

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth on Monday 8th October 2018 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors G F Evans CC MBE (Chairman), P A Minson, A Parker, J C Robinson, B M A Ross and D W Saunby CC.

Councillor R J O'Shea also attended.

In Attendance: H M Boex

(Cultural Services Director)

A863 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Gillett (no reason), Robinson (ill) an McCarthy (no reason).

A864 **INTERESTS**

None received.

A865 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Minson and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2018 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A866 **CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT**

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

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed: Date:

Introduction

This report covers the ten weeks since the Cultural Services committee meeting on 23rd July 2018 which was held in the Library.

Library and Information Service

- 1.1 The Library continues to run smoothly with regular *rhyme time* and *story time* sessions on a Tuesday and *Lego Club* every Saturday morning and *Code Club* every other Saturday lunchtime.
- 1.2 The last monthly statistical report issued by Cornwall Council was for August. The total books issued 9,512 with 1,055 computer sessions booked.
- 1.3 The summer reading challenge ran from 14th July to 8th September. The theme this year was Mischief Makers and featured characters from The Beano. In addition to the five Falmouth primary schools, we also visited Flushing, Mylor, Mawnan Smith and Constantine primary schools. This year we also had children from Penryn, Mabe, Stithians, Perran-ar-worthal, Kennall Vale, Grade-Ruan, Halwin, Truro Prep, Weeth, Kea, some home-schooled and preschool children taking part. (for a school by school breakdown see Appendix X).
- 1.4 Forty six children joined the library to take part, 585 signed up (539 2017) around 46% of those were boys (a usually tricky target area), 432 finished which I think is just under 73 or 74% of the total signed up and of those who finished about 47% were boys.
- 1.5 We have had two well-attended evening literary events. 'An evening with Philip Marsden' on 20th September and 'an evening with Nina Stibbe and colleague.
- 1.6 We have a waiting list for Patrick Gale's evening which is coming up.
- 1.7 The Director attended the Libraries Forum organised by Cornwall Council on 26th September, to keep the eight devolved libraries in the loop with the Council's plans for further devolution in line with their 2020 Vision for a Library and Information Service and has offered to sit on an advisory panel.

Art Gallery:

2. **Supporters, Scheme, donations, grant income and awards**
- 2.1 We have received the first tranche of our Heritage Lottery Fund application for the restoration of the Markey Mural at the back of Tesco and *A Cabaret of Mechanical Movement* exhibition (30th June – 8th September) for £5,450.

3. Acquisitions, Gifts and Bequests

- 3.1 The architect MJ Long (AKA Lady Wilson) has left us six paintings in her will. These are: *A view of Falmouth Docks* by Francis Hewlett, *Porthmeor Beach* by John Emmanuel; *Janet* by John Emmanuel; *Northern Lights* by Bob Crossley; *View from Studio* by Ginny Bounds and *Loft Ladder Man* by Naomi Frears. .
- 3.2 We have also received on long loan a resource box of some thirty artworks from the Wilhelmina Barnes Graham Trust. This is for use with students and is an excellent aide to showing and artist's working process.

4. Exhibitions and displays (and Markey Mural)

- 4.1 Our summer exhibition *A Cabaret of Mechanical Movement* was very well received with 56 pages of the visitor book full of quotes along the lines '*Amazing exhibition. Joyous. Wonderful workshops, keep it going , will always visit*' – Steve and Les from Tavistock. '*Always a great visit to the Falmouth Art Gallery. In fact the only reason we visit on our holidays is to see the exhibition s at the Gallery. This year's automata display was brilliant, so much fun and well worth a visit. Long may this Gallery continue... thanks*' Lynn and Paul from Leominster etc. etc. The exhibition closed on 8th September, 2018.
- 4.2 It might be worth noting that this exhibition captured many memories of Falmouth residents of the short period of time (1978-1984) that the shop/museum *Cabaret*, owned by Sue Jackson, at no. 19 then 21a in the High Street. Many people brought items in to add to the exhibits and many people also thought that a permanent exhibition of automata in Falmouth would be a very good thing.
- 4.3 The star of the show was undoubtedly RoboThespian. A performing robot that is made in Penryn by Engineered Arts, a company run by Sue Jackson's son Will Jackson. There are RoboThespians all around the world – who knew it?
<https://www.engineeredarts.co.uk/robothespian/>
- 4.4 *Falmouth Alumni, 1950-1970* and *Found in Falmouth* opened on Friday 14th September and run till the 10th November and 3rd November respectively. Both exhibitions shine a light on different aspects of Falmouth Art School. Continuing on this summer's theme, this exhibition has provided an opportunity to gather together the memories of a fading generation who experienced the early years of the post-war Art School at Kerris Vean.
- 4.5 The Director visited the Royal West of England Academy with the Artist Andrew Lanyon on 18th September in order to travel the last show *Nature's Laboratory* there in July 2019.

4.6 Restoration of the Markey Mural began week beginning 17th September. The work is being lead by mural artist Nicole White and has involved a wide selection of community volunteers including the Director!

4.7 The bright colour scheme is based on photographs taken by the late Myra Morris of the original scheme in 1985 which she gave to Falmouth Civic Society.

4.7 So many local residents and passers-by have really appreciated this project. Many, of course, were taught art by Mr. Markey. One of the Manpower Services 'lads', Shane, who was originally involved in painting the mural in 1985 is now one of our local traffic wardens and has shared his memories. See Appendix B for photos.

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	3,046	6%
Feb	5,724	5,519	6,081	6,564	6,925	6,830	5,950	-13%
March	8,898	8,909	9,040	11,000	10,575	10,735	9,759	-9%
April	12,141	12,685	12,305	14,820	14,471	14,045	13,584	-3%
May	15,257	17,523	16,121	19,056	18,447	18,377	17,539	-5%
June	18,537	21,368	19,301	23,062	23,105	22,810	21,825	-4%
July	22,247	24,889	23,173	27,503	27,603	27,857	26,934	-3%
August	26,931	30,285	28,288	33,787	32,779	34,551	36,748	6%
Sept	30,318	34,814	32,693	38,022	37,242	40,285	41,467	3%

5.1 Overall visitor figures are up on last year despite the good weather! A Cabaret of Mechanical Movement attracted 17,578, 9814 in August alone an increase of 47% on last August.

6. Community and learning - art gallery

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% inc
Jan	370	361	410	1,016	763	879	763	-13%
Feb	936	756	887	2,171	1,775	2,118	1,319	-38%
March	1,473	1,385	1,597	3,611	2,685	3,492	2,318	-34%
April	1,900	2,017	1,994	4,300	3,417	4,008	3,066	-24%
May	2,523	2,703	3,586	5,697	4,525	4,866	4,185	-14%
June	2,876	3,299	4,244	6,451	5,659	5,833	5,059	-13%
July	3,272	3,562	4,747	7,156	6,170	6,392	6,684	5%
August	4,149	4,211	5,260	8,250	7,059	7,536	8,316	10%
Sept	4,629	4,791	6,106	9,245	7,812	8,398	8,982	7%

6.1 Community engagement in the Art Gallery over the summer consisted of 'doodle tables' where families could make Zoetrope strips or Morph plasticine models – both of which were very popular.

- 6.2 The Gallery and Library became a Fun.Palace on Saturday 6th October receiving a flying visit from Dame Stella Duffy, who singled us out for praise on the radio. A wide variety of family workshops were on offer.
- 6.3 Regular sessions for local poetry groups, MIND, Sketch Club, Look Group, Knit Group, Langholme, Stroke Club and our drop in family workshops on the first Saturday of the month and throughout the summer holidays.
- 6.4 We have also received visits from Mawnan Book Group, Mawnan WI, who received morning coffee and a talk from the Director.
- 6.5 The Director gave a talk at the Constantine History Group at the WI Hall on Friday 21st September.
- 6.6 The Director attended a 'pecha kucha' session at the University of Exeter, Penryn Campus on 27th September, organised by the Cornwall Museums Partnership to offer students the opportunity to undertake research at the Art Gallery.

7. Staffing, training and volunteering

- 7.1 We have benefited from having room stewards through *Love Falmouth Volunteering* this summer.
- 7.2 Our LUMEN placement from Leicester University, Dong Mao Li (but in England she is known as Tina) has just returned home after a three month placement.

Youth Services

- 8.1 At the time of writing I have not received an update but the service has only just started running again after the summer holidays.

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 Jacqui Owen helped to support the town's bid for South West in Bloom by preparing an excellent portfolio for the judges.: Falmouth was awarded a Gold medal and were the overall category winners, so received the Portman Cup. The town was also awarded the Sergeant Cup for outstanding excellence and dedication and the Plantscape trophy for outstanding seaside entry.
- 10.2 The Tea Festival on Sunday 23rd September was well attended given the high winds and stormy weather on the two days leading up to it. The day was excellently well run

by Sara Baistrocchi and Jacqui Owen and supported by the Cultural Services team. Tamsin Bough and her team of volunteers were invaluable.

- 10.3 We ran the last of the Dementia Friends sessions for this year on Tuesday, October 2nd. School children work with the Memory Cafe and Black Watch from Falmouth Fire Station to take out the summer bedding. We are planning to widen the project to call it Dementia awareness and speak to Age UK to see if they would also like to be involved. The intergenerational aspect of this project is really important.
- 10.4 A&P Falmouth, A&P Design and A&P team have again agreed to sponsor this year's Christmas Tree Festival. The Tree of Wishes will this year support the Mission for Seafarers.
- 10.5 The Festival switch on will be on Sunday 2 December starting at 5,30pm with lantern making workshop running the previous Sunday (25th November) for the Christmas parade on the Thursday (29th).

Ponsharden Cemeteries

- 11.1 We have held a mobilisation meeting on 6th August and the project is underway.

Joint Marketing and Publicity

- 12.1 The July-December leaflet has been produced and circulated.

Henrietta Boex,
Director of Cultural Services
October 2018

Appendix A:

The targets for the reading challenge –

Falmouth Schools included in the table below: Falmouth Primary, St Mary's, Marlborough, King Charles, St Francis

	Starters from deprived area schools, 2017 - % of school	Finishers from deprived area schools, 2017 - % of school	Participants from deprived area schools, 2017 - % of school who read at least 2 books	Target % Participants from deprived area schools, 2018	Total number of children needed to participate from deprived schools to reach target
FALMOUTH LIBRARY	23%	18%	18%	19%	310

What actually happened –

School Name	Nb of pupils	Allocated to	Took part 2017	Completed 2017	% of school took part 2017	% of school completed in 2017	Took part 2018	Completed 2018	% of school took part 2018	% of school completed 2018
Constantine Primary School	148	FAL	44	28	30%	19%	45	28	30%	19%
Falmouth Primary Academy	348	FAL	27	22	8%	6%	28	22	8%	6%
Flushing Church of England School	44	FAL	17	14	39%	32%	13	7	30%	16%

King Charles Primary School	419	FAL	113	85	27%	20%	94	72	22%	17%
Marlborough School	213	FAL	79	65	37%	31%	82	74	38%	35%
Mawman Village CE VA Primary School	102	FAL	23	17	23%	17%	33	26	32%	25%
Mylor Bridge Community Primary	136	FAL	30	24	22%	18%	46	35	34%	26%
St Francis CE Primary School	389	FAL	66	59	17%	15%	104	81	27%	21%
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	260	FAL	66	51	25%	20%	76	60	29%	23%

Appendix B

