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9 am to 4 pm Mondays to Fridays



TOWN HALL  
FELIXSTOWE  
SUFFOLK  
IP11 2AG

# **FELIXSTOWE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

## **FOR FELIXSTOWE ELECTORS**

**TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2015 AT 7PM**

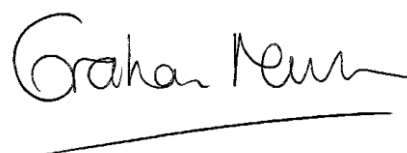
**at**

**THE TOWN HALL, FELIXSTOWE**

**when all electors are entitled to attend**

### **A G E N D A**

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 7 May 2014 (attached)**
- 2. Report by the Mayor of Felixstowe.**
- 3. Public speaking session.**



**Cllr Graham Newman  
Town Mayor  
12 May 2015**

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**The meeting is open to all registered local government electors for the  
Town of Felixstowe**



they really take a great deal of pride in their work, so thank you all for your dedication to this wonderful facility for our town.

The Town Council continues to maintain its harmonious links with partnership organisations, especially those of our twin towns of Wesel and Salzwedel. 2014 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Wesel, signed on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1974 and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our friendship agreement with Salzwedel – signed in April 1994. Visits are regularly exchanged between the firefighters, the Rifle Clubs and the Associations as well as annual Civic visits. We had a wonderful weekend in March when 42 visitors came from Wesel including the Bergermeisterin, for a celebratory weekend culminating in my Mayor's Ball. The only sad thing about the visits is that the exchanges between schoolchildren seem to have fizzled out again. I do hope that these can be restarted somehow through our new Academy as we do need young peoples involvement.

At the beginning of my year I, together with the then SCDC portfolio holder for Leisure, Geoff Holdcroft, cut the first sod for the refurbishment of the Sea Front Gardens – thanks to Lottery funding. Unfortunately, due to contractual problems, work stopped very soon after and has not yet restarted. However new contractors have been appointed by SCDC so work should start soon. A wonderful project that has been completed, however, is the new Academy in Walton. I have been very lucky to have been involved with this almost from the start and even have a girder with my name on it at the top of the building. Together with Jon I was present at the "handing over of the keys" ceremony in March and had the privilege of being shown around this amazing building. I am sure that the surroundings will encourage great learning and their school is an asset to our town. Another project that I had hoped would come to fruition this year was the refurbishment of the Pier. Planning permissions were granted by SCDC but there are many hoops to jump through for Mr Threadwell and the project has unfortunately been postponed until this October. Another project that has come to fruition after 30 years is the development by Bloor Homes of around 200 houses and play areas etc. on the South Sea Front. We would all agree that the area looks a lot better than it has done for many years, but not quite what we had envisaged as a Town Council in the heady days when money was no object.

The Town Council continues to provide activities and facilities for all age groups. Broadway House, operated by the Felixstowe Old Peoples Welfare Association, runs a drop-in centre 6 days a week, Walton Community Centre is available at very reasonable rates for community activities and Town Council continues to provide facilities for the Youth Forum, which is very successful and came second in a recent competition for the High Sherriff's Suffolk Youth Organisation of the Year Award. The hire of the Town Hall for weddings and civil partnerships continues to be extremely successful and is a good revenue source for the Council. This year we have taken over the flower planting in various parts of the town and along the Sea Front, following the withdrawal of this service by SCDC.

Amongst the many memorable Civic occasions that we have attended over the year, we were honoured with a visit by Prince Andrew, when he came to the

Port to inaugurate the North Rail Terminal. The celebrations were lavish and attended by "Col Tomline" himself!!! Other memorable occasions in the Town were the St George's Day Parade, the Remembrance Service and the Felixstowe in Flower Presentation Evening. The highlight of my year, however was when I saw the "idea" of Wings on Waves come to fruition. An idea suggested by Cllr Chris Slemmings which grew in my head, which with a lot of help from several people (but especially Celia) and a lot of luck, became the wonderful Air Display and event for the Town. I must express my personal thanks to the members of the Town Council for having the faith to back it financially. There are so many more engagements that I could talk about but I am just going to mention one more, a visit to the Sea Cadets at the Drill Hall for the commissioning of their new Padre. We were treated to a display of counter-marching which was wonderful in those so young.

The Civic Service was held at St John's, the parish church, and the Civic Carol Service at my family church of St Mary the Virgin, Walton. This service has now become a firm fixture in the Civic Calendar of Felixstowe and I do hope that future Mayors will carry it on.

We sadly recorded the death during the year of a former Mayor, Malcolm Minns, who was also a former Chairman of SCDC. He will be greatly missed around the town as he was certainly a larger than life character. We attended his memorial service at St John's Church.

Last week I had the great pleasure of presiding at the Mayor's Awards Evening in this Chamber, when I presented awards to some of those who have contributed so much to helping to make Felixstowe such a wonderful place to live. The Ganges Trophy was won by the Young Volunteers of Level 2; the Organisation Award went to Felixstowe and District Council for Sport and Recreation, with Commendation Certificates for the Basic Charity, Walton Parish Nurses, and Felixstowe and Corinthians Youth Cricket Club. The Mayor's Awards went to Rosemary Fincham, David Hedges, Diana Barnard, Norman Thompson and Ann White.

Jon and I were delighted to help in raising money for my charities. This year I chose the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind and the local Friends of St Elizabeth Hospice. Both committees worked very hard during the year at events to raise money. We held several of these throughout the year including a Thai Night at the Brook Hotel and a Curry Evening at the Bombay Nite in Walton. A Christmas Fair at Brackenbury, a Concert at St John's, and 2 Recycling Fashion Shows by the Brownies also contributed, as did some very generous donations. The main contribution came, as always, from my Mayor's Ball. All together we raised the magnificent sum of £10,674.00 which has been divided equally between the Charities. Thank you everyone for your efforts.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the welcome that Jon and I have received from the individuals and organisations that we have met at formal and informal occasions throughout the year in carrying out well over 200 engagements. My grateful thanks must also go to Cllr Graham Newman, the Deputy Mayor who was frequently willing and able to assist when engagements clashed.

I should like to thank all the Councillors for your help and attention throughout this year, for your valuable contributions to debates, your patience during long Council meetings and for the many hours of work that you have carried out on all the various committees.

Finally, but certainly not the least, I should like to thank my darling husband, Jon, for all his support throughout the year, Without this I would never have managed to carry on, especially during my surgery and consequential radiotherapy during the summer. So thank you, darling, so much. And thank you all.”

### 3. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Mayor reminded the meeting that this was the Annual Parish Meeting at which members of the public could speak on any issue that they wished. The Mayor enquired whether any member of the public wished to raise any matters.

A member of the public asked, on behalf of the Town Centre Residents Association, regarding plans to accommodate the 40-70 cars which were to be displaced by the McCarthy and Stone development at Hamilton House. The Mayor advised this was a matter for Suffolk Coastal District Council but that it was understood that Suffolk Coastal District Council were renting spaces in Ranelagh Road car park.

A member of the public complained about the state of the seafront gardens and the continuing delays to the contract, and was advised that it was hoped work would recommence during the summer with a view to completion late Spring 2015. Again the Mayor pointed out that the project was the entire responsibility of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

### 5. **CLOSURE**

The meeting was closed at 7.26 p.m.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_