

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Meeting of the
Council & Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Town Hall on
Wednesday 22nd May 2024

24/01 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 A Harris-Guerrero
	Cornwall Councillor Cllr Dr A Virr The Mace Bearers Kerry & Ben The Town Crier Alan Giles

Civic Guests and members of the public

24/02 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 Cllr Revd Mrs Carol Edleston to lead the prayers

The Mayor took the Chair and appointed Cllr Ruth Finlay to take the minutes

24/03 The Spirit of Fowey Awards – The Mayor

I am delighted to make these awards as Fowey is special for its volunteers. The community works together to take care of individuals and for the success of the town. If you're a volunteer you give of your own time and energy to others, you work when you don't have to and sometimes your efforts are not acknowledged, however mostly you are repaid by the joy of see others thrive. Even if you get paid for caring like teachers and health workers the investment in people is often worth more than the money. The Community Centre, the Fowey River Lions, the RNLI. The Fowey Festival Trustees, the Regatta Committee, the Town Council I could go on, ll work because of volunteers. Sometimes we take them for granted. However as much as this evening is about celebrating the Mayor Making it is also about celebrating you, the community. Recently I asked for nominations from the public for the Spirit of Fowey Awards. I am delighted to be making 4 awards this evening.

The Spirit of Fowey Young Citizen Award was nominated by Gill Histon and Annie Stuart is going to speak on her behalf.

This award was made to Luke to acknowledge his many volunteering activities over a number of years at Squires Field Community Centre.

I am pleased to make this award to Luke Homer.

Fowey Good Citizen Award was nominated by Helen Luther and swill speak about the recipient. I am delighted to make this award to Mandy Hanson. This award was made to acknowledge the many ways in which she contributes to the community of Fowey, from volunteering at the Museum, the Charity Shop and as honorary treasurer for both the community bus and the Museum. In addition she supports her elderly neighbours.

The recipient of the Charity Fund Raising Award was nominated by Sophie Burt and Vicky Canavan and is being made in recognition of for the large amount of money that his bingo fundraising has raised for local charities and amenities.

I am pleased to make this award to Lee Taylor.

The last award is the Spirit of Fowey Community award. The nomination was made by Geoff Richards and recipient of this award has dedicated over 30 years of his life to outstanding service for the scouting community making a difference to the lives of thousands of young people from the Fowey and surrounding areas. I am delighted to make this award to Adrien Jane.

23/04 Election of Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2024/2025

The Town Crier requested formal nominations

Cllr Andrew Dellow Esq proposed Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms and gave the following citation.

I am pleased to propose Councillor Lynn Simms in the position of Mayor of Fowey Town Council.

Lynn will be starting her fourth year as Fowey Town Council's mayor – something that demonstrates her dedication and commitment to well-being of the town and the people who live in it.

Being Mayor is not just a matter of putting on the impressive chain of office..... and that fabulous frilly Poldark hat.....and the little red-riding-hood gown – it is in fact a continuous round of attending many meeting and activities in our town as well as travelling round the county representing the Council on countless community, environmental and neighbourhood groups.

In particular Lynn has a passion for the environment and chairs the environment committee of the Council. This is a wide remit covering among others – Squires Field, allotments, trees, old grammar school gardens and integrating all this with wider bodies countywide and nationally. Lynn also recently organised a successful environmental awareness day event in the Town Hall which was very informative and well attended.

This year Fowey is going French! Lynn, supported by her Consort Gary, will be among a large group of Fowey people storming the Channel to Binic in Brittany as part of an informal twinning between the two towns. This sortie will take place two days after the 80th D-Day celebrations. Undoubtedly Lynn was drawn to this in part by a keenness to try the local beers and ciders of the region, opportunity to load a transit van with wine and cheese as well as developing some 'entente cordiale' - let's hope the Bretons are ready for our Welsh wizardess! Lynn is also active in the music scene

and if they are lucky, and if the cider is good enough, they will be treated to a rendition of a local Breton folk song – if the cider is very good this may turn into ‘Delilah’ - but either way Lynn will no doubt be a fabulous ambassador for the people of Fowey!

Cllr Colin Gibbon Esq seconded the nomination and gave the following citation

My name is Councillor Colin Gibbon.

I joined Fowey Town Council approximately 1 year ago and soon got to know the very likable and interesting character that Councillor Lynn Simms is.

During the past year she has run the Town Council in a very professional way, albeit on a voluntary basis and kept the rest of us in order. She has thoroughly investigated various issues that have arisen during the past year, and provided information and support to the Town Council to guide us in the sometimes-difficult decision-making process.

In addition to the Council meetings Lynn has attended many Civic functions and has represented the town on numerous formal occasions as Mayor. These included the Licensing and Inauguration of Revd. Carol Edleston, the RNLI 200th Anniversary Celebrations, The Mayors Fundraising Concert and Remembrance Day, to name but a few.

Councillor Simms is also a Patron of the Yacht Club and is heavily involved in the town’s D-Day commemorations.

Lynn is a longstanding member of the Fowey community who gives up much of her spare time for the benefit of the Town and it is really good to have someone who is so passionate and active in the role.

She is a firm advocate of Fowey and seizes every opportunity to promote the Town as a great place to live, work and holiday.

I would therefore like to second the proposal that Councillor Lynn Simms be elected as Mayor of Fowey for the coming year.

There being no further nominations the Town Crier 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 2024/2025.

24/05 The Mayor made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and swore the Oath of Allegiance.

24/06 The Mayor returned thanks for her election.

Are you sitting comfortably?

I’m going to tell you a story.....

Once upon a time a very small baby girl was born in a mining village in the midlands. The birth was not expected to be imminent, and the mother was just about to catch a bus to the local town! For some strange reason this English child was in possession of a Welsh accent which proved quite useful when the family relocated! Her self-appointed career as an opera singer was all mapped out at five although her parents and family friends warned her that this almost certainly was not going to happen. Schools attended in England and Wales pointed the way to Art College and eventually to teaching, in a round-about fashion. Apart from the riots, which she definitely did Not participate in, she grew to love Brixton in London before moving on to Brighton to study postgraduate printmaking and teacher training, all this accompanied by her

trusty violin!

A pin in the map brought her to Fowey, a town that I'm familiar with, at the dead of a foggy night to be interviewed in the morning for a post at the Community College. Subsequently she spent many a teaching year being mistaken for a pupil due to her small stature. She has remained there ever since.

The End!

This is a potted history of my journey to this beautiful ancient town and "in short" why I stand before you this evening to thank Cllr Andrew Dellow and Cllr Colin Gibbon for nominating and seconding my nomination as Mayor of Fowey and my fellow Councillors for electing me.

I am proud of the achievements of the Council over the past year which include the siting of the Dolphin Water refill station at Caffa Mill, the completion of the Town Gateway Project at the entrance to Lostwithiel Street and the pavilion renovation, which will house the library hub and council office. In addition, the Squires Field working group initiated by Cllr Cooke and Cllr Alan Harris-Guerrero has been successfully working with the Council to improve the play and wellbeing facilities for the community.

The Environment Committee has been working with Tina Robinson from the charity our only world and I was pleased to see an article from the BBC news about the 150 living sea tiles that the charity has installed on harbour walls in Falmouth, Plymouth and Mevagissey with plans for them to be introduced at Newquay, Padstow and Port Isaac. We have an ongoing project with the charity.

It was a pleasure at last, to see the Rachel Sculpture by John Doubleday in place at the Old Grammar School Gardens in September and to be present at the unveiling. In conversation with donor Richard Ryan, I found out that the real Rachel was an advocate for education, and it was fitting that I was presented with a signed copy of the book "John Doubleday work" for our new library hub.

Finally, when I'm asked to read in Church, I have been allocated the mayor's stool so that I can stand on it to see over the lectern. Having seen recent photographs of myself at the Lifeboat Scroll ceremony, I probably need to borrow it while out and about and definitely when I need to be photogenic.

Thank you.

The Mayor appointed Mr Gary Craddock as her Consort and Revd Mrs Carol Edleston as her Chaplain.

24/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

24/08 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2024/2025

The Town Crier requested formal nominations

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

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great honour and pleasure to nominate Councillor Patrick Hughes for the role of Deputy Mayor for the coming year.

I believe this is my fourth time proposing the role of Deputy Mayor. I am yet to secure the big gig of proposing the top job of Mayor of Fowey. If this goes well tonight, Patrick, me and you might be on the other side next year.

This is also the second time I have proposed Patrick for the role of Deputy Mayor. What is there to know about Patrick?

He's a lovely chap, he has an enchanting wife, he has two super children who spend a lot of time at the gym when they're back from college. He has a nice house, he works hard as an entrepreneur and businessman. He flirts with running and the gym and fitness and he probably likes eating cake and drinking tea.

I know Patrick mainly through being part of Fowey town council. He is a great contributor to council meetings. He is very strong and stands up for what he believes in and makes that clear to the rest of the councillors. He always engages with the hundreds of emails that we receive as councillors to give an opinion, advice and good council.

Whilst writing this speech I got to thinking about the role of Deputy Mayor. It doesn't quite come with the glamour and grandeur of being the mayor of Fowey. It doesn't open all those doors that being the Mayor does. No invites to glamorous parties and a lot less bling.

So why do it? Patrick does it because he's a good chap. He does it because he's serving his community and trying to make Fowey a better place.

A couple of quotes to finish.

First Boris Johnson. (this one's for Ruth)

The doubters, the doomsters, the gloomsters – they are going to get it wrong again. The people who bet against Patrick being a great Deputy Mayor are going to lose their shirts.

Next, for balance, Ghandi - obviously.

'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.'

And that my friends is the reason why Patrick has put himself forward to serve the wonderful town of Fowey.

I wish Patrick every success and he has my full support.

Good luck and God bless

I thank you.

Cllr John Berryman seconded the proposal and gave the following citation

As this will be my last Mayor Making ceremony, I thought I would delve into my box file of the previous addresses I had written and, as I was running late, grab a few and hopefully find a suitable one.

So,

My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, no not that one.....

Dearly beloved we are gathered here to join, no not that one.....although possibly one for you Carol?

My wife and I, no not that one.....

I have great pleasure in naming this, no not that one.....

Then I remembered, when I first became a Councillor a very good friend advised me, if you are going to say something then just say it and sit down. So it gives me great pleasure to second the proposal that Cllr. Patrick Hughes be elected as the Deputy Mayor for Fowey for the year 2024/25.

There being no further nominations the Town Crier 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 2024/2025.

24/09 The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his election

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

I'm looking forward to being on the council for this Civic Year. There are many things we would like to achieve.

We need to continue to find other uses for this lovely Hall and it will be great to have Carol's input this year with both the Hall and Town Quay.

The Fowey Artisan Market held regularly in the Hall by Zena is very popular with local traders and artists and is now a regular well attended event in the town.

The wonderful Fowey Festival has just finished made possible by hard working volunteers. The event made great use of this space for many of their fantastic talks.

The new pavilion at Squires Field will be opening soon and we'll be looking at how to best use the building including as a micro library. We will be carefully reviewing how best to run the pavilion alongside the community centre and also the other improvements planned for Squires Field led by Rhianna, Alan and their team. They have made great progress with their plans and hopefully we will see these come to fruition this year, with work on the playground upgrade and MUGA planned to start in June.

I'm really looking forward to the exchange trip to Binic on the 8th June. 6 Boats, several cars and a very old vintage motorbike will be travelling over to Brittany.

Thank you so much to Ken and Ali Wittamore for organising this trip for the Town.

Thank you also to Paul Thomas and the Harbour Commission for donating one of their beautiful wooden emblems of the Town for us to give to the people of Binic.

It's great that the Morvaugh Sailing Project are also taking their boat Helen Mary R, with 10 young Cornish people aboard. This is a great opportunity for them to sail across the channel in a supervised yacht and for many will be their very first experience of sailing. Hopefully the weather will be good, and they won't be put off!

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

My words this year would not be complete without acknowledging the untimely passing away of Sally's husband. Despite this tragic loss, Sally has continued to serve the council with her usual dedication. They are both missed this evening.

24/10 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.

24/11 Adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the Council

The Mayor proposed that the meeting be adjourned until 23rd May 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED.

24/12 Closure of the Ceremony

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

Ceremony Closed