



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF FELIXSTOWE ELECTORS

Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 7pm
Felixstowe Academy, High St, Felixstowe IP11 9QR

A G E N D A

1. **Welcome and introduction**
2. **Minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting**
To approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 9 May 2018 as a correct record. **(Pages 2-7)**
3. **Mayor's Annual Report**
To receive the Annual Report of the Mayor of Felixstowe for 2018/19.
4. **Civic Awards 2019**
To present the following:
 - a) Mayor's Awards
 - b) Ganges Youth Trophy
 - c) Community Organisation Award
 - d) NHS 70 Award
 - e) Visit Felixstowe Tourism Award
 - f) Felixstowe Photo Competition
5. **Reports from community stakeholders**
To note reports received from community stakeholders. **(Page 8)**
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 Graham Newman
Mayor of Felixstowe
24 April 2019

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.

AGENDA ITEM 2: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held at Felixstowe Academy on **Wednesday 9 May 2018 at 7pm**

IN ATTENDANCE:

From Felixstowe Town Council: Cllr N Barber (Mayor), Cllr G Newman (Deputy Mayor), Cllr S Bird, Cllr Jan Garfield, Cllr Jon Garfield, Cllr T Green, Cllr M Jepson, Cllr S Bloomfield, Cllr D Savage, Cllr P Coleman, Cllr A Smith, Cllr S Wiles, Cllr S Gallant, Cllr K Williams, 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).

Approximately 110 members of the public were also in attendance.

607. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Mayor of Felixstowe welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the format of the meeting.

608. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 10 May 2017 were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

609. REPORT BY THE MAYOR OF FELIXSTOWE

The Mayor presented the following report:

It was a proud day for me when my fellow Councillors elected me as Mayor last May. My first and potentially only term in the office has been rewarding, exhausting, crazy, memorable and full of many other emotions. It was a real learning curve, a feeling of achievement and growing as a person. Things that might have really fazed me several months ago I now handle with ease.

I have met so many people over the year, I am recognised everywhere I go, it is an amazing and also emotional time but I have tried to do it my own way and to the best of my ability. Felixstowe has had a tremendous year and I am chuffed and privileged to have been what I call the ambassador for our fantastic town.

I chose three charities for my year, Felixstowe & Walton Utd FC – our local football club who are going from strength to strength and have just achieved promotion for the first time in their history. It's a great community club. FACTS our community transport company who continue to give our elder statesmen and women that important transport link for them when needed. Level Two Youth Project who do a fantastic job for our younger guys and gals, from nurturing, mental health, LGBTQ+, just generally giving those who need help and an ear, that important link. Very early on I had lots of plans for various

charity events including, in order, the Pig Race, Bombay Bash, Soul Night, Quiz, Psychic Evening, Curry Night, Cheese & Wine, then finally the Mayor's Ball. All three of my charities have been absolutely superb in helping put on the events and drum up support. They have not once complained and I cannot praise them enough for the fantastic work they have done.

I have been very fortunate to have also been supported by some generous sponsors over the past year, including the East of England Co-op, Richard Bugg, David Button, Shammi from Bombay Nite and Tesco. Many others have given their time and venues including The Orwell Hotel (thanks Laura), Felixstowe Museum and the Lions Club. Chris Carne, our photographer, many of his photos you will have seen on the slideshow before the meeting, does it all voluntarily, has been on hand throughout the year and is here again this evening. Stephen Rampley from Visit Felixstowe has photographed me so many times - I think he's bored now – and even uploaded pictures on Christmas Day! And finally Mark Barham from Pierrots stationers who has been fantastic printing tickets, posters even photos given as a token of thanks at the Mayor's Charity Ball.

Thank you to all, words cannot express how appreciative I am of what you have done.

My year started with various Civic Services that I attended out of town. My first memories were of late June with 5 days on the trot, watching the world biggest containership coming into Felixstowe, then a few hours later being on it! Then I was off to London's Cutty Sark for the Port's 50th Anniversary celebrations before hot-footing it back to Felixstowe to help open the memorable Armed Forces Weekend.

My saddest moment was being unable to help open the new clubhouse at the Football Club in July due to a diary clash. However, the following week we held a well-supported Civic Reception at the club which was a lovely evening.

The next highlight was the triumphant Carnival with the excellent Proms night to start a great weekend off. Before we knew it we were in Wesel, Germany, our twin town. If anyone thinks that sounds like a holiday – it's not - they keep us very busy. But it was a wonderful weekend, lots of great memories and it's a place I will go back to time and time again.

There have been so many engagements it is impossible to list them all but the ones that stick most in my mind are:

Being at Olive Boar's 113th Birthday, a lovely lady who resides in one of our nursing homes.

Invitation over to Harwich on a very rocky day, when they asked if we would like to go back round the bay we declined!

The drinks reception at our Golf Club during the County Amateur Championships and hearing everyone praise our town.

Sitting on Lesley Dolphin's sofa, and being grilled by Mr Murphy about dog poo!

The Grand Opening of the Pier - another great day for the town.

The throng of people turning out for the fantastic Art on the Prom.

The Fireworks at the Football Club and a record crowd.

Remembrance Day – a very important day for Felixstowe.

Christmas Concerts by the bucket full.

The Light Switch on – loved it.

The Ice Rink at Christmas which again got rave reviews and record numbers.

Visiting all the care homes over Christmas, they really do a great job!

Then the marathon Christmas Day – with 'the dip' followed by 5 other visits – we went to bed at 4pm! But we did get up again!

January thankfully was a little slower. Later in the month we held the memorial service for the 65th Anniversary of the North Sea Floods, a very emotional evening and still raw in many of our residents' minds.

Obviously the snow turned up and stayed around too long. I also attended the Academy Chamber Concerts in March and at Christmas, what fantastic talent. The school itself is not having the best of times, but my motto is we should shout about what we are good at. And they need to do more of that.

My last charity night was cheese & wine at our award winning Museum another great evening.

Then all of a sudden our friends from Wesel were here, a packed itinerary from the Thursday through to Sunday. A great weekend and if I say that two of the visitors were in tears when they left it just shows you how much it means to them. While they were here it was time for the Mayors Charity Ball – a lot of thought and care was put into the organising and from my thoughts it was a great success, 170 people all enjoyed themselves and as my daughter turned 14 that day it will be a birthday she will never forget – and not just because she saw me dancing for the first time!

The recent Vintage Car Rally was fantastic as usual and a great opportunity for Felixstowe to show itself off.

In all, I have attended around 235 engagements and 150 meetings and been missing from my shop for half of the year. As the previous Mayor, Cllr Jan Garfield, said in her piece last year: "Nick, just pace yourself". Whoops!

I must of course thank my family; wife Judy and my children Felix & Holly for their great efforts – many times not their 'thing' but they supported me throughout.

To my fellow Councillors who again supported and encouraged. And a big thank you to the Town Hall staff who have all been great.

Finally of course to the Mayor's Secretary – Lorna Monsen who has been a rock – not only a tremendous asset for the Town Council but also for our town, what a star.

610. CIVIC AWARDS

Awards were presented to the following individuals and organisations for their contribution to supporting and enriching the town, its residents and visitors:

a) Mayor's Awards 2018

Jane Bolton, for her work for Old Felixstowe Community Association for nearly 20 years raising hundreds of pounds for the Association.

Robert (Bob) Cockburn, for supporting the Royal British Legion for many years, including being Parade Marshall for the town of Felixstowe and Standard Bearer for the RAF Association.

Pam Cole, for her dedicated work with the Felixstowe Museum and its volunteers as Chairman and more recently as Committee Member

Rob Rushen-Smith, for his outstanding contribution to the Felixstowe Scouting Group for over 40 years as well as starting the 8th Felixstowe Scout Group over 25 years ago.

Sue Simmons, for her instrumental role in the running of support groups for people living with dementia in Felixstowe.

b) Felixstowe Community Award 2018

The Laydens Community Project, for improving the local community by reducing social isolation by providing meals, free confidential health checks, food bank provision, assistance with job searching, British Sign Language courses and much more.

c) HMS Ganges Youth Trophy

Charlie Webb, for his hard work within the Level Two Youth Project as well as volunteering as a representative at the Suffolk Assembly of Youth. A keen leader and speaker who helps young people attending Level Two Youth Project by supporting them in their open sessions.

d) Visit Felixstowe Tourism Award

Festival of Fabric, winner of the inaugural Visit Felixstowe Tourism Award following a public vote.

611. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

The following reports were noted as received:

- 1st Walton Rainbows
- 6th 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 Chamber of Trade and Commerce
- 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 Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service (FVCPRS)
- Felixstowe Wesel Association
- Landguard Fort
- Level Two Youth Project
- Mencap Sports Opportunities
- Music in Felixstowe
- Revitalise
- Salzwedel Partnership Association
- Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)
- Thérèse Coffey MP
- Timebanking Felixstowe
- Visit Felixstowe (Felixstowe Multicultural Day)
- Orwell Scouts

612. PRESENTATION TO MAYOR'S CHARITIES

Mayor announced that a total of £17,346 had been raised in support of his three chosen charities: Felixstowe Area Community Transport (FACTS); Level Two Youth Project and Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club.

Each charity was presented with a cheque for £5,782.

613. 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 a member of the public about whether the Town Council would consider providing a dedicated police officer to address the issues of a lack of visible policing in Felixstowe, the Mayor advised that this was something that the Council could consider at a future meeting.

A representative from the Plastic-Free Felixstowe initiative hoped that the Town Council would support their aims. The Mayor advised that the Town Council was very much in support, having recently introduced its own Single Use Plastic Policy in an effort to reduce the unnecessary use of plastic packaging.

An Academy student paid tribute to councillors who had supported his recent attendance on an educational visit to Belgium. He understood the recent concerns about the school's performance but felt that it also had a lot of positive aspects which were being overlooked.

614. CLOSURE

There being no other questions or comments the meeting was closed at 8.12pm. The Mayor invited all attendees for refreshments in the Atrium where there would be an opportunity to browse stalls by number of local community organisations.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

Local charities, community and voluntary groups, who have been supported by the Town Council in various ways, as well as other community stakeholders, are invited to provide a short report.

A list of contributors and copies of their reports will be made available at the meeting and we hope that people will take the time to read about the activities these groups have been involved in over the past year.

All reports, as they are received, will also be published online in advance of the meeting and made available via this link:

<https://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/meeting/annual-town-meeting-4/>

The meeting is asked to note reports received from those local organisations supported by Felixstowe Town Council during 2018/19 and other community stakeholders.
