

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Meeting of the  
Council & Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Town Hall on  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**26/01 Present**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| The Mayor    | Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms   |
| Deputy Mayor | Cllr Colin Gibbon Esq   |
| Councillors  | Cllr Mrs F Day<br>Cllr Andrew Dellow Esq<br>Cllr Ian Fairweather Esq<br>Cllr Ms Kate Longman  |
|              | The Town Clerk      Sally Vincent<br>Cornwall Councillor   Ian Wilson Esq<br>The Mace Bearers      Kerry & Ben<br>The Town Crier        Alan Giles<br>Revd Shona Hoad<br>Civic Guests and members of the public |

**26/02 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.

The Mayor invited Revd Shona Hoad to lead the prayers

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

**26/03 The Spirit of Fowey Awards – The Mayor**

Throughout the year groups of volunteers and individuals give up their time and energy to help the community of Fowey. The services that they provide are essential for the health and wellbeing of the people who receive them. In addition, volunteers greatly enhance the spiritual and cultural life of the town. The Spirit of Fowey Awards celebrate the special volunteering spirit of the people of Fowey.

My first award is being made in acknowledgment of the essential service provided by a dedicated team of volunteer drivers who make it possible for community members who have no means of transport to travel within the town and further afield. I am delighted to make this award to The Fowey Community Bus. Rosemary Ann Munford is receiving the award on behalf of the group.

The next award being made in acknowledgment of the volunteering spirit of the past and present members of the group who have made a sustained contribution to the wellbeing and spirit of the local community. It supports families in need, hosts a senior citizen's Christmas lunch, co-ordinates the Santa Sleigh visits and has taken a leading role in gathering humanitarian supplies for transport to Ukraine. I have no hesitation in making this award to the Fowey River Lions.

Lion President Kevin Rouse will receive this on behalf of the club.

My last award is being made in acknowledgment of fifty years of teaching, nurturing and encouraging the young people of Fowey to take part in activities and to gain the experiences required to be confident and good citizens through her work with the Guide Association. It is my pleasure to give this award to Amanda Rowe.

#### **26/04 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2026/2027**

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

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

I am really pleased that Lynn Simms 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 and she always carries out her duties in a cheerful and efficient manner for the benefit of all the people of the Town of Fowey.

The highlight of the past year was the Twinning visit of people from Binic in Brittany. This took place in June and a large contingent of French arrived in Fowey, including their Mayor, who was warmly greeted by Lynn and looked after by her for the duration of his visit. Lynn gamely addressed the French in their native language on a number of more formal occasions, which our visitors very much appreciated.

Another important event during 2025 was the celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May. Once again, our Mayor was in pole position greeting and welcoming the crowds of people gathered on the Town Quay.

In October we celebrated the formal opening of the Library, the MUGA and the pump track. The play area has been developed beyond recognition, and Lynn has taken on the work initiated by former Councillor Rhianna Cooke. Thanks to Rhianna and to Alan Harris Guerrero who organised the fabulous new seating and picnic tables at Squires Field. The area has been transformed under Lynn's leadership.

Lynn is particularly passionate about the Environment and on that same day in October, we held an Environment Growth day. Lynn is always keen to raise awareness of environmental concerns and is instrumental in Fowey Town Council's work to combat climate change. A wildlife garden at Squires Field is amongst projects now being planned, together with a wildlife pond and the planting of additional saplings.

A recent significant achievement is the devolution of the public loos in the main car park from Cornwall Council to Fowey Town Council. Whilst under the aegis of Cornwall Council, the loos remained closed for the whole of last year. Getting them devolved to Fowey Town Council was a complicated and long process. Now we have finally taken them over, we are delighted to say that they will be opening shortly. A huge triumph for our Mayor which will greatly benefit Fowey's many visitors. Our Pavilion House building, housing the Library and community activities is going from strength to strength. Not only has Lynn been very actively involved in its creation, but has enthusiastically taken on the role of Librarian. She is ably assisted in this role by a number of volunteers and the recruitment of a talented new member of Fowey Town Council staff, Myriam Stirling. Thanks too to Ann and David Willmore who helped Myriam set up our new Quiller Couch room, rescuing his books from long term storage.

Thanks to Lynn and her Mayoral Consort, Gary, for all they have done for our Town, and I am sure we will all support Lynn as she continues in her post as Mayor and wish her even more success in her immense contribution to society in Fowey and beyond.

***Cllr Ms Kate Lomgman seconded the nomination and gave the following citation***

I'm proud to second the election of Lynn Simms for Mayor of Fowey.

In the brief time that I've been a member of the Fowey Town Council, Lynn has shown nothing short of devotion to her role as Mayor, as well as a delighted commitment to her other council duties and a kindness to her colleagues on the council.

When considering the role of Mayor in Fowey, I think of the frequent rolling ceremonial duties, and of course the glamorous hat and requisite historical finery, but I also think of what our community needs from a mayor. This person stands as our totem, a representative who can manage simultaneously an affable and professional presence for our visitors, someone who will never fail to lead in our beloved local traditions, who understands the character of our community and the principles we collectively wish to live by. Lynn's past experiences as a teacher in the town make her a natural caregiver and productive organiser, with an easy and approachable authority. She has a long emotional investment in our town, having also served as a Councillor for several years to stand up for the needs of her community - and fortunately she really suits the aforementioned hat.

Alongside her mayoral work, Lynn has endeavored to provide a great deal of support for the essential library service at Pavilion House, and has shown a much-needed proactive approach to her work leading the Environment Committee, proving her commitment to the town both at ground level and to wider-reaching extensive projects like the town's twinning with Binic last year.

In addition to her background and history of service to Fowey, Lynn has an intelligence and good humour that serves both the Town Council and the community as a whole, and I'm so grateful that she has agreed to act as our representative once more. To use the line from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that always makes me think of Lynn, 'And though she be but little, she is fierce.'

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 2026/2027.

**26/05** The Mayor made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and swore the Oath of Allegiance.

**26/06 The Mayor returned thanks for her election.**

In anticipation of writing this speech I researched various examples of Mayor's diaries, both locally and further afield, on what constitutes their typical day.

This led me to wonder what a day in the life of this mayor would look like.

Well, here goes,

My days usually start with a walk with our dog Daisy, who instead of being the calm, friendly sort of dog suitable for a mayor unfortunately hates all other dogs. On meeting one she snarls, lunges and barks and is frankly an embarrassment. In her favour she does love people -but she couldn't eat a whole one!

When I have recovered from the walk there are emails to read and reply to and

sometimes a few phone calls.

It is time to put together the Mayor's Column for Fowey News, and I am always on the lookout for some stories. A recent visit by a cruise ship provided some material and are always good news for the town! Talking about Cruise Ships, I and the Town Clerk, together with representatives from the Fowey business community and Cornwall Council, had the pleasure of being invited on board the Spirit of Adventure a week ago. It was absolutely fabulous and I was very tempted..... but no, the Town Clerk ensured my good behaviour and in any event a Mayor stowaway would certainly be bad news!! Then I needed to call the Town Clerk to make the final preparations for Mayor Making. All was going well until an innocent dog and its owner strolled past my house and Daisy, our delinquent dog, barked hysterically, which made my hearing aids shriek and set off Sally's two dogs some miles away. Somehow, despite this cacophony, we continued our discussion.

Thankfully, everything was arranged and here we all are.

It has been my pleasure to be mayor over the past five years, and I am very grateful to have been given another chance to serve the people of Fowey in this way. I am particularly proud of our Councillors for their continued commitment to making Fowey a better place to live and work in. I also want to mention and thank the Town Clerk Sally Vincent and the administration assistant Myriam Sterling for their expertise in supporting Fowey Town Council. My thanks also go to Mace Bearers Kerry and Ben Pearce and the Town Crier Alan Giles for their work with the Council and the Town.

Thank you Cllr Day and Cllr Longman for proposing and seconding me and my fellow Councillors for electing me as the Mayor of Fowey for the 2026/2027 session of the Council.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to The Mayor's Consort Gary Craddock for his enduring support for my role as Mayor.

The Mayor appointed Mr Gary Craddock as her Consort and Revd Shona Hoad as her Chaplain

### **26/07 Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor & Mayoress of Lostwithiel, Cllr & Mrs Berryman  
Gaynor Edwards

### **26/08 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2026/2027**

The Town Clerk requested formal nominations

#### ***Cllr Fairweather proposed Cllr Colin Gibbon and gave the following citation***

I have been a member of the Council for just under a year and I have got to know Colin and his work within the Council. His dedication to the Planning Committee and the Council in general is impressive, including his attendance at many Civic functions and formal occasions held in the town and supporting the Mayor. Colin is clearly invested in the betterment of Fowey and I therefore have no hesitation to propose that Cllr Colin Gibbon be elected as Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the coming year.

#### ***Cllr Dellow seconded the proposal and gave the following citation***

I am delighted to second the nomination of Councillor Gibbon in the position of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Gibbon has been a dedicated and hardworking member of this council for a number of years. During his time as chair of the planning committee and member of finance committee, he has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the Fowey community.

I know that he will provide excellent support to the Mayor and uphold values of this council during the civic year ahead.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Councillor Colin Gibbon as Deputy Mayor.

There being no further nominations the Town Clerk called for a vote, which was unanimous, and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Mr Colin Gibbon would be Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2026/2027.

### **26/09 The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election**

Thank you to Councillor Fairweather and Councillor Dellow for their support and kind words. And to my other fellow Councillors for their votes. I am delighted to accept the position of Deputy Mayor and will ensure that I support the Mayor and deputise for her, when needed, alongside continuing my current roles on the Town Council.

I very much admire the way The Mayor gets involved in countless local and wider concerns such as local charities, business organisations, The Town Hall, the Binic twinning, and the Regatta, to name but a few. Whilst she copes brilliantly with all the demands and pressures, I am hoping that I can take some of the load and stand in on the odd occasion that might cause stress or diary clashes.

I have been visiting Fowey on a regular basis since 1990 and more recently have bought a permanent home here. I have seen changes over the years, due to local issues and world events but I still love the Town and all that goes on to make it an enjoyable place to live, work or visit.

I very much enjoy working with my fellow Councillors and our County Councillor for the good of the Town and hope that I can continue to make a significant contribution to the future success Fowey, its residents, businesses and holiday makers.

### **26/10 Election of Committees**

Cllr Longman proposed, Cllr Dellow seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following Councillors should serve on the following Committees for the Civic Year 2026/2027. The Mayor is an *ex officio* member of all Committees

Planning: Cllrs Day, Dellow, Gibbon

Finance: Cllr Dellow, Gibbon

Environment: Cllrs Day, Longman, Fairweather

### **26/11 Announcements – The Mayor**

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.

### **26/12 Closure of the Ceremony**

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

### **Ceremony Closed**