



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF FELIXSTOWE ELECTORS

Wednesday 9 May 2018 at 7pm  
Felixstowe Academy, High St, Felixstowe IP11 9QR

### AGENDA

1. **Welcome and introduction**
2. **Minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting**  
To approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 10 May 2017 as a correct record. **(Pages 2-5)**
3. **Mayor's Annual Report**  
To receive the Annual Report of the Mayor of Felixstowe for 2017/18.
4. **Civic Awards**  
To present the following:
  - a) Mayor's Awards
  - b) Ganges Youth Trophy
  - c) Community Organisation Award
  - d) Visit Felixstowe Tourism Award
5. **Reports from community stakeholders**  
To note reports received from community stakeholders. **(Page 6)**
6. **Presentation to Mayor's charities**
7. **Public Session**  
An opportunity for members of the public to comment on any matters relating to Felixstowe.
8. **Closure**  
At the end of the meeting all are invited for light refreshments in the Atrium where there will also be an opportunity to meet local community organisations.

Cllr Nick Barber  
Mayor of Felixstowe  
27 April 2018

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The Annual Town Meeting is a statutory meeting of the local government electors of the Civil Parish of Felixstowe. Members of the press and public are invited to attend.

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held at Felixstowe Town Hall on  
Wednesday 10 May 2017 at 7pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Jan Garfield (Mayor) Cllr Jon Garfield  
Cllr N Barber (Deputy Mayor) Cllr T Green  
Cllr C Barham Cllr G Newman  
Cllr S Bird Cllr M Jepson  
Cllr S Bloomfield Cllr D Savage  
Cllr P Coleman Cllr A Smith  
Cllr M Deacon Cllr S Wiles  
Cllr S Gallant Cllr K Williams

**OFFICERS:** Mr A Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)  
Mrs D Frost (Deputy Town Clerk)  
Mrs L Monsen (Mayor's Secretary)  
Mrs S Faversham (Cemetery & Allotments Officer)  
Mrs S Morrison (Administrative Assistant)  
Mrs C Page (Planning Administration Officer)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 33 members of the Public  
Rev'd. A Dotchin

**593. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

**The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 11 May 2016 were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.**

**594. REPORT BY THE MAYOR OF FELIXSTOWE**

The Mayor drew Members attention to two letters she had received, one from a member of the public congratulating the Town Council on their wonderful town and the other from Wesel, thanking the Council for their hospitality during their Civic visit.

The Mayor announced the Poppy Appeal in 2016 in the Felixstowe & District area had raised £34,287.54.

**The Mayor presented the following report:**

I was very privileged to be elected Mayor by my fellow councillors on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016. This was my second attempt at the role, as I was Mayor in 2013/14, and also Mayoress to my husband Jon in 2010/11. I have been ably supported by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Nick Barber. I have been really busy this year with over 220 engagements, all of which have been varied, and all enjoyable. I have kept a diary of all my engagements, and it runs to 3 volumes, and it really brings back memories as I read through them. Also useful if I wanted to decide what hat to wear so that people didn't think I only possessed one.

As I said before, it is a great privilege to serve as Mayor in our wonderful town and every event is special. So, this year, I have attended everything that I have been asked to do - if physically possible. These duties are really divided into

Official Civic Occasions, here and outside the town, local events and the events held to make money for my charities.

The Official Civic Events are the Civic Service – held at the Parish Church of St John’s this year – the Mayor’s Reception which was at Felixstowe Academy and the Civic Carol Service, which took place at my own church of St Mary’s, Walton, and where Jon and I nipped out to sing the Anthem, as we are in the Choir, all wonderful occasions. Each venue did us proud in its own way. A superb service and tea at St Johns, fantastic layout and buffet at the Academy, and a lovely warm atmosphere at St Mary’s with refreshments in the Church Hall. Thank you to everyone involved.

Also included among the Official Events are the Remembrance commemorations. The Remembrance Day Service on 13<sup>th</sup> November was held at St John’s, followed by formal laying of wreaths at the War Memorial – all made more poignant as we have been commemorating a number of World War I battles this year – the centenary of the Battle of the Somme in 2016 and Passchendaele this year. We always hold a short service at the War Memorial on Armistice Day itself, and this usually falls after Remembrance Weekend. This year, however, it was on the Friday before the Remembrance Sunday wreaths had been laid. As the War Memorial would have looked very bare without any wreaths, we invited representatives from all the schools to join me and to lay their own wreaths. This was a wonderful occasion as most of the schools responded. We hope they will carry on being involved.

The next section is representing Felixstowe at occasions outside the Town. I have attended many Civic Services, Receptions and charity events around East and Mid Suffolk and have met Mayors and Chairmen all over the area. Collectively we are known as the “Chain Gang”. Other Civic Visits further afield are those to our twin towns of Wesel and Salzwedel, both of which are very different, but equally enjoyable. We went to Wesel in October for the 775<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town, and were accompanied by the last year’s Mayor, Cllr Doreen Savage and her Escort Peggy Osborne. We enjoyed beautiful weather and a really busy but enjoyable time with a massive procession including horses and falcons on one evening. We had a reciprocal visit by the Bürgermeisterin of Wesel, Ulrika Westkamp, accompanied by her colleagues Hannah Eckhardt and Heidrun Strauch, to my Mayor’s Ball last month. We visited Salzwedel with the Salzwedel Association in September, but due to a change of Burgermeisterien in that town it was rather low key. Nevertheless we had a wonderful time as all the people are so gracious.

The major event in the town this year must be the demolition of the old pierhead and the construction of the frame of the new one. It has become a real talking point to see how fast it is growing; the best news is that it is on schedule to finish in August. The rest of the Pier, however unfortunately won’t be involved. As I write this there appears to be no movement on the Wetherspoons front, though I am told that some activity on the site has been seen. We also saw the completion of the works by SCDC to transform the eyesore site of the old yacht pond to the new Beachside Events Area which, I am sure you will agree, is a great improvement.

Now I come to the many and varied local events that Jon and I have attended this year. It is almost impossible to mention all of these engagements in this report as

it would go on all night. One of the major events which takes place each year and brings great joy to every Mayor is the Felixstowe Carnival, of which I am Treasurer. Unfortunately, last year we had to cancel the air display due to insurance problems after the Shoreham air crash, but had wonderful weather and good crowds. We were fortunate that we had the presence of two magnificent Carnival Courts from Wesel and a neighbouring town. Another is the wonderful Art on the Prom, where the weather wasn't quite as fine all day; however the event attracted its usual thousands of visitors and was a great success. We also attended the Historic Vehicle Rally and the Rotary Fun Run in May – both events are very popular and attract many visitors to our lovely town. At Christmas, thanks once again to the Lions, Jon and I attended Light-up Day, where I had the privilege of switching on the Christmas Lights. It was amazing to look out from the stage across a sea of faces all looking up at me! We cannot thank the Lions enough for all the work that they do around the Christmas Lights. Also, again this year, we had the skating rink on Great Eastern Square which we hope may become an annual fixture. Thanks must go to the East of England Co-op and other sponsors, including the Town Council and County Councillors for their support.

Another annual event is the Felixstowe in Flower awards evening, This is the culmination of 6 months hard work for Sue Faversham and her team of judges etc., not forgetting the Girl Guides who stuff envelopes with application forms and deliver to Hamilton Road businesses. Then we have the Civic Awards evening, when people in Felixstowe are honoured for their contributions to the Town, and the life of people who live here. Always very uplifting and difficult to select.

There are so many other wonderful occasions such as dinners, lunches, AGM's, concerts, openings, birthday celebrations (one of a lady who was 112), plays (both adults and school etc.) put on by the organisations and clubs in the town, that it would be unfair to pick any one out. Just to say thank you to all that you do to make Felixstowe great. This includes all the staff in our Care and Nursing Homes who welcomed us on the Christmas Visits, and who look after our vulnerable elderly residents so well.

The third part of the Mayor's role is to raise money for charity. Mine, this year, have been Level Two Youth Project and the local branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind. These two charities have really worked hard this year to raise money, and the total was £13,600 as I announced at the Civic Awards Evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Wendy O'Connor and her team from Level Two alongside Penny Parker, Mike and Jackie Warren from Guide Dogs arranged a charity event for every month from last August, Dance at the Brook Hotel, Last Night of the Proms at the International College, Soul Night in Trimley, Quiz, 1940's Afternoon Tea, Christmas Concert, Curry Night, Craft Fayre and, of course, the Mayor's Ball, which was held at the newly sold Orwell Hotel. So my thanks must go to this redoubtable team, together with my secretary, Lorna Monsen, and not forgetting the four dogs, Umber, Frankie, Dotty and Astra (who I'm afraid is no longer with us). The money that we have raised will be divided equally between the two charities.

Finally, I come to my thanks. First of all to my secretary, Lorna Monsen, who has been a tower of strength throughout the year, and also the rest of the team at the Town Hall. Then to Ash Tadjrishi our wonderful Town Clerk who has kept me on

the straight and narrow at meetings when I might have wandered off at a tangent!!, To my Deputy Mayor, Nick Barber, who has ably filled in at events when I couldn't attend, and lastly to my wonderful husband, Jon, without whose quiet resolute support I would have faltered at times, thank you darling. Also to my fellow Councillors, who have supported me during the year - I hope that you will offer the same support to my successor. Good Luck Nick, I know that you will take over the role with the verve and enthusiasm that you brought to the Carnival Committee as Chairman. However, just pace yourself.

We live in uncertain political times with Article 50 having been triggered for Brexit, the County Council elections in May and the merger between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils to form East Suffolk District Council. Nobody quite knows how we are going to be affected, but if we continue act together as Felixstowe Town Council, we shall be fine.

It has been a privilege to lead the Town Council as your Mayor, and I now retire to the "back benches" knowing that this seat will be in good hands.

#### **595. PUBLIC SESSION**

The Mayor reminded the meeting that this was the Annual Town Meeting for the civil parish of Felixstowe at which local electors could speak on any issue that they wished. The Mayor enquired whether any member of the public wished to raise any matters.

In response a question from the public about neighbourhood planning and the increased proportion of 25%, rather than 15%, of Community Infrastructure Levy that could be retained for councils with Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr A Smith advised that, whilst Council was not developing a Neighbourhood Plan it had been a significant contributor towards the Felixstowe Area Action Plan which was similarly comprehensive; and, as such the Planning & Environment Committee, in its response to a recent housing white paper consultation, had asked the government to consider giving this the same classification for the purposes of CIL receipt retention.

#### **596. CLOSURE**

There being no other questions or comments the meeting was closed at 7.20pm.

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## **AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS**

To note reports received from local organisations supported by Felixstowe Town Council during 2017/18 and other community stakeholders, including:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Walton Rainbows
- 6<sup>th</sup> Old Felixstowe Scout Group
- ActivLives
- Art on the Prom
- Citizens Advice (Felixstowe & District)
- Felixstowe Area Community Transport Ltd. (FACTS)
- Felixstowe Book Festival
- Felixstowe Carnival Association
- Felixstowe Coastwatch
- Felixstowe District Council for Sport and Recreation
- Felixstowe Hockey Club
- Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association (FOPWA)
- Felixstowe Opportunity Group
- Felixstowe Parkrun
- Felixstowe Wesel Association
- Landguard Fort
- Level Two Youth Project
- Music in Felixstowe
- Revitalise
- Salzwedel Partnership Association
- Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)
- Visit Felixstowe (Felixstowe Multicultural Day)

Copies of the above reports, plus any others received in time, will be made available at the meeting and may also be viewed online at:

<http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/meeting/annual-town-meeting-3/>

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