to thank our recently retired cllr. Tony Delves for his outstanding commitment he made to the Council since joining and of course to his wife Jan. I do believe our Town Clerk has made contact with Wellington Town Council to pass on his CV details and I have the contact details here Tony if you are interested.

It goes without saying that I will do my best for Fowey whilst serving as Deputy

*Mayor and will fully support The Mayor at all times.
I hope you have heard by now our continued struggle with CC in the return of assets and their determination in devolving responsibilities down to Town and Parish councils with little or no financial help. In the light of this concerning the toilets at Main or hopefully soon to be the Town Centre car park and Readymoney it was great for the town that the Forum stepped in and organised a meeting and a campaign has grown from that meeting to take responsibility for the 2 toilet blocks, our thanks to the very few people of Fowey for their actions. Looking around this evening, please Council Chaplain forgive me, but it is as though one is preaching to the converted instead of the needy as probably everyone here has devoted part of their lives and their time for the benefit of Fowey and its people. Our recipient of the Good Citizen Award is a prime example, I believe the only organisation Lynn has not sat on is the Council, Lynn we have a vacancy, or possible Town Crier.*

16/05 To appoint Members to serve on the under-mentioned Committees

Cllr Hughes proposed, Cllr McCartney seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following members would serve on the FTC Committees for 2016/2017

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

Environment: Cllrs Alexander, Berryman, Eardley, Finlay

Town Hall: Cllrs Asker, Eardley, McCartney, Willmore

Finance: Cllrs Berryman, Boosey, Eardley, Willmore

Webmaster: Cllr Eardley

16/06 Announcements

The Town Clerk announced that:

- The Civic Service would be held at St Fimbarrus Church on Sunday 22nd May at 11 am.
- The Statutory Meetings of the Council would be held on 20th July 2015, 19th October 2015 and 18th 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. 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.

16/07 Closure of the Ceremony

The Town Clerk closed the ceremony.