**2025 Seaford Annual Town Meeting**

**Minutes** of the **Annual Town Meeting** held in Cross Way Church, Clinton Place, Seafordon **Thursday 1st May 2025** at **7.00pm**.

**Present from Seaford Town Council**:

Chair - Councillor Sally Markwell (2024 - 2025 Mayor of Seaford)

Six Town Councillors

**Council Officers**: Isabelle Mouland (Community Engagement & Democratic Services Manager), Gemma Saunderson-Barker (Community Engagement & Democratic Services Officer), Georgia Raeburn (HR & Governance Manager) and Becky Terry (Governance & Policy Officer)

**Past Mayors**: Laurie Holland 1999 - 2000, Rosemary Collict 2006 - 2007, Linda Wallraven 2011 – 2012 / 2012 – 2013 / 2017 – 2018 / 2018 - 2019, Olivia Honeyman 2022 – 2023 / 2023 - 2024, Mark Brown 2014 - 2015, Dave Argent 2015 - 2016, Nazish Adil 2019 - 2020

Peter White (Town Crier of Seaford)

44 members of the public

Peter White, Town Crier of Seaford,called people to the meeting

# Welcome and Introductions by the Mayor of Seaford

The Mayor welcomed the attendees and outlined the format of the meeting.

# Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 30th April 2024 were approved by the participants.

# Seaford Town Council Update

The Mayor provided an update on the Town Council’s achievements (with its assets, green spaces and community engagement) and its future plans.

# 25 Years of Seaford Town Council

The Mayor shared details of how the Town Council was first established in 1999 and its journey since then, marking the Town Council’s 25th anniversary.

The Mayor exited the meeting briefly and returned wearing the Mayor’s Community Coat – a handmade coat that showcases patches from a number of local community groups and individuals as to what Seaford represents to them.

The Mayor welcomed those past mayors in attendance to the front of the meeting and spoke to each past mayor in turn.

Seaford’s First Mayor and Freeman of the Town, Laurie Holland, provided an insight into the creation of the Town Council, the history of the Mayor’s Chain and Badge of Office, and the role of Mayor in 1999 when the Town Council was established.

Each past mayor took it in turns to share a fond memory of their time as mayor, covering: work with the local community, children, businesses and volunteer groups; work with past mayors who have passed away but legacy can be remembered; events attended; awards introduced and given; the honour of being the first Muslim mayor; and, being a part of the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations.

The past mayors offered their thanks to everyone in the community for their co-operation with the Town Council and efforts and care in the town.

The Mayor, Laurie Holland (Seaford’s First Mayor and Freeman of the Town ) and Dave Argent (Honorary Flag Custodian) unveiled the new Seaford Town Flag. The Mayor explained the various aspects of the flag and their origin.

# Mayor of Seaford’s Charity

The Mayor introduced her charity for her year in office, SeaFriends.

Mary Lumley of SeaFriends provided an overview on the work of SeaFriends and explained the impact of loneliness and isolation. SeaFriends started as a one-to-one befriending group, which proved vital during covid and lockdowns. SeaFriends now runs coffee mornings, linking up for activities with other groups, a memory café, sewing and crafting sessions, running day trips, holding festive events, running cinema screenings, running training sessions. SeaFriends works with other local groups to try to react to needs in the local community. Highlights from 2025 have been setting up community network lunches, organising the Seaford Seniors Spring Party, and working towards setting up a men’s shed with the support of Wave Leisure.

The Mayor presented SeaFriends with a certificate of donation for £800 from the Mayor’s recent ‘incognito’ fundraising event.

# Mayor’s Awards

The Mayor presented the Highly Commended Certificates:

To: Miranda Bearns-Lowles, Carol Trimbee and Vicki Skippings for commitment and collaboration to ensure the success of Christmas Magic 2024.

To: Duncan Kerr and Gavin Lisle of Wave Leisure for hosting of voluntary groups.

To: Zoe Jones of Seaford Library (to be presented onsite at the library) for her involvement in the Seaford Community, through hosting of community displays and local groups.

The Mayor presented the Mayor’s Awards as follows:

Mayor’s Award for Innovation – Chris Goode, Seahaven Poets

Mayor’s Award for Creativity – Dawn Monk and Terri Simmons

Mayor’s Award for Entertainment – Anne Vickers, Strum 4 Fun

Mayor’s Award for Community Support – Len Fisher and Tom Bonner, Seahaven FM

The Mayor of Seaford shared thanks to Maggie Chitty for her support with the Mayor’s Community Coat.

The Mayor of Seaford presented the Don Mabey Award to Mary Lumley for her hard work and commitment with SeaFriends and Cycling Without Age. Mary thanked all of the volunteers that have made her work possible.

The Mayor of Seaford presented the previous Don Mabey shield to the Town Crier, Peter White, to take custodianship of, as a previous recipient of the Don Mabey Award and to recognise his continued work in and around the town.

# Question & Answer Time

There were no questions.

*(at this point of the meeting, there was a technical issue with the video camera and the recording stopped. The video of the meeting can be found on the Town Council’s* [***YouTube channel***](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjAYAaMKgdv8ckENO9NsSjA)*)*

In closing the Mayor thanked officers for their work, the support of all 20 town councillors, to everyone for attending and for all those in Seaford who make the town what it is.

The meeting ended at 8.48pm

Councillor Sally Markwell

Mayor of Seaford 2024 - 2025