

## FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Melvill Room, Pendennis Castle, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors J C Robinson (Chair), H M Stephens (Vice Chair), G P Andrewartha, S R Carmichael, L E Howes, D A Konik, D W Saunby CC and J A R Stowell

Also present: Councillors D E Clegg CC, D V Evans BEM CC, K S Holbrook, A J Jewell, T M Pearce and J A Walkden

Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)  
M C Palmer-Williams (General Manager, Princess Pavilion)  
V Rogers (Administrative Officer)  
G Butters (Project Lead at English Heritage)

The Chair reminded attendees that the Council had committed to the Civility and Respect Pledge, that is to treat everyone participating in the meeting tonight with civility and respect in their roles. For us respect is treating others with dignity, recognizing boundaries, being non-judgmental and accepting of differences. Behaviour breaching that commitment will not be tolerated. In dealing with the business of the meeting we will adhere to our agenda and the processes set out in our Standing Orders. Please be aware that the meeting is a public one and there may be recordings of your participation.

### **A1044 APOLOGIES**

None received.

### **A1045 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

### **A1046 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Stowell, seconded by Councillor Konik and

**RESOLVED** that the Part I minutes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

### **A1047 PENDENNIS CASTLE**

Georgia Butters, Project Lead at English Heritage, reported to the Committee that Pendennis Castle has had a very busy year compared to other English Heritage sites, one of the highlights was the VE Day 80 Event on 8<sup>th</sup> May with over 2,000 visitors delivered in partnership with the Council. There had not been so many blockbuster events this year due to the cost, however the Taskmaster events had been very successful with 500/600 visitors per day between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August. On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October they would be hosting the Expo Ertach Kernow/Cornish Heritage Expo 2025 event showcasing the conservation work of the heritage sector and associated businesses working in Cornwall, this is a free event. English Heritage would be submitting a National Lottery Heritage funding application for £3.7 million to restore the Tudor Keep, this would be a two year conservation project. Falmouth Town Council would support the application. The Council would meet with English Heritage and Pendennis Leisure to look at developing partnerships and creating a co-ordinated wellbeing offer.

#### **A1048 TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

The Town Clerk presented the Town Manager's Report. The report was noted and forms part of these minutes.

The Council reaffirmed its support for the prioritisation by Cornwall Council of a Traffic Regulation Order to prevent car parking and traffic congestion at Melvill Road, particularly during busy events.

#### **A1049 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported which was noted and that attendance and scheduling matters would be notified to Councillors retrospectively.

It was noted that the Town Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) funding application had been granted, this would create the design work for an Arts Council Museums Estates and Development Fund (MEND) application in respect of the Municipal Building repairs. A contractor would be appointed shortly from the 15 applications received.

The Library report was duly noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Stephens and

**RESOLVED** that the progression of the works to the Municipal Buildings under the Museums Estate Development Fund (Arts Council) be overseen by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Evans advised that the meeting to discuss the viability of future museum provision had not taken place and would be rescheduled and reported to the next meeting.

#### **A1050 DRACAENA CENTRE YOUTH SERVICE**

The Deputy Charity Youth Service Summer 2025 Report was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

Future provision would seek appropriate venues for youth service delivery in Falmouth town centre. It was noted that the Princess Pavilion have the venue and expertise to hold some youth services workshops and that funding would be required for this.

It was proposed by Councillor Howes, seconded by Councillor Stephens and

**RESOLVED** that the Council would continue to work collaboratively with the Dracaena Centre Youth Service on funding proposals for additional youth provision within Falmouth and the youth survey work.

#### **A1051 PRINCESS PAVILION REPORT**

The Princess Pavilion General Manager updated the Committee on Princess Pavilion matters including upturn in café and bar sales and successful event delivery and responded to questions from Councillors. He advised that the Beer Garden Friday evening trial opening had received a mixed response from the public. One evening had focussed on vegan food. He advised that the information board on Cliff Road had been damaged by the elements. A suitable alternative was being sought including a permanent sign on the grass mound and on the pavement opposite subject to necessary consents. Molly Roadhouse has been appointed as Marketing Officer and would assist with this. Councillor Andrewartha reported that the metal sign was in the

final stages of refurbishment. Maximum of 7 weddings booked in for next year. The neighbours group have been very supportive and Councillors are invited to attend meetings with this group.

The report was duly noted and forms part of these minutes. The Committee noted with pleasure the increases in delivery and thanked the General Manager and staff.

**A1052 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Howes 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.



## **Town Management report to Cultural Services 03/09/25**

### **Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival**

This was a huge success and the feedback we received from the many groups participating as well as the public attending was phenomenal.

While not for every business the majority see a massive economic boost for this event with many hotels and B&B's both within Falmouth and the wider area at capacity and next year's bookings already confirmed.

The biggest challenge we had was traffic management on Melvill Road, we all know this is challenging at the best of times and we have a few more plans for next year to help with this. It will still however be challenging with the volume of traffic and Sunday single yellow lines to content with for parking.

It was great to see the 'Falmouth' hotel come to fruition this year as a main stage, despite the weather on the Friday.

We have already received interest from around the world including New York and many other areas as well as from across the UK.

I must say a big thank you to so many people that are involved with this throughout the winter with planning starting shortly for 2026.

### **Sea Sunday**

It all came together well although a slightly lower turnout than previous years. Everything was safe and secure with safety in mind, and the event went without incident.

### **Falmouth Week**

The consistent weather for Falmouth Week really helps, it is no surprise. We did have to cancel a few activities on the Moor and Events Square on the final weekend but other than that everything went ahead as planned.



## **Town Management report to Cultural Services 03/09/25**

Pink Wig had 1200 women parading through the streets making their way to the tent for a silent disco. It was very well received and great to see it continue.

Falmouth Carnival, this worked really well and will grow and grow. The turnout was fantastic for entries and well as the public viewing.

Sailing organised by the Port of Falmouth Sailing Association had the most entries in over a decade and it was only the last Saturday where sailing was cancelled.

Ticket sales on most events across the UK have been struggling. This was not the case with Falmouth Week. Obviously, there were some nights that were busier than others. A particular highlight was 'Scouting for Girls' on Monday but there were various others. Thank you to South West Bars & Events for the Waterfront marquee at the car park.

I was also really pleased with the Red Arrows display; due to the cloud base it meant a 'Rolling Display' which is actually lower than a 'Full Display' and many people thought it was the best one in many years. We did have a few medical incidents to deal with, and the volume of traffic was considerable which is always going to be a challenge but we will continually review to see what is possible.

The week was finished with the spectacular fireworks display over the harbour on the Friday as well as the Comic and Movie Fest at the Princess Pavilion on the Saturday and Sunday.

# Dracaena Centre Youth Service



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Dracaena Centre Summer Series of 2025 aimed to build on the successful summer series of 2024, which was co-designed with the young people of Falmouth and developed to include a research partnership with Falmouth University.

The focus on the summer of 2025 was to include centre based provision, while developing outreach activities in the wider community setting. As an addition of a sports coach to the Dracaena Centre Youth Services has proved successful in engaging a wider demographic of young people, a series of games and sports activities including both a sports coach and Youth Worker were chosen as this years summer programme. The Dracaena Centre, Boslowick fields, The Bowly park, Trescobeas bike track and Falmouth Town Library (to facilitate a younger age group) were included in activity sites. Detached Street Based Youth Work continued, with a focus on Kimberley Park, The Ope alley and side streets in Falmouth, Greenbank, Princess Pier, The Moor, Maritime Square, the Beach and Queen Mary's Garden

The Boslowick site was requested by Falmouth Town Councillors to be included in the summer activities programme and was facilitated through additional funding by the Town Council to employ a sports coach. Ages of engagement were between 12-15 years of age, with a higher percentage of boys. Young people were involved in the choices of activities and games which included volleyball, kick rounders, kick ball, cricket, badminton and football. A popular addition was a transported volleyball net with metal stands, as it could be used for multiple games and was popular with

different genders. Maximum numbers per session were up to 16. With consistent session timings, flexible approaches and young people involved in the co-design process, we forecast groups sizes of up to 30 young people per session.

Young people independently contacted the centre to check if the sessions were happening each week, which is a significant commitment for a young person.

### Areas for development:

- The area can at times be popular with an older cohort of young people. However as the summer progresses young peoples sleep patterns change. A suggested start time for a second older cohort during summer holidays would be 5.00pm.
- The back of the football nets are held down with large blocks of stone. The nets are popular and well used and this could create a hazard.
- Older young people of ages 14-15 have expressed an interest in a youth space local to the Boslowick area, which feels safe. The Bosvale Community Centre could provide small group work opportunities.



The Dracaena Centre provided a weekly session of games each Wednesday between 2.00-4.00pm. This enabled a consistent check in point for vulnerable young people and parents working with the centre and already accessing its youth services. However the sessions did also attract new young people and parents, including visitors to Falmouth. New parents with children who are local residents have since attended both the Boslowick field games, Dracaena Centre Fun Day and Dracaena Centre support services.



The basketball session was scheduled for a single trial, with the start of the session showing low numbers. However present at the park were vulnerable young people who struggle in Falmouth Town and are known to the Police, social services, no longer in school or struggling in school attendance and often alone or with a small group of friends in Falmouth Town area at night between 1.00am - 4.00am. The young people are known to Dracaena Centre Youth workers and engaged respectfully while in the park. This was an excellent opportunity to check on the young people's wellbeing.

As there was little interest in basketball on this occasion, the team opened the session to younger children and parents and engaged with up to 25 participants in a general games session, which was very successful.



The Arts and Crafts library activity is a very successful series of workshops, which has attracted up to 40 family members each session. The sessions are 2 hours long and provided opportunities for different skill sets, ages and abilities to engage in making superhero masks, hats, wands and colouring.

The sessions encouraged vulnerable families known to the Dracaena Centre to use the Library facilities, while also enabling

other parents to spend time with children in a supported setting. Parents were very grateful for the service and enjoyed taking part in a Dracaena Centre activity in a different location. The service engaged a broad range of families from differing demographics.

#### Areas for Development

- The Dracaena Centre has scheduled an October half term Library session





Detached Street based sessions continue to be valuable in identifying at risk young people, building positive relationships and trust and maintaining safeguarding checks.

Pink Wig night did highlight concerning and excessive alcohol consumption in young people, from 13 years of age. However young people were maintaining age appropriate grouping.

Areas for development:

- The Dracaena Centre Youth Service proposes an alternative pink wig event for female and male teenagers at the Dracaena Centre to create a healthier alternative provision for part of the evening. A percentage of young people will still gravitate to the town centre later in the evening but a youth event could potentially lower alcohol consumption ( funding to be obtained.)
- Weekly meeting with relevant Falmouth town team members/rangers to discuss sightings of vulnerable young people and opportunities to share knowledge from spring to September.

The Dracaena Centre Community Fun Day is a free event and included Bouncy Castles, Screech Owl Sanctuary, Falmouth Art Gallery, Feature Creature Show, Bird Box puppetry, The Poly arts and crafts, Police, Safer Falmouth, Biffa and Falmouth Town Council Environmental Education, Sports Coach and bubble football and games, table tennis club, Cornwall Council Services - including family services, Falmouth Library story telling, baby and toddler play, Greenpeace, face painting and community café.



Many of the new families engaged from the Boslowick games sessions and Library arts and crafts sessions attended the Community Fun Day.

- Total session participants to date: 265
- Community Fun Day participants:450
- Sessions to be completed by mid September -Trescobeas games and smoothie bike, Games and Bounce, Trescobeas bike maintenance.
- Substantial fruit, snacks and drinks donated by Sainsburys
- Detached Street based and outreach will continue until early November
- Winter Youth Café will open in early November
- Term time activities to recommence the week beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> September.
- The Dracaena Centre Youth Service will be holding the next Youth Panel in late November.  
Does Falmouth Town Council have a topic which they would like discussed by the panel?



# The Princess Pavilion

Cultural Services Report September 2025

Chas Palmer-Williams General Manager





# Weekly Free Community Groups

Alex's piano recital	Machine sewing group	Friday friendship group	Stitch craft stitching group	Crafternoon craft group	Woolnuts Knitting group
Repair Café	Home education lessons	Sketch Club	Falmouth Stroke Café	Games Club	Tory Sings
Four thought sax quartet	Sheila's charity stand	Summer Sounds brass bands and choirs	Squidlets toddler group	Meditation in the grotto	3 x Tai chi groups
Crafty Buggers	Fit 2 Wiggle S.E.N fitness	The Rock Pool Project	Cancer Support Group	Lindy Hop Dance classes	Together, S.E.N arts and drama
In the loop knitting group	Aggie folk band	Fal Breton Band	Community Circuit Training (NEW)	Healthy Walks Cornwall (NEW)	

# Upcoming Events



# Report



Increase in community group usage



Continued Increase in daytime monthly café spend, year on year.



Coast Medics Initial first aid response successful



Jake Bugg: Largest event that has taken place at The Princess Pavilion



Successful C.C.F bid for £11,684.78



Summer Program



Increase in usage

# The Princess Pavilion 2025 Objectives

- ▶ Continue as an essential community service and facility for Falmouth residents
- ▶ To provide a platform for culture and the arts in Falmouth
- ▶ To offer a safe space for all

