

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Meeting of the
Council & Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Town Hall on
Wednesday 24th May 2023

23/01 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 C Gibbon Esq
 Cllr S Griffin Esq
 Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

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

23/02 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.

Mr Colin Gibbon made his Declaration 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

23/03 The Spirit of Fowey Awards – The Mayor

Throughout the year local volunteers participate in most of the important activities in Fowey such as the RNLI, the Fire Service, the Festival of Arts and Literature and the Regatta to name but a few. The Community Centre, the Church and the Council couldn't run without them. The Forum and Friends of The Fowey Estuary and the Library also rely on their input and this is certainly not an exhaustive list.

Each year Fowey Town Council highlights the essential service of volunteers by making a number of 'Spirit of Fowey' Awards. In the Mayors Column of the March edition of the Fowey News I asked the Community for nominations for the awards to be made this evening. I am pleased to say that I received a number of nominations and you will be hearing from the nominators before the awards are presented.

The nominees for my first Spirit of Fowey Award were nominated by a number of people both in person and by email. I quote They work tirelessly for the community, have done wonderful work in refurbishing the Community Centre, are always beavering away with improvements and maintenance, organise the Sunday Café ,the Chaps Café, and organise and cook for the Wednesday Lunch club and more, their work is ongoing. We are all very grateful to them, we feel that they truly deserve to be recognised.

I fully support this nomination and have great pleasure in presenting the Spirit of Fowey Community Award to Gill and Ollie Histon.

Spirit of Fowey Service to the Youth of Fowey.

Elaine Elliot, who was due to make the nomination, was unfortunately unwell so the Mayor did so on her behalf and then presented the Spirit of Fowey Service to the Youth of Fowey to Sophie Burt and her team for their enthusiasm and commitment to the young people of Fowey.

The Spirit of Fowey Volunteer Award.

This nomination was made by Cllr Patrick Hughes on behalf of the Lifeboat Station. Luke, known as Boris to his friends only joined the Fowey RNLI lifeboat crew on 29/12/2020. Since then he has successfully passed out as a fully trained crew member for Fowey's all-weather and inshore lifeboats, qualifying in March 2022 having completed his training in an impressive 15 months. Just 12 months later, in February 2023 he also passed out as a fully qualified lifeboat navigator. In addition he is always there to help when the lifeboat crew need crew to support events.

The Mayor then presented the Spirit of Fowey Volunteer Award to Luke Watts for his perseverance and commitment to the Fowey RNLI.

The Spirit of Fowey Inspiration Award.

This nomination was made by Adam Luck, who praised the nominee for his outstanding service to the community.

The Mayor added that this award is not made every year, and is presented tonight for outstanding inspiration acts. I am honored to present this award to Jimmy Hoddinott.

23/04 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2023/2024

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke proposed Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms and gave the following citation.

Now let me tell you a story about a woman named Lynn,
Are you sitting comfortably, if so then I'll begin.
She's starting out her third year as Fowey Town Council's trusty mayor,
And she's doing a fantastic job, you'll all agree is fair.

Many of you know her from teaching art at Fowey,
Once my teacher, now our Mayor and that brings me great joy.
She combines this busy role with teaching art in the community,
While moonlighting as a moderator, how busy can she be!

She's had a lot of practice sorting royal celebrations,
From the platinum jubilee up to the new king's coronation.
At Christmas Market time she has to deal with Andrew Weaver,
Who puts on a good event but can often play the diva.

She's working hard to make Squires Field a proud community space,
And a defib at Polkerris makes it a much safer place.
A water refill station is now in place at Caffa Mill,
For when you're parched and need a drink to make it up the hill.

She has a passion for the environment and improving biodiversity,
You'll have noticed at the allotments that we have a load more bees.
In addition she is super keen to protect Fowey's AONB,
And by her side during all of this is her lovely consort Gary.

She is partial to a pint following her official mayoral duties,
From flag relays to nature days and even planting trees.
Watching her grow into the role has been a privilege to see,
So I ask you to please raise your glasses and celebrate Lynn with me.

Cllr Mrs Frances Day seconded the nomination and gave the following citation

I totally support everything Cllr Cooke has said in her nomination for Cllr Simms to continue as Mayor of Fowey. Thank you, Rhianna for a brilliant proposal. I am really pleased that Lynn has agreed to continue as Mayor for another year. She is an excellent chair of Council meetings, and of the Environment sub-committee; it has been an incredibly busy year for our Mayor. Following Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in September the town mourned the death of the Queen Elizabeth II and proclaimed King Charles III, and just recently we celebrated His Coronation. All this made extra work for our Mayor, additions to an already very busy role. Alongside these events of national importance, Fowey Town Council, led so effectively by Lynn, has continued to work for the benefit of the people of Fowey. Lynn is particularly passionate about the Environment and in addition to her mayoral duties, is heading the Environment Growth Plan. She is always keen to raise awareness of Environmental concerns and what Fowey is doing to combat climate change. During the year, the Council hosted a reception at the Fowey British Legion for the crew of HMS Montrose, our affiliated Royal Navy ship. We were privileged to be joined on the evening by the Fowey Ladies Gig Rowing team who had recently become the World Champions at the 2022 Isles of Scilly World Pilot Gig Championship. At the June Council meeting we resolved that the Old Grammar School Gardens would be the site of the Rachel Sculpture created by sculptor John Doubleday and commissioned for the Town by Richard Ryan. The sculpture should be in place by September of this year. In July FTC endorsed the Safe Harbour and Fowey River Academy Art Project to create a mural for the wall opposite the Safe Harbour pub and agreed to make a donation of £100 towards the cost of materials. In October FTC and the Community Chest fund of Cornwall Council each made a donation of £300 to support the purchase of a much needed defibrillator for the village of Polkerris. This project is ongoing with regular fund raising events planned to ensure that money is available for the maintenance of the defibrillator. Also in October FTC resolved that a water refill station be installed near to the original 1787 water fountain at the Town Hall. This has been funded by the

charity 'Our Only World' and Cornwall Council. In November, FTC made a donation of £300 towards the energy cost required to support the provision of affordable meals at Squires Field Community Centre. I am sure we will all support Lynn as she continues to grow in her post as Mayor and wish her even more success in her immense contribution to society in Fowey and beyond.

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 2023/2024.

23/05 The Mayor made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and swore the Oath of Allegiance.

23/06 The Mayor returned thanks for her election.

When I was first elected as Mayor of Fowey two years ago, the country was still under Covid restrictions and therefore there was no Mayor Making Ceremony. Instead I was duly elected as Mayor at the May Council meeting of 2021. This meant that although many people knew my name not many people knew what I looked like! During the Art Trail in the following May I visited the Art Club exhibition at Gallants and having written my name in the visitors book one of the attendants exclaimed, you are the Mayor. I wondered what you looked like !

That wasn't the only problem. The Mayors' robe was far too long, and not even 4 inch heels made it safe to walk. Luckily before my first proper Mayor Making ceremony in May 2022 it was temporarily shortened!! And how about attempting to crown the Carnival Queen who towers well above you ?

Joking aside : Over the past year Fowey Town Council has supported community celebrations for HM The Queens Platinum Jubilee, was present at the commutations on the death of HM Queen Elizabeth 11 and the proclamation of King Charles 111. It has also been represented at the Affiliates Day on HMS Montrose prior to its decommissioning. Most recently Fowey hosted a flag relay event where the I was presented with a special Armed Forces Day flag for the town to fly on Armed Forces Day on 24th June, which is happening in Falmouth this year. The event was attended by representatives of the armed forces, Fowey Town councillors, Cornwall councillors and the MP for St Austell and Newquay Steve Double. This proved to quite a spectacle on the Quay and was a great start for the evening Coronation Celebrations. Looking to the future, I am excited that Fowey Town council is progressing the re-development of the Pavilion to house our new Library Digital hub, and the Quiller Couch collection at Squires Field. This be of benefit to all in our community. I am sure that this will be completed in good time.

At our June 2022 Council meeting we resolved that the Old Grammar School Gardens would be the site for the Rachel Sculpture created by John Doubleday and commissioned for the town by Richard Ryan. We have received communication with Richard Ryan to say the plans are gaining pace and we can expect to see the sculpture in situ in September.

Finally thank you very much to Cllr Rhianna Cooke and Cllr Frances Day for proposing and seconding me so eloquently as Mayor of Fowey and to my fellow Councillors for electing me. I feel extremely proud and privileged to have been re-elected for the civic year 2023/2024 and I am looking forward to working for the benefit of Fowey in the coming year.

The Mayor appointed Mr Gary Craddock as her Consort

23/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Harris-Guerrero

23/08 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2023/2024

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

Cllr Scott Griffin proposed Cllr Patrick Hughes and gave the following citation

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to propose Patrick Hughes as the Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the coming year. I stood here last year and proposed Patrick for the position of deputy mayor, an excellent choice I believe. I would just like to thank him on behalf of the town council and myself for the dedication and hard work He has put in this year.

For those of you who don't know Patrick, he is a Family man with a couple of kids in full time education and he is a director of a Cornish Home Care Company. He is a busy man but he has put his head above the parapet, and put his time and energy into the role of Deputy Mayor and making the town a better place in which to reside.

'No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of their friends or of thine own were.' Basically, Patrick, you have the councils support and being part of the Fowey community invokes much pride, which is why are all here tonight.

This year Patrick has dedicated himself alongside other Town Hall committee members to bringing the Town Hall back up to a standard. We can be proud of. Patrick has been at the forefront of many of the improvements to the Town Hall and I know that he and the committee have more ideas to make it more accessible for everyone. Patrick and the Town Hall committee you have my thanks and you can be proud of your achievements this year.

Patrick also dedicated a lot of time and effort this year in promoting it and encouraging local craft people and sellers to use the town hall as a venue during the Fowey Christmas market, I know it was a success and definitely something to build on for next year. Supporting small local vendors and giving them access to the main market is a great idea.

Good luck Patrick for the coming year as deputy mayor. I'm sure the Mayor appreciates your support and as a council we appreciate your hard work and know that you have our support.

Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay seconded the proposal and gave the following citation

I am delighted to formally second the nomination of Cllr Patrick Hughes as Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2023/2024.

Patrick is friendly, intelligent, and a busy family man, and as a local businessman he brings true professionalism to the Council, and Fowey Town Council is lucky to have him. Patrick is also ambitious, determined and passionate about Fowey and doing the best for the Town and the people of Fowey – so much so, he has even taken up sailing Fowey Rivers, just be careful you don't get too close as he is still literally learning the ropes.

As chair of the Town Hall and Town Quay Committee Patrick has been instrumental

in getting the Town Hall refurbished to what it is today and use of this wonderful building as a wedding venue and theatre space in the heart of the town able to host Fowey Festival events and the recent Coronation local history exhibition. It is a great pleasure to formally second the nomination of Cllr Patrick Hughes as Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the civic year 2023/2024.

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 2023/2024.

23/09 The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, many thanks to Scott and Ruth for their kind words.

There are several ongoing and exciting projects that we plan to do this year.

Squires Field Pavilion is the main project with the addition of a micro library and adjoining room.

There is a separate working group looking at how best the existing Squires field space can be used. This has included a consultation via a survey.

We plan to hold the Makers Fair again in the Town Hall during the Christmas market and possibly at other times. This fair was very well received in 2022.

It was lovely to see the Town Hall last week being used by Fowey Festival. We need to find a way of using the Hall more frequently, whether Weddings, other celebrations or community events. It has been sad to hear Troy Players is stopping after many years. They will not be replaced but hopefully we can attract other visiting musical and drama shows to Fowey to make use of this space.

It has been great this year to have Elaine Elliot and others taking the time to come to the council meetings. They have asked challenging, however constructive questions, and made a real contribution to the discussions and outcomes.

In summary, I am looking forward to being Deputy Mayor of Fowey for this year, supporting Lynn in her role as Mayor, together with the other councillors.

23/10 Announcements – The Mayor

The Mayor proposed that the meeting be adjourned until 8th June at 7pm in the Town Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Finlay and RESOLVED.

The Mayor then thanked everybody for attending this evening and invited all present all to join her and her Consort for canapés and a glass of wine.

23/11 Closure of the Ceremony

The Mayor called on the Town Crier to formally close the Mayor Making Ceremony

Ceremony Closed