

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee held on 16th January 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office The Moor, Falmouth TR11 2RT.

Present: Councillors K E Edwards (Chair), G W Chin-Quee, L Coley, D V Evans BEM ,
G F Evans MBE, E Seiler and Z Young

In Attendance: R Gates (Falmouth Town Manager)
M Lewis (Cultural Services Director)

A921 APOLOGIES

An Apology for absence was received and approved from Councillors Saunby (other meeting).

A922 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

A923 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Seiler

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A924 FALMOUTH TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Remembrance – 4 incidents within one hour, Emergency services hard to get through – highlighted but does affect day to day activities. Taking forward planning steps eg first aid can help with business planning.
- Christmas 2022 – Switch on was a success. Successful festive weekend but costs have spiralled.
- Shanty Festival– Changing slightly as lots of volunteers have stepped down. South West Bars will be doing more of the commercial and sponsorship planning, this will be a bit of a trial in 2023 but should be easier to manage in 2024.
- Armed Forces Day – a juggernaut! Cornwall Council’s event, NOT FTC’s, and have to manage expectations but want to help steer direction in terms of town relations.
- Falmouth Week – Budgetary constraints means that the Red Arrows won’t be on, as they are on leave, and will be on show for Armed Forces Day. Evening entertainment will still take place, carnival, sailing and family day will be sensibly scaled. Evenings run by South West Bars.
- Tall Ships – Ticketing: now live on the website and press release to go out on 17th January 2023. Paper tickets will be available in due course. Tickets available on (website) – tickets are non refundable. Bookings are timed for viewing the ships, to help with flow of people. First entry 2pm last 6pm. Sub-committees are available if anyone wants to be involved.
- Other activity with Princess Pavilion see sub-committee for details.

Councillor Edwards advised that the consensus is to cut things back and the messaging can be managed. The Town Manager confirmed that the Town Council didn’t put any money into Falmouth Week last year, looking at the checks and balances of the event.

Councillor Seiler asked if we are going to produce a Tall Ships guide leaflet for purchase to provide extra revenue. The Town Manager advised that we were looking at producing a souvenir guide and that many of the crews are interactive and a lot of the ships supply their own leaflets.

A925 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Cultural Services Director's Part I Report was duly noted as attached to these minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Chin-Quee and

RESOLVED that the Committee agree the proposed changes to Library printing charges.

A926 SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PLANNING

Short Term

- Changing Places toilet facilities – ongoing – looking for additional funding. £12,000 shortfall.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Coley and

RESOLVED that the Changing Places toilet facilities be retained in the plan and supplemented if necessary as it is important to widen access to people with disabilities.

Councillor D V Evans requested that it was noted that he abstained from this vote.

- Passmore Edwards – ongoing
- Arthur Exhibition – retain

Medium Term

- Layout
- Murals/Street Art
- Museum – needs to go back on the list. Could we apply for MEND funding to carry out options appraisal/feasibility study/consultation?

Long Term

- Public art Prince of Wales Pier
- Municipal Building redevelopment

Income Generation

Leave as standing item on committee agenda with creation of bank of ideas

- More sales of local artwork in public spaces e.g. Princess Pavilion
- Art Society Annual exhibition - used to be in Methodist Church, then in the Poly but which was expensive (c 40% inc VAT)
- Printing of event posters (e.g. Falmouth Week) to sell
- Falmouth Branded merchandise
- Trialling Falmouth branded items in the Gallery shop
- Redistribute items like postcards to other venues e.g. Princess Pavilion and Information Services

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Coley and

RESOLVED that the Cultural Services Director be Permitted to take the operational decision to mothball The Image Delivery facility.

Councillor Seiler asked about the discrepancy between offer of free use of the Council Chamber for the Fairtrade coffee morning versus £300 for the Atherton Suite.

A927 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Chin-Quee and

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of contractual matters and personal information, it is advisable, in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

Visitor figures

Gallery

| | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Onsite | 2684 | 2117 | 1586 |
| Adults | 124 | 72 | 22 |
| CYP | 172 | 116 | 45 |
| Unknown(Clicker) | 2388 | 1929 | 1519 |

NB Library Figures are currently unavailable; please speak to the Director if you wish to see them.

Santa's Grotto and Christmas period

Santa's Grotto in the library over two sessions in December was very successful, with almost 300 children attending. Library staff reported that Between Christmas and New Year they were quite busy, with customers very grateful that they were open.

Library printing charges

The Library Manager has proposed that printing charges be reviewed and updated, in light of the additional costs of production. It should be noted that the Town Council pays for the paper and the electricity supply to the printer, while Cornwall Council currently supplies the toner and covers servicing charges. Proposed price increases are underlined below. Councillors comments are welcomed:

A4 B&W up to 30 pages 10p per page - 15p

A4 B&W 30 plus copies 8p per page – 10p

A3 Colour up to 30 pages 20p per page – 60p

A3 Colour 30 plus pages 16p per page – 50p

Current exhibitions

- *Imagine Falmouth*, the Gallery's Royal Academy-style show, runs until 28th January, and features over 160 works from local artists as young as 3, selected from over 300 submissions. Feedback from the public has been extremely positive, and the project staff – the Trainee Curator and Digital Officer - have been commended on their efforts in delivering a well-organised and innovative project.
- In the entrance gallery is *The Twelve Days of Falmouth Art Gallery*, which draws together works from the permanent collection loosely based on the Christmas song. It runs until the 28th January and there are themed family activities for children.
- In the Community Gallery students from Falmouth School currently have a photography exhibition on until 20th January

Upcoming exhibitions

- *Unfamiliar Territory* will be running from 11th February to 1st June, and is curated by the Collections Assistant. It brings together artists of local importance from the 20th and 21st centuries who have been inspired by Cornwall's diverse and changing landscapes to create works that show it in unusual and innovative ways. It explores how Cornwall's iconic landscapes have evolved over the years and how artists have responded to them.
- The Stroke Club who meet monthly at the Gallery are curating a show which draws together work they have created during and since the pandemic, which responds to artworks held in the permanent collection. Having branched out from supporting solely stroke survivors, the group spans different experiences of illness and participants have researched artists with similar experience of illness and how it is reflected in their art. The exhibition will run in the entrance gallery from 4th February to 25th March.
- Following the departure of the Collections Manager, the Director has taken on the project management of the King Arthur exhibition and is working with the rest of the Cultural Services team to work up a whole-building programme of activities, events and marketing to support what promises to be a landmark exhibition for the Gallery. With the value and

significance of the artworks on display, we will be looking to place invigilators in every room, so if any councillors are interested in assisting with this please speak to the Gallery's volunteer coordinator.

Staff activity (additional to routine events)

- The Gallery have been shortlisted for three categories in the Cornwall Heritage Awards; Imagine Falmouth for the Innovation category; Splanna Youth Environmental Activism Group for Wellbeing; and the whole Gallery team was nominated (and subsequently shortlisted) by the CS Director for the Heritage Heroes category, in recognition of the collective leadership they have demonstrated during the recent period of upheaval. Some of the team will be attending the awards ceremony on the evening of Wednesday 8th February in Truro.
- The Cultural Services team are using Wednesday afternoons when the Municipal Building is closed to run workshops reviewing core aspects of operations and redraft required plans, policies and procedures. Coming up are:
 - 11th January: Strategy
 - 17th January: Emergency Planning
 - 25th January: Security and Front of House
 - 22nd February: Collections
 - 1st March: Audiences and Engagement
 - 8th March: King Arthur Exhibition

If Councillors have anything they would like to contribute to these discussions please contact the Director.

Arts Council Cultural Investment Fund

ACE have announced details of the next rounds of programmes comprising the Cultural Investment Fund. These are the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND), the Libraries Improvement Fund (LIF), and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF). New rounds of MEND and LIF will open in early 2023 with £22.6 million available through this round of MEND, and £10.5 million through LIF. A further verbal report on this will follow at the committee meeting.