

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services Committee held in the Art Gallery, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth on Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors G F Evans CC MBE (Chairman), A J Gillett (Vice-Chair), L D Coley, A Parker, J C Robinson, B M A Ross and D W Saunby CC.

Councillor S D Eva also attended.

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

A885 APOLOGIES
None received.

A886 INTERESTS
None received.

A887 MINUTES
It was proposed by Councillor Gillett, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A888 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
The Cultural Services Director presented her report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

Further the Committee noted that the review work for websites was ongoing and that the John Downing Trust had been wound up and the monies to be used by the Council to provide services that were compatible with the Trust's objectives.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed: Date:

Introduction

This report covers the nine weeks since the Cultural Services committee meeting on 4th November 2019 which was held in the Council Chamber. Despite the political distraction and purdah, it has been a busy time for all of us.

Library and Information Service

- 1.1 The last monthly statistical report issued by Cornwall Council was for November 2019. There were 7,256 issues and 97 new borrowers.
- 1.2 Regular community engagement in the Library includes Rhymetime and Storytime on Tuesdays weekly; lego club on a Saturday morning and the Knit and Natter group who alternate with the Art Gallery.
- 1.3 School visits included St Day & Carharrack School, Flushing and King Charles.
- 1.4 Falmouth Poetry Group meet once a month on a Monday night in the Library.
- 1.5 The male self-help group Man Down met twice in November in the Library to introduce more cultural discussion after the screening of a film, and art and music appreciation.
- 1.6 The first International Games Week was held in the Library and Foyer from 4th November. The programme included an evening of Pirates of Penryn and several 'escape room' events which were fully booked and very well received. Sara Baistrocchi was responsible for organising and delivering this activity supported by other Cultural Services learning facilitators
- 1.7 Miracle Theatre also used the Library for play readings on the evening of 22nd November.
- 1.8 Falmouth Library is one of fourteen libraries nationally to have been selected to take part in Engaging Libraries 2, a funded research project sponsored by the Carnegie Trust that Sarah Scott, Jayne Cardew and Katie Bassett will be delivering in partnership with FoAM Kernow, who are based in Penryn (<https://fo.am/studios/kernow>). This is an 18 month programme with a grant value of £25,764.
- 1.9 Cllr Minson has been approached by Paper Nations (a creative writing incubator) and has a meeting with their Executive Development Producer, Bambo Soyinka on the 8th January. We are hoping that this will lead to some exciting projects.
- 1.10 The Library again hosted Santa on switch on night and had over 350 people through between 5:30 and 7:30.

Art Gallery:

2. Supporters Scheme, donations, grant Income and awards

2.1 Nothing new to report

3. Acquisitions, Gifts, Bequests and Loans

3.1 Three Francis Hewlett pieces have been on loan to Pool School Gallery who are doing a year long project based on the Schools Art Collection which is owned by Cornwall Council.

3.2 John William Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott* continues to be part of an exhibition entitled *The Enchanted Interior* at the Laing Art Gallery - 12th October 2019 to 23rd February 2020 and then at Guildhall Art Gallery – February to April (exact dates tbc)

4. Exhibitions and displays

4.1 The exhibition *Sidewalk Surfer* closed on November 16th 2019. The current exhibition is the biennial open submission show *Imagine Falmouth*. This is the third time this show has been held. There were 237 entrants whose images were scored at a digital presentation by five independent members of the public. 175 artworks made the cut and were hung. The judges chose an overall winner and three highly commended each which were announced at the Private View on Friday 22nd November. The next major show will be *A Sharp Pencil* which is due to open on at the preview evening from 6:00-8:00 on Friday January 24th, 2020.

4.2 The entrance gallery exhibition *Falmouth A-Z* also finished on 16th November, 2019 and was replaced by an exhibition *New Voices* curated by Charlotte Davies and Felicity Tattersall in conjunction with community groups and partially funded by FEAST. This gallery will close mid-January for refurbishment and, hopefully, new LED lighting rig to match the two other galleries. This will result in greatly reduced electricity consumption. The gallery will open again with a bright, colourful exhibition *The Golden Age of French Tourist Posters* in collaboration with the Musée Breton, Quimper.

4.3 The Foyer and Community Gallery up the stairs and on the mezzanine has been taken over by Miracle Theatre to celebrate 40 years (1979-2019) with their exhibition *Time Capsule*. <https://miracletheatre.co.uk/time-capsule/>

4.4 Work is due to commence on the shop refit. Through a Cultivator grant we have been able to get new hardware and software which will replace our twenty five year old manual system with a digital bar-coded one. We are taking this opportunity to modernise the shop layout in order to increase our range of stock and hopefully increase turnover.

5. Visitor Statistics – art gallery

5.1 The top table shows the cumulative figures for the year followed by a table showing month on month statistics. As stated in the last report, the reduction in visitor figures was down to the lack of visitors to the summer exhibition – or rather the dramatic increase in numbers for the exhibition the previous year – plus the good weather.

	Cumulative								Counted % inc
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Jan	2,355	2,469	2,645	2,814	3,116	2,870	3,046	2,835	-7%
Feb	5,724	5,519	6,081	6,564	6,925	6,830	5,950	5,788	-3%
March	8,898	8,909	9,040	11,000	10,575	10,735	9,759	8,668	-11%
April	12,141	12,685	12,305	14,820	14,471	14,045	13,584	12,509	-8%
May	15,257	17,523	16,121	19,056	18,447	18,377	17,539	16,350	-7%
June	18,537	21,368	19,301	23,062	23,105	22,810	21,825	20,602	-6%
July	22,247	24,889	23,173	27,503	27,603	27,857	26,934	25,201	-6%
August	26,931	30,285	28,288	33,787	32,779	34,551	36,748	32,115	-13%
Sept	30,318	34,814	32,693	38,022	37,242	40,285	41,467	35,835	-14%
Oct	34,251	38,822	36,843	42,163	41,438	45,015	45,435	39,911	-12%
Nov	37,601	41,709	39,896	45,376	44,965	48,593	48,501	43,254	-11%
Dec	39,510	43,680	42,331	47,678	47,557	51,049	50,705	45,432	-10%

	Month								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% inc
Jan	2,355	2,469	2,645	2,814	3,116	2,870	3,046	2,835	-7%
Feb	3,369	3,050	3,436	3,750	3,809	3,960	2,904	2,953	2%
March	3,174	3,390	2,959	4,436	3,650	3,905	3,809	2,880	-24%
April	3,243	3,776	3,265	3,820	3,896	3,310	3,825	3,841	0%
May	3,116	4,838	3,816	4,236	3,976	4,332	3,955	3,841	-3%
June	3,280	3,845	3,180	4,006	4,658	4,433	4,286	4,252	-1%
July	3,710	3,521	3,872	4,441	4,498	5,047	5,109	4,599	-10%
August	4,684	5,396	5,115	6,284	5,176	6,694	9,814	6,914	-30%
Sept	3,387	4,529	4,405	4,235	4,463	5,734	4,719	3,720	-21%
Oct	3,933	4,008	4,150	4,141	4,196	4,730	3,968	4,076	3%
Nov	3,350	2,887	3,053	3,213	3,527	3,578	3,066	3,343	9%
Dec	1,909	1,971	2,435	2,302	2,592	2,456	2,204	2,178	-1%

6. Community and learning – art gallery

	Cumulative								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% inc
Jan	370	361	410	1,016	763	879	763	428	-44%
Feb	936	756	887	2,171	1,775	2,118	1,319	1,061	-20%
March	1,473	1,385	1,597	3,611	2,685	3,492	2,318	2,588	12%
April	1,900	2,017	1,994	4,300	3,417	4,008	3,066	3,634	19%
May	2,523	2,703	3,586	5,697	4,525	4,866	4,185	4,851	16%
June	2,876	3,299	4,244	6,451	5,659	5,833	5,059	5,728	13%
July	3,272	3,562	4,747	7,156	6,170	6,392	6,684	6,232	-7%
August	4,149	4,211	5,260	8,250	7,059	7,536	8,316	7,858	-6%
Sept	4,629	4,791	6,106	9,245	7,812	8,398	8,982	8,381	-7%
Oct	4,629	5,274	7,174	10,019	9,160	9,609	9,793	8,992	-8%
Nov	4,629	5,615	8,037	11,265	10,125	10,809	10,499	10,644	1%
Dec	4,629	5,921	8,953	11,674	10,768	11,325	11,030	11,007	0%

- 6.1 Even though overall visitor figures are reduced the community engagement programme has remained vibrant and popular with our local residents of all ages and abilities.
- 6.2 Regular sessions for local poetry groups, , Sketch Club, Look Group, Knit Group, Little Fingers, Baby Paint and Baby Jam and our drop in family workshops on the first Saturday of each month and during Falmouth Week and for Carnival. Heartfeltart also held regular sessions in the Chamber. We also had visits from the Little Craft Room group who are based in Penryn and Cornwall Carers.
- 6.3 Cultural Services learning and community facilitators have been working with young curators (aged 16-25). This has resulted in a number of projects. *Bodiescapes* was a five week collaboration with AMATA (Falmouth University) with a final performance attended by tutors and fellow students on 12th December. There were also collaborations with Falmouth fashion photography students, a very successful evening of ‘ambient’ music (EEL) organised by young curator Alice Howard. They have also been extending their work with WILD young mums in collaboration with the Pool School Gallery project which the gallery has loaned artwork to.
- 6.4 We received visits from Cusgarne School, St Francis, St Marys, King Charles, Perranarworthal , Flushing Early Years, Falmouth Academy, St Day & Carharrack, Truro College SEN groups, Truro College photography students, BTEC students from Falmouth School and outreach to Constantine school.
- 6.5 The Director attended the final meeting of the ArtFund SW Regional group and received two groups from the Falmouth Fine Art Society for behind the scenes tours.
- 6.6 Cath Wallace used the Falmouth Art Gallery Collection for a series of lectures and behind the scenes tours facilitated by the collections manager/

- 6.7 Sarah Scott and Sara Baistrocchi hosted a very successful and well attended Learning Network event on behalf of the Cornwall Museums Partnership.
- 6.8 The gallery hosted an evening with the poet, Anthony Caeshu, in conjunction with Exeter University and made the gallery available to the local Labour party for a private event.
- 6.9 Curators Charlotte Davis and Felicity Tattersall gave the supporters talk on Friday 22nd November in place of the Director.

7. Staffing, training and volunteering

- 7.1 A number of staff took part in Mental Health Awareness training.
- 7.2 We have recruited a Curatorial Intern nine month post funded by Cultivator and the Ellerman Trust and Arts Council England through the Cornwall Museums Partnership. Lizzie Broughton is due to start mid-January.
- 7.3 The Royal Cornwall Museum has now closed for nine months leaving their Digital apprentice half way through her year. We have arranged to have her on secondment with no financial or contractual stings attached. Cornwall College were pleased with this outcome.

Youth Services

- 8.1 The Dracaena Centre Youth Project in collaboration with 'Your Way' (<https://your-way.org.uk/>) has launched the Youth Advice Centre drop in for 11-25 year-olds. Open Fridays 3-6, young people can get help with the following:
 - Emotional support
 - Money budgeting and benefit
 - Employment, education and training
 - Housing and homelessness
 - Sexual health and relationships
 - Youth work

Festivals & Events

- 9.1 Events are covered by the Town Team's report to full council.

Parks & Gardens

- 10.1 Jacqui Owen held a successful lantern making day with the end results being paraded in the light switch on parade.

10.2 Another successful Christmas Tree Festival was opened by the Mayor on Sunday 1st December with St Marys School choir singing carols in the bandstand and St Stithians brass band and carol singing in the garden room after.

10.2 The 110th Falmouth Spring Flower Show schedules are now with the printers and will be issued in the first two weeks of January. Thanks to Katie Bassett for her hard work on converting the manual system to a digital one.

Ponsharden and other Cemeteries

11.1 Glyn Winchester held two very well attended cemetery tours during Remembrance Week on 9th and 11th November.

11.2 Architects, quantity surveyor and trial mortar sample contractors have now been appointed as part of the Ponsharden restoration project.

11.3 The Scheduled Monument boundaries have been revisited by Historic England and revised.

11.4 Scrub has been cleared and some tree work carried out in order to undertake further survey work in order to ascertain the right approach to stabilising the bank adjacent to the main road.

11.5 Place tags have now been erected on all the known graves in the Dissenters cemetery.

Joint Marketing and Publicity

12.1 The January- June was distributed to Falmouth postcode residents between Christmas and new year.

12.2 Work is ongoing on streamling and integrating our various FTC websites.

Henrietta Boex,
Director of Cultural Services
January 2020