

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services Committee held in the Princess Pavilions, Falmouth on Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors G F Evans CC (Chairman), A Gillett (Vice-Chair), M T McCarthy, A Parker, J Robinson and D W Saunby CC.

Also attending Councillor R J O'Shea.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
H Boex (Cultural Services Director)

A835 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Minson (family matter) and Ross (family illness).

A836 **INTERESTS**

None.

A837 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Gillett, seconded by Councillor Parker and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings.

It was further proposed by Councillor Gillett, seconded by Councillor Parker and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2017 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings.

A838 **CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Cultural Services Director presented her report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes. Further:

(1) **Dracaena Centre**

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Committee be held at the Dracaena Centre.

(2) **Donation Boxes**

It was resolved that additional and appropriately located donation boxes be provided in respect of Falmouth Art Gallery.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed: Date:

Introduction

This report covers the eight weeks since the Cultural Services committee meeting on 7th August 2017 to 9th October, 2017. Although budget setting is upon us, Financial Accounts are still not available at the time of writing and the Finance Officer is again on leave.

Library and Information Service (formerly One Stop Shop):

- 1.1 The Summer Reading Challenge was deemed a great success with 538 children taking part (from all Falmouth primary schools) and just under 80% completion rate (i.e. six books were borrowed and read in the allotted timescale). Jayne has been presenting certificates in assembly to further promote that advantages of becoming a member of the library.
- 1.2 This resulted in an increase of new borrowers over the three months to August of 393 compared to 163 new borrowers in the three months from April – June. Footfall remains consistent at around 26,500 over the three-month period. 4,464 computer sessions were booked.
- 1.3 The Library joined in the FOMO Falmouth Art Publishing Fair over the weekend of 29th Sept-1st October with workshops during the daytime and performances on both Friday and Saturday night. Feedback from the audiences was extremely positive.
- 1.4 The following weekend the Library joined in with Fun Palaces on 7th October running taster sessions of Code Club (run by the children who regularly take part on a Saturday after the Library is closed), Lego Club and Story-telling on Saturday afternoon. – More of Fun Palaces under Art Gallery.
- 1.5 The Library has also been promoting National 'Get on-line week (2-7th October) and National Libraries Week (9th-14th October). The theme for this week is 'discovery' – the message 'discover something new' and the aim 'to get people to say I didn't know Libraries did that'. Participating in Fun Palaces is an example.
- 1.6 The Falmouth Information Service is now being fully supported by Falmouth Town Council from the back-office.
- 1.7 Payments taken at the Information Service: June, 70,969, July 53,171 and August 52,466., The vast majority of payments are either rent or Council Tax.

Art Gallery:

2. Supporters Scheme, donations and grant Income

2.1 Nothing significant to report.

3. Acquisitions, Gifts and Bequests

3.1 We received a bequest of two artworks from Robin Thomas, a long-term friend of the gallery who sadly passed away earlier in the year. The bequest includes a pencil life drawing by St Ives artist Sven Berlin and an oil on board by Peter Oliver.

4. Exhibitions and displays

4.1 The *Winifred Nicholson, Liberation of Colour* exhibition attracted 16,894 visitors between 24th June and 16th September.

4.2 The current exhibitions *OUTspoken* and *Alternative Visions* opened on the evening of 22nd September with a very well attended preview event. These exhibitions are attracting a much younger demographic and many more of the Art School and University tutors have woken up to our existence and booked talks for their students. Examples of recent visitor book feedback include 'we love it here, makes us so proud of where we live, really inspiring', 'I think this is probably your best exhibition. Wonderful! Thank you' and 'this gallery is one of the main reasons we visit Falmouth. Always a delight'.

4.3 Our next exhibition *Imagine Falmouth*, our second open submissions exhibition sponsored by Hine Downing will open on 11th November and has been co-ordinated by Donna Williams. This should be a popular Christmas exhibition and will be a selling exhibition with any luck.

5. Visitor Statistics – art gallery

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% inc
Jan	2,355	2,469	2,645	2,814	3,116	2,870		-8%
Feb	5,724	5,519	6,081	6,564	6,925	6,830		-1%
March	8,898	8,909	9,040	11,000	10,575	10,735		2%
April	12,141	12,685	12,305	14,820	14,471	14,045		-3%
May	15,257	17,523	16,121	19,056	18,447	18,377		0%
June	18,537	21,368	19,301	23,062	23,105	22,810		-1%
July	22,247	24,889	23,173	27,503	27,603	27,857		1%
August	26,931	30,285	28,288	33,787	32,779	34,551		5%
Sept	30,318	34,814	32,693	38,022	37,242	40,285		8%
Oct	34,251	38,822	36,843	42,163	41,438	40,285		-3%
Nov	37,601	41,709	39,896	45,376	44,965	40,285		-10%
Dec	39,510	43,680	42,331	47,678	47,557	40,285		-15%

5.1 Although August and September were 29% and 28% up on last year this has only resulted in a cumulative increase in visitor figures of 8%.

6. Community and learning – art gallery

	Cumulative							% inc
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Jan	370	361	410	1,016	763	879		15%
Feb	936	756	887	2,171	1,775	2,118		19%
March	1,473	1,385	1,597	3,611	2,685	3,492		30%
April	1,900	2,017	1,994	4,300	3,417	4,008		17%
May	2,523	2,703	3,586	5,697	4,525	4,866		8%
June	2,876	3,299	4,244	6,451	5,659	5,833		3%
July	3,272	3,562	4,747	7,156	6,170	6,392		4%
August	4,149	4,211	5,260	8,250	7,059	7,536		7%
Sept	4,629	4,791	6,106	9,245	7,812	8,398		8%
Oct	4,629	5,274	7,174	10,019	9,160	8,398		-8%
Nov	4,629	5,615	8,037	11,265	10,125	8,398		-17%
Dec	4,629	5,921	8,953	11,674	10,768	8,398		-22%

6.1 Community engagement in the Art Gallery has resumed and schools bookings and regular community group visits, baby jam, baby paint and home education are beginning to fill up the diary..

6.2 On 29th September – 1st October FOMO Falmouth’s first Art Publishing Fair run in conjunction with Falmouth School of Art took place in the Municipal Buildings. Over 1,000 people visited between 4pm on Friday and 4pm on Sunday and it was deemed a great success. An unsolicited e-mail stated:

As a practising artist and resident of Falmouth I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the FOMO book fair, workshops and performances!

There was a great atmosphere, it was a very immersive experience and good to meet such a diverse range of artists, share ideas and make new contacts. There was a real sense of community and it made me realise that events like this are sadly lacking in Falmouth which, as a place, is full of creative people.

Please let’s have more events like this so that we can all engage – sharing ideas with other artists, students and the wider community.

This event was project managed by Glyn Winchester and a whole handful of new, young, volunteers. It has been possible through Arts Council England Major Partner Museum funding.

- 6.3 On Saturday 7th October the Municipal Building became a Fun Palace. In addition to the events already mentioned under the Library, we had hand casting, make your own wind turbine, the Cardboard Challenge and the Marine School and Cornwall Wildlife Trust making a giant jellyfish – which can be seen in the entrance gallery – and much, much, more. We estimate numbers at around 400 for the day.

7. Staffing and training

- 7.1 The only change in this period is that we have taken on Katie Bassett as an apprentice administration assistant. As previously mentioned she has Asbergers and finds some situations complicated but so far has picked things up admirably. She is very good at process jobs and not at all phased by computers... Hurrah!
- 7.2 On October 5th, the Director attended an Action Research Summit at Exeter University, '*Leading practice in Unlimited Value Creation*', to help shape thinking on how libraries, social enterprises and cultural institutions can understand, grow and communicate the diverse value they create within their communities.

Youth Services

- 8.1 The Committee will be updated at the meeting.

Festivals & Events

- 9.1 <https://www.falmouth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Falmouth-Events-2017-1.pdf>

This is covered by the Town Team's report to full council

Parks & Gardens

- 10.1 The 7th annual Tea Festival was held on Sunday 17th September with estimated visitors of 3,000. The day was a great success and Jacqui Owen and Sara Baistrocchi were admirably supported by Tamsin Bough and a cohort of volunteers.
- 10.2 Miracle Theatre are once again going to be at Princess Pavilions over Christmas with A Christmas Carol. We will be theming the Christmas Tree Festival and other community engagement activities to coordinate with them.

Ponsharden Cemeteries

- 11.1 A very successful Open Day was held on Sunday, September 10th September. Despite the rain and blustery wind over two hundred people attended. Ten new 'friends' were recruited and 170 emails collected.
- 11.2 We should hear from the Heritage Lottery Fund in early December whether or not we have been successful in our Round One bid.

Joint Marketing and Publicity

- 12.1 We are now preparing for our third joint Falmouth TC What's On leaflet to go out in early January.
- 12.2 Cultural service events have recently been well covered on the Radio and in the local press.

2017 – some future projects and partnerships

- 13.1 On Sunday 29th October at 16:00 we have 50 Blue Badge guides from all round the UK visiting the Art Gallery for tea and talk.
- 13.2 The Director will be attending a Tate, British Art Network at The Watts on 30th October partially for the seminar *Artists as Reformers in Britain c.1850-1914* but mainly because The Watts are interested in collaborating on a touring Tuke exhibition. This would fulfil one of our Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) obligations for the 2018-2022 funding round.
- 13.2 The Library will be hosting Santa's grotto again on 30th November and 21st December and we are actively seeking a Santa!

Henrietta Boex,

October 2017