

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony  
held in the Town Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017

<b><u>Present</u></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 C Stansfield Esq Cllr D Willmore Esq
	The Town Clerk	Mrs S Vincent
	The Mace Bearers	Andy McCartney Lesley McCartney

The High Sherriff of Cornwall, Civic Guests and members of the public

**17/24 The Town Clerk reopened the adjourned meeting.**

Good evening and welcome to the Fowey Mayor Making Ceremony. It is perfect to see so many of you here – I do hope you are not too warm on this wonderful evening. And may I extend a particular welcome to the High Sherriff of Cornwall, thank you so much for your support, Sarah. .

Before we begin the ceremony could I invite you to stand for a few moments to remember the victims of the atrocity in Manchester and their friends and families.

You will be aware that we have just had the local elections and that means that the format of the meeting this evening is slightly different from our usual routine. All newly elected councilors must make their declaration of Acceptance of Office before they take their seat. Most of the members undertook that duty at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May but Cllr Berryman and Cllr Hughes were unable to be there so I must ask them to make their Declaration now.

**Cllr Berryman and Cllr Hughes recited and signed their Declarations of  
Acceptance of Office**

**17/25 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2017/2018**

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

Cllr Asker proposed that Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay should be Mayor of Fowey for 2017/2018 and gave the following citation.

I am delighted to have proposed Cllr Finlay to continue as the Mayor of Fowey.

I personally feel privileged to live in Fowey, not only because of its history and beauty, but because it has one thing that I have never experienced before and that is a sense of community.

I have lived all over the country, but never known somewhere where people go out of their way to be involved in groups or projects as well as to help one another.

I find it remarkable therefore in a town like this that any individual would stand out above others. But Cllr Finlay does.

The enthusiasm, passion and time she dedicates to this town are quite remarkable and for which I am to be honest in awe.

I do not wish to be disrespectful my colleagues on the council or myself come to that, but I firmly believe that without the input of Cllr Finlay, the town would be a worse place.

Not only does she spend time overseeing the day to day running of the towns assets, but in addition to this she attends meetings out of the town and most notably, she is driving the neighbourhood plan as if her very life depended upon it.

A little plug here

The neighbourhood plan is essential to ensure Fowey develops the way we wish it to over the next 20 years, without the plan setting the agenda the way the people of the town want it to be, we will undoubtedly have rampant unregulated development which will further dilute the history and nature of the town.

Plug over

Cllr Finlay chairs the steering committee, of which I am a part, but beyond this she meets consultants, fills out endless forms in order to raise the necessary grant monies that are required to facilitate the project and at the same time generally drags the rest of us along as we try to keep up with her boundless enthusiasm.

The finalised document should be ready for submission next year? Without Cllr Finlay, I am not sure we would be much beyond the starting blocks such is her contribution.

But what can I say beyond an enviable work ethic, I have found her to be kind, considerate, understanding, thoughtful and forgiving.

This I believe makes her approachable and undoubtedly makes life harder for her because people know she cares and approach her as a result.

I have no knowledge of how the council has been run in the past, I joined two years ago, but the council the town has now, under Cllr Finlays leadership is open and colleaugete, focused and motivated with one aim to deliver the best it can for the people of the town.

Remember no one on the council is paid, this is purely a voluntary act, so to see someone such as Cllr Finlay go beyond the role requirements in such a way is inspiring.

It is for these reasons that I proposed Cllr Finlay continue as Mayor and she has my support to help keep improving the Town and its facilities over the coming year.

Cllr Berryman seconded the proposal and gave the following citation.

What can I say -,Ruth has had an extremely busy two years, not only as Mayor, but also leading the Neighbourhood Plan procedure and for this level of commitment her fellow Councillors are very grateful and I hope the people of Fowey are as well. This Council is continually reminded that once the NP has been adopted it will afford us more control as to what happens within our Parish, as long as it is compliant with the Cornwall Council Local Plan.

I might add as this stage Ruth also chairs the Environment Committee and has overseen the recent re-development of the Old Grammar School Gardens. I would also like to extend this Council's thanks and appreciation to the Mayor's Consort, Paul, not only for his support of our Mayor but for the untold work he has put in on this Council's behalf - I understand Paul is now an expert on toilet door locking mechanisms.

I have heard from her fellow Councillors that there may have been a little arm twisting to get Ruth to allow her name to go forward as Deputy then on to Mayor. I can assure you Ruth that we have no intention at any stage of letting go of your arm.

Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to formally second Cllr Asker's proposal that Cllr. Ruth Finlay be duly elected Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2017/2018.

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 2017/2018 civic year.

**17/26** The Mayor recited and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and swore the Oath of Allegiance.

**17/27** The Mayor returned thanks for her election.

High Sheriff, 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 third term. I would like to thank my proposer, Cllr Asker and my seconder Cllr Berryman and also the Town Council for my election.

In my third term of office the town and parish face new challenges in 2017 not least from a new administration at County Hall. Over 40% of the population of Cornwall live in small towns of less than 3,000 and that is the same for Fowey. As a small town we rely on our link with Cornwall Council through our Councillor. So it is with sadness that we say goodbye to David Hughes and thank him for all his hard work and dedication over the years as Fowey Town Councillor and Cornwall Councillor for the past eight years. David has been involved in many Fowey issues from Fowey Hospital to the Neighbourhood Plan and we wish him well.

On the same note, can I extend a warm welcome to our new Cornwall Councillor Andy Virr . Fowey Town Council look forward to working with Councillor Virr over the next few months to see how together we can support the future of Fowey Community Hospital and tackle the problems with parking in Passage Lane, Park Road and disabled parking in Fowey.

Can I extend another warm welcome to 3 new councillors;- Cllr Fassam; Cllr; Simms and Cllr Day

My first appointment is to invite, in his absence, 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 third 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.

### **17/28 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2017/2018**

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

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

High Sheriff, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen good evening,

I would like to formally propose that Councillor John Berryman be Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2017/2018.

In doing so I would like to remind us all of the hard work that John has put in over the years for Fowey. John having been Mayor five times and Deputy Mayor twice and a Councillor before that, has really put his heart and soul in to the running of Fowey Town Council, he has been involved with all the devolution problems that have been thrust upon us, starting with the grade two listed building, our Town Hall, in which we are gathered tonight, the Town Quay and all that entails (and I can ensure you quite a lot) and taking over the running of the Town Quay and Caffa Mill toilets – you do not wish to know how many hours have been spent pouring over plans and quotes to make sure that the people of Fowey and visitors alike have good facilities for them to use and it does not stop there.

John has also been heavily involved in Squires Field which as you all know consists of a Football pitch, children's play area and a car park, the list goes on but it would be morning before I finished if I told you everything that John has done for Fowey, so finally I will tell you that he has been the leading light - if you will excuse the pun - of trying to get the lights going again at St. Catherine's Castle. His humour has seen us through many a difficult meeting.

Having Councillor Ruth Finlay as Mayor and John as her Deputy will give Fowey Town Council the stability that it needs for this year with so many new Councillors joining the team.

When thinking what to write about John I was reminded to 1) Avoid clichés like the plague. They are old hat, 2) To be more or less specific, 3) Comparisons are as bad as clichés and 4) Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

In closing it gives me great pleasure to formally propose that Councillor John Berryman be elected Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2017-2018.

Cllr Hughes seconded the proposal and gave the following citation

I am still a fairly new resident of Fowey, and have only been with the Town Council for a few months. In that short time, I have seen what a challenge it is for the Town council with having to do more and more with limited resources and powers. Cllr Berryman has enormous experience, integrity and knowledge of how the council works, the local area and what the people living here would like.

With some very experienced Cllrs stepping down recently, it is great that Cllr Berryman will serve again, supporting the Mayor and the rest of the Cllrs in these slightly challenging times. In particular, I think he will really help those of us who are new to it in understanding how everything works.

As well as his experience and knowledge, I have seen at first hand the warmth and kindness of Cllr Berryman. A few years ago, he very kindly agreed to escort our Granny Eira into and out of the Church on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. As an

extra present, later in the week he took her out for Afternoon Tea which was a real treat for her and the highlight of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations!

It is a great pleasure to formally second the proposal for Cllr Berryman to serve as Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2017/2018.

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 2017/2018.

**17/29** The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election

Cllr Berryman thanked his fellow Councillors for their support and undertook to do his best for Fowey over the following 12 months. He also reminded everybody in the room that although he had moved to Lostwithiel he was always available at the end of the phone if anybody had a problem or need advice

### **17/30 The Mayor of Fowey – address and presentations**

I would like to start by saying tonight is a traditional Mayor making which I am honoured and delighted to be part of, however I would like to widen this evening of celebration as it is also about the people of Fowey who get involved in the life of Fowey and represent the ‘Spirit of Fowey’. In this hall tonight we have some of the groups in Fowey who volunteer. I have invited people from the RNLI, The Festival of arts and literature, 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 from a very new one opened last weekend the Readymoney beach café to Fowey River Gallery and two of our local publicans Karen and Lee Taylor You are all welcome tonight is a celebration of what you do for Fowey.

To begin with some ‘Thank you’s’ -The Town Council are saying goodbye to 3 councillors; - Lesley McCartney who was Town Clerk from 1983- 1986; Mace bearer since 1986 and more recently as councillor serving on the Planning and the Town Hall committees. Katherine Alexander, who has been on the Town Council for ten years and has served on the Planning and Environment committees as well as the NP steering group;

And also Anne Boosey, who is retiring after 30 years in Local Government. Anne has devoted much of her life to local politics, serving on Restormel Borough Council for many years as well as on Fowey Town Council since 1991 as councillor, Deputy Mayor, Mayor of Fowey (4 times).

### **Bouquets were presented to Katherine Alexander, Anne Boosey and Lesley McCartney**

I propose to the town council that the Award of the ‘Spirit of Fowey’, Good Citizen of Fowey this year goes to Heather Hunt. This award is in recognition for the outstanding contribution of Heather in raising awareness for a Community Centre at Squires Field, bringing together a committee, writing grant bids and tirelessly helping to raise money to get the old Bowling Club renovated.

The Community Centre was formally opened last July and during the year it has been a pleasure to see how well the committee has taken this building on and created a

valuable community asset which is now used every day of the week. Squires Field Community Centre is now providing a welcoming home to many community groups and societies in Fowey and Heather's efforts have been an inspiration to us all. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Berryman and it was RESOLVED.

I propose to the town Council the 'Spirit of Fowey' Community Award is given to the Community Bus volunteer drivers. I would like to give you one example why the volunteer drivers so deserve this award. Just over a month ago, the driver whose job it was to collect the guests for the Memory Café could not get the bus out because of someone parking right in front of the bus. So drivers were rung up, they picked up as many people as they could – remember these are frail people who were taken from their houses to the Community Centre. They drivers waited the two hours until the Memory café was finished and then everyone was driven home.

This award is in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by the volunteer drivers of the Fowey Community Bus. Since 2014, when the new, Age UK bus was formally handed over, the annual mileage was 4000 miles this has now doubled to 8000 miles per year. The Community Bus is used most days of the week always for the benefit of the people of Fowey. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Berryman and it was RESOLVED. Can I ask Colin Richards on behalf of the Community Bus Volunteers to receive the award?

And finally, Anne Boosey – you didn't think that was it? I'm sorry Anne you will have to blame your daughter Helen who suggested we hand out the bouquets first and let you think that was it! Anne Boosey, who just the other day rang me up to see if I would give her a reference as she is hoping to become a volunteer at Treiske Hospital; this lady does not stop.

Fowey Town Council award The Honorary Freedom of Fowey to Anne Boosey, in recognition of the valuable and devoted service that she has rendered to the Town of Fowey as Mayor and as a councillor for 31 years.

On behalf of FTC the High Sheriff of Cornwall presented Anne with an official scroll recording her Honorary Freedom of Fowey.

### **17/31 Closure of the Ceremony**

The Mayor invited all present to join her for canapes and a glass of wine