

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 18th May 2022

22/01 Present	The Mayor	Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms
	Deputy Mayor	Cllr Patrick Hughes Esq
	Councillors	Cllr J Berryman Esq Cllr Mrs R Cooke Cllr Mrs F Day Cllr P Dellow Esq Cllr Mrs R Finlay Cllr S Griffin Esq Cllr A Harris-Guerrero Esq Cllr Mrs Y Patterson Cllr Mrs L Simms Cllr Mrs C Woodside
	The Town Clerk	Sally Vincent
	Cornwall Councillor	Cllr Dr A Virr
	The Mace Bearers	Kerry & Ben
	The Town Crier	Alan Giles

Civic Guests and members of the public

22/02 Welcome by the Mayor of Fowey – Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms

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.

Alan Harris-Guerrero recited and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Mayor invited Cllr Andy Virr to lead the prayers

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

Presentation. On behalf of the town council I would like recognise the long service of Andy and Lesley McCartney, who were our Mace Bearers for nearly forty years. Sadly, we lost Andy recently, but I would like to ask Lesley to receive this gift as a symbol of our appreciation for their dedication to this important ceremonial role.

22/03 The Spirit of Fowey Awards – The Mayor

This evening is not just about the Mayor Making, it is about the people who live in Fowey, the businesses who work here and the many volunteers who give their time to build and support our vibrant community. A perfect example of this spirit of Fowey has just been evidenced in the Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature which was, from the planning to the presentation, made possible by hard working volunteers. This is

but one of the many volunteer organisations in our Town.

However, this year's Spirit of Fowey Community Award is awarded to the Fowey Community Larder. This essential project is run by volunteers at Squire's Field Community Centre to provide food security to members of our community and to encourage people to use surplus food to prevent food waste being sent to landfill. The Larder relies on the generous donation of time and resources to continue and I have no hesitation in making this award on behalf of Fowey Town Council. Unfortunately their representatives are unable to be here this evening, but I will arrange to present this to them at a later date.

The Spirit of Fowey Good Citizen's award goes to Roy Newport who set up the Fowey Isolation and Support Group at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Using his experience of managing emergency situations, as an ex-military policeman and a veteran of the Afghanistan war, he worked to motivate a large number of enthusiastic volunteers and local businesses to offer help to anyone who needed extra support during the lockdown. Roy was also instrumental in organising a Fowey Emergency Support Group along with Dr Andy Virr and Rev Ian Gulland.

The final Spirit of Fowey award is the Young Citizen's Award, and this goes to Scarlett Hughes. I met Scarlett when she volunteered to be part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration working group and was impressed by her willingness and ability to confidently communicate her ideas to the group and her independence in arranging activities. In addition she has recently helped to organise a cake sale which successfully raised £1217 to support Ukrainian refugees.

22/04 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2022/2023

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

Cllr Mrs Frances Day proposed Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms and gave the following citation.

I should like to nominate Cllr Lynn Simms to continue as Mayor of Fowey after her first year in the post. Lynn took over from Ruth Finlay last May. Ruth had been Mayor for six years and had been very successful, so it was a somewhat daunting task. But Lynn has risen to the occasion and taken on the mayorship and made it her own. As someone who joined the Council at the same time as Lynn, five years ago now, it has been fantastic to see how Lynn has grown into the post and gradually got to grips with the huge demands that being Mayor of Fowey involves. Just a little background for those of you who don't yet know Lynn very well: Lynn is Welsh by birth but has lived in Cornwall since 1993. She lived initially in Par, then St Stephen, and has been resident in Polkerris for the past 8 years. She worked at Fowey Community College, teaching mainly art with some musical theory. She is still working part time as a print maker and ceramicist. Lynn also runs workshops at the Cosgarne housing project. She plays violin for Cornish and Welsh dancing and also plays in a folk band called Ryp an Mor (which is Cornish for Beside the Sea).

Lynn lives in Polkerris with Gary, who is a Volunteer Co-ordinator at National Trust property Trevice and their Jack Russell, Murray. It is brilliant having someone from Polkerris on Fowey Town Council as the concerns from that part of the Parish are now more mainstream. She has one son, Ceri who lives in France with his partner and little daughter Lana. Ceri works across the border in Switzerland.

Lynn is particularly passionate about the Environment and in addition to her mayoral

duties, is heading the Environment Growth Plan, together with the Jubilee Working Party. She organised the Environment Group at the Christmas Market and is always keen to raise awareness of Environmental concerns and what Fowey is doing to combat climate change. As an artist, she is naturally creative and likes to use her abilities to improve communication and help people to engage. As someone with an artistic and educational background, she is keen to involve the children at both Schools more in the mainstream of life in Fowey, especially with emphasis on the challenges posed by climate change. Other projects led by Lynn are the reduction in the use of chemicals for weed control and the installation of a water refill station. She is enthusiastic about the extension of the planting of wild flower areas in Fowey, with one already underway beside the Tristan Stone. Lynn was instrumental in leading Fowey Town Council to Declare a Climate Emergency and will continue to lead the Council and the Town forward to increased awareness of environmental issues. She is determined not to neglect implementation of small steps in trying to improve the environment; she believes involvement of the Community is vital. I am really pleased that Lynn has agreed to continue as Mayor for another year. She is an excellent chair of Council meetings, of the Environment sub-committee and the Jubilee Working Party. She will always listen to views expressed and take them on board in a considered manner. Lynn isn't afraid to seek advice if needed and can see the whole scenario of any issues that might prove controversial. She gets involved across the whole spectrum of Council business and makes informed and valuable contributions to the proceedings. Fortunately we have a reasonably well behaved Council and she hasn't so far had to channel her inner Jackie Weaver! I am sure we will all support Lynn as she continues to grow in her post as Mayor and wish her continuing success in her immense contribution to society in Fowey and beyond.

Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke seconded the nomination in song, giving the following citation

I would like to thank Cllr Day for her excellent proposal for Cllr Simms as Mayor Elect for 2022/23. I would like to second her proposal with a little help from our good friend Mr Bon Jovi...

Lynn used to work at Fowey school,
teaching art to us kids, making it cool, so tough, so tough.
She now leads the town council of Fowey,
Working hard to ensure it's a place we can all enjoy, enjoy.

She says we've got to hold on to what we've got
We've got to save our planet from getting too hot
A climate emergency has been declared, oh yeah
So let's all do our share

Woah, put your glasses in the air
Woah, Fowey has got a new mayor
In Lynn Simms you've got someone who really cares
Woah, Fowey has got a new mayor

She's sorting out the Queen's jubilee,

So we can all have, a great big party, God save, the queen.
She's put Polkerris right on the map,
With her consort Gary, let's give them a clap, oh yeah, oh yeah

She says we've got to hold on to what we've got
We've got to keep our housing for the current Fowey lot
A housing statement is being sent to your local MP
So let's wait and see

Woah, put your glasses in the air
Woah, Fowey has got a new mayor
Check out her art, it's beyond compare
Woah, Fowey has got a new mayor

There being no further nominations the Town Clerk called for a vote, which was unanimous, and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms would be Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2022/2023.

22/05 The Mayor recited and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and swore the Oath of Allegiance.

22/06 The Mayor returned thanks for her election.

My predecessor, Cllr Ruth Finlay, was Mayor of Fowey for six years. She was, and still is, a passionate advocate of the town and was always on call to deal with any questions, problems or incidents. Notably she took the lead in the creation of the Fowey Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with the community of Fowey which was passed by public referendum in 2020. This important document forms the basis of all our planning discussions, ensuring that the community's views are considered in any decision made. Since stepping down from being Mayor, Ruth is now the chair of the planning committee. She took the lead in writing the successful town vitality bid and is a part of the Town Team which is progressing the Fowey Town Centre Masterplan. She is definitely a hard act to follow!

During my first year as Mayor her support and advice has been invaluable. On behalf of Fowey Town Council I would like to make this presentation to Cllr Finlay to mark her time as the Mayor of Fowey.

I feel very proud and privileged to accept my nomination as the Mayor of Fowey for the civic year 2022/2023, and thank Cllr Day and Cllr Cooke for proposing and seconding me, and my fellow Councillors for electing me to office.

I am an artist, a teacher and musician and as such don't have the traditional qualities looked for in a Mayor. However, I think that creativity and communication skills are essential when working collaboratively and so are excellent qualities for this role and over the past year I have endeavoured to put them to good use.

Having been elected Mayor in May 2021 without the experience of being deputy, I have had a steep learning curve, but one which I have really enjoyed. It was a great advantage to have worked at Fowey Community College teaching the young people of Fowey and surrounding areas and because of this I have an investment in the Town. I have David Hendry, former Head of Expressive Arts at the Community College, to thank for giving me that opportunity in 1993!

I am looking forward to continuing to work alongside my fellow councillors in

2022/2023 to take forward our plans for the refurbishment of Squires Field Pavilion as a council office and library, to support the Town Team in progressing the Town Centre Masterplan and to further develop our Environmental Action Group. Finally I want to thank Deputy Mayor Patrick Hughes, my fellow councillors and the Town Clerk for their support and hard work during the 2021/2022 session.

The Mayor appointed Mr Gary Craddock as her Consort

22/07 Apologies for Absence

The Town Clerk reported 18 apologies

22/08 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2022/223

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

Cllr Dellow proposed Cllr Patrick Hughes and gave the following citation

I would like to formally propose that Councillor Patrick Hughes be Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2022//2023.

Patrick shows great passion for Fowey and the people who live here and brings his enthusiasm with him everywhere.

It was Patrick who I spoke to several times in advance of becoming a Councillor myself a couple of years ago – right in the middle of the first Covid lockdown. He obviously did a poor job at putting me off as here I am today!

As chair of the Town Hall and Quay committee Patrick has been a driver behind getting the Town Hall refurbished to what it is today. I hope you like the colours – in process of choosing them we had a few samples put on the wall – Patrick then advised “I like them all – “I’m colour blind!” Neatly passing the buck to others to decide...

Patrick is also an athlete and is often to be seen jogging through Fore Street – if you see him please don’t stop him to talk as it this will ruin the momentum being built up to get him up the hill at the other end!

Finally – other than enthusiasm what else does Patrick bring to the Council meetings?Coffee..... always on the case at every meeting - kettle out, coffee, milk, mugs. Patrick is a great coffee maker. This town runs on Patrick’s coffee!

Seriously though, it is a great pleasure to formally propose Cllr Patrick Hughes to serve as Deputy Mayor in Fowey for the civic year 2022/2023.

Cllr Griffin seconded the proposal and gave the following citation

I am delighted to formally second the nomination of Cllr Patrick Hughes as Deputy Mayor. You may see Patrick today looking like a young Gazelle when he goes on his infrequent runs. You may hear Patrick with his angelic voice raising spirits everywhere. The secret is that others see him with the sweet smell of success as he is elected tonight. His most importance sense is his common sense, he is intelligent, energetic and busy but brings true professionalism to the Council. FTC and the Town Of Fowey is very lucky to have Patrick as Deputy Mayor. It is a great pleasure to formally second the nomination of Cllr Patrick Hughes as Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the civic year 2022/2023.

There being no further nominations the Town Clerk called for a vote, which was unanimous, and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Mr Patrick Hughes would be Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2022/2023.

22/09 The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, Many thanks to Andrew and Scott for their kind words. It is with great pleasure that I accept the nomination to be Deputy Mayor of Fowey. I look forward to supporting Lynn in her role as Mayor and the other Councillors for 2022/2023.

After a quiet couple of years there is a lot to do. I will not list everything as this could take some time. I would like to mention that the Town Hall is now registered for Weddings. This has been discussed for a number of years and it is wonderful to have received approval for this. The chief registrar and wedding planners are confident that this venue will be extremely popular. It is different from many other venues in Cornwall, particularly as a historic Town Hall positioned in the heart of Fowey so close to the sea. The Town Hall will be provided at a very affordable cost. We are hoping it will encourage visitors to Fowey in the quieter months. We live in a beautiful town to visit, and I am sure wedding guests will enjoy coming here. We have already had our first wedding. Pete and Sam were married in the Town Hall and then our Fabulous Town Crier led the wedding party to a reception at Gallants. The Hall looked amazing on the day and has since been decorated and new lighting is being installed by James Dowrick.

I am looking forward to working with Lynn and the other Cllr's to enhance this lovely Town working alongside the other groups so active in Fowey. Please do email or phone or even better, we would love you to come and contribute at council meetings. In summary, I am looking forward to being Deputy Mayor of Fowey for a second year.

22/10 To appoint Members to serve on Committees for 2022/2023

The Town Clerk called upon Cllr John Berryman propose the ratification of the proposal tabled at the council meeting held on 20th April 2022 in respect of FTC Committees. Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Finlay seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following members should serve on Committees for 2022/2023

Planning: Cllrs Berryman, Day, Dellow, Finlay, Woodside

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

Town Hall: Cllrs Day, Dellow, Hughes, Patterson, Woodside

Finance: Cllrs Berryman, Cooke, Dellow, Hughes

22/11 Announcements – The Town Clerk

- The Statutory Meetings of the Council will be held on 20th July 2022, 19th October 2022 and 18th January 2023
- 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.
- There will be some walkabouts tomorrow in the town with David Orr, the consultant who is working on the Fowey Town Masterplan. There are still two sessions lasting about 2 hours that are not fully booked and if you would like to take part and share some ideas please book your place online.

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.

22/12 Closure of the Ceremony

The Town Clerk called on the Town Crier to formally close the Ceremony

Ceremony Closed