

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 6.30pm held in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth. TR11 3QA

Present: Councillors A J Jewell (Town Mayor), T M Pearce (Deputy Mayor), S R Carmichael, K S Holbrook, D A Konik, J Robinson D W Saunby CC, J A R Stowell, and J A Walkden.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
K Cooksey (Falmouth Business Improvement District Manager)
R Maurice (The Cornish Bank)

C6151 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Clegg (Cornwall Council business), Evans (Cornwall Council business), Howes (holiday), and Rowe (work).

C6152 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

C6153 UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028

The Town Mayor reported that the Steering Group established under a resolution of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee advocated the submission of an expression of interest for the UK Town of Culture 2028, and requested that the Council support that, assists the funding of professional services, and acts as the umbrella body for that submission.

Councillor Robinson, as Chair of the Steering Group, advised on the composition of the Steering Group, and outlined the City of Culture 2028 process. Whilst it was a competitive process, which would engender much national interest, she felt the process would be valuable in terms of local collaborations, focus for improvements, and evidence base for further bids. She wanted to see focus on addressing local exclusion and provision of more accessible cultural activities for local young people. She estimated that professional assistance to help create the bid for the expression of interest would be £3,000. A successful expression of interest would garner £60,000 to prepare a Town of Culture bid.

The Falmouth Business Improvement Manager provided further details of the scheme which if successful would provide £3.2m for revenue delivery. There were three categories, a combined Falmouth bid would be in the mid-sized town category. Runner ups would receive £250,000. She provided details of potential local partnerships, including Penryn Town Council. The Town Clerk identified resourcing as a current issue for the Council, and that external assistance would be required.

Rufus Maurice for the Steering Group advocated the submission and emphasised that youth access and provision was a crucial aspect of the bid, and he was cognisant of high levels of inequality locally that a successful bid could address.

A full debate ensued and it was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED unanimously that the Council engages external support to prepare an expression of interest for the Town of Culture 2028 initiative, and acts as an umbrella body for that submission. The estimated £3,000 cost of external support if not offset by partner contributions be met from General Fund Reserves.

There being no further business to transact the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....