

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services Committee held virtually by Zoom on 19th July 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors K E Edwards (Chair), G W Chin-Quee BEM (vice Chair), L D Coley, D Evans BEM, G F Evans CC MBE (from point mentioned), B M A Ross (to point mentioned), D W Saunby CC and Z Young.

Councillors S D Eva (to point mentioned) also attended.

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

A893 APOLOGIES

An apology was received and approved from Councillor Seiler (child care).

A894 INTERESTS

None received.

A895 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Coley, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that under the delegated powers agreed by the Council C5449 the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

Councillor G F Evans now joined the meeting.

A896 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Director of Cultural Services presented her report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes. Further she updated on events and the delegated management and operational function within Cultural Services as well as apprentices proposed appointments.

The Town Clerk was requested by the Chair to update the Committee regarding its terms of reference and schedule of meetings. He also reported on the Council's proposed Committee reorganisation.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Chin-Quee and

- RESOLVED** that under the delegated powers agreed by the Council C5449
- (i) The Chair with the Director of Cultural Services review the Committee's terms of reference and update as appropriate. And subject to the outcomes of the Council's planned wider committee review.
 - (ii) The Committee revert to bi-monthly meetings, retaining the Director of Cultural Services quarterly reporting cycle.
 - (iii) Short term aspirations to include: The Director of Cultural Services creates a job description and recruitment plan for a General Manager appointment for Princess Pavilion.; the Chair to liaise with the Neighbourhood Plan Stakeholders Group to develop community engagement and discussion themes from the Plan (if approved at referendum);
 - (iv) Medium term aspirations to include: proposals for Passmore Edwards bicentenary commemoration (2023) Director of Cultural Services to liaise with Councillor D Evans; library layout and delivery to be rationalised and a Falmouth Museum opportunity considered; the Chair to liaise with Chair of the Place-Shaping Board regarding inclusion of Street art/murals in town centre development; a changing places toilet facility be developed;

- (v) Long term aspirations to include: redevelopment of the Municipal Buildings; large public art installation at Prince of Wales Pier and/or Church Street Car Park redevelopment site.

Councillors Eva and Ross left the meeting during the consideration of the above matters.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.50pm.

Signed: Date:

Introduction

This report covers the four months since the Cultural Services Zoom committee meeting on 22nd February 2021. The Library remained open for Click and Collect but the Art Gallery did not open to the public again till May 17th. On May 21st, Princess Pavilion and Gyllyngdune Garden officially transferred from Cornwall Council to Falmouth Town Council. This report will cover the community activity that has taken place at the Pavilion since the transfer not the operational matters which come under the remit of the Princess Pavilion working party.

Library and Information Service

- 1.1 Whilst Covid-safety measures are still being followed, the concerns about handling books and 72 hour quarantines have been relaxed and we have been able, since May 17th, to offer booked 'browsing' slots which also apply to the children's library and have extended the opening hours in line with the Art Gallery i.e. till 16:00.
- 1.2 There have been a number of redundancies in the Cornwall Council Book Service and we have not had a recent statistical update. However, we are aware that footfall is considerably down which is only to be expected.
- 1.3 Jayne Cardew spent a week after 17th May talking to every class at King Charles Primary school about the Library and the Summer Reading Challenge. This nice feedback was received from Lindsey Mackenzie, Acting Deputy Head *'Thank you so much again for coming in to visit us in our school library. Everyone I have spoken to about it thought it was such a brilliant and worthwhile session, the children loved it too. Hopefully we'll be able to visit you in your library soon!'*
- 1.4 Regular community in the Library is on hold but we have story-telling available on-line at [Falmouth Library Storytime – Falmouth Cultural Services \(falculture.org\)](https://falmouthlibrary.org.uk/storytime)
- 1.5 We have now completed our *Engaging Libraries* project sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation. The project was delivered digitally due to Covid which resulted in a considerable underspend as we were unable to travel back and forth to London or hold face-to-face workshops. The Carnegie Foundation have given us permission to invest this underspend into a pilot scheme investigating the use of a 'hublet' a shared tablet docking and recharging station (<https://gethublet.com/>) as a more flexible option for the public going forward.
- 1.6 As a follow up to our involvement in the Living Libraries project run by Roehampton University (<https://www.livinglibraries.uk/>) we have been approached as one of four UK Libraries to take part in their next project *Reading Libraries and Environmental Action*. This project will incorporate oral history interviews, this time with people involved in various forms of environmental action. One of the main aims is to

investigate what kinds of reading material people identify as motivating them to take environmental action, and to pull together such material into an anthology. We are very much open to findings, but to speculate on one possibility at this point: the anthology could range from selected environmental classics through to youth literatures, and might ideally serve to facilitate dialogue across generations.

- 1.7 The Summer Reading Challenge has begun and this year it is themed *Wild World Heroes*. Historically we usually get over 500 participants and quite a high proportion of finishers. We will be doing a series of Thursday workshops 10:00-15:00 in the gardens at Gyllyngdune throughout the school holiday to promote this.
- 1.8 The Information Service no longer falls under the remit of Cultural Services but is line managed by the Administration team.

Art Gallery:

2. Supporters Scheme, donations, grant Income and awards

- 2.1 Donations have been severely impacted by the lockdowns although Mawnan WI have been consistently generous paying for Zoom lectures given by the Director.
- 2.2 We have been selected as one of five museums to receive a grant of £17,000 to deliver Splanna! (shine) a strand of Cornwall Council's G7 legacy funding targeted at 11+ and isolated groups.
- 2.3 We continue to benefit from Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding through the Cornwall Museums Partnership. This funding helps to support our community engagement; our trainee curator; some exhibition uplift and extra capacity through a digital engagement officer.

3. Acquisitions, Gifts, Bequests and Loans

- 3.1 We have again been selected by The Art Fund to receive two further bequests: The Heine bequest which consists of prints by Elizabeth Frink, Frances Hodgkins, Howard Hodgkin, Graham Sutherland, Robert Bevan, Richard Bawden and Sonia Delaunay and the Keith Sleeman bequest of a watercolour by Peter Lanyon, *Untitled: Cliff Face*, 1964 – All these can be seen at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Two items have been deaccessioned from the Museum of Childhood (part of the V&A) and are currently in our summer exhibition *Ingenious? A very large wave machine* by local school teacher and automata maker Peter Markey which is on loan to Falmouth Art Gallery by Sir Nicholas Goodison and a Millennial commission from Stithians-based automata maker Paul Spooner which toured with the exhibition *Devious Devices* in 1998 and ended up at the Museum of Childhood – please see Appendix B.

- 3.3 Our Laura Knight is on loan to MK Gallery, Milton Keynes for their largest exhibition on Laura Knight.
- 3.4 A number of Henry Scott Tuke artworks from the RCPS Polytechnic Tuke Collection are currently on loan to The Watts Gallery, Guildford. This show will be coming to Falmouth Art Gallery in September 2021.

4. Exhibitions and displays

- 4.1 Exhibitions *There and Back* and *Here and There* stayed on the walls during the Jan-May 2021 lockdown and we reopened with *There and Back* on May 17th but rehung the Entrance Gallery with a show curated by our trainee curator, Evie Swanson called *In Her Shoes* based on work by women artists in our collection and responses from the public during the month of March as part of our Benow festival of women..
- 4.2 *There and Back* has now been replaced by our summer exhibition *Ingenious?* which had a soft opening on Saturday 12th June to coincide with the G7 weekend. *Ingenious?* is loosely based around the Fox family in Falmouth through the prism of what became the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic and their many commercial interests as well as linking it to some interesting art on loan from the Royal Cornwall Museum which depicts various of Cornwall's major land-based industries. This exhibition is a good example of the sort of collaborative working that makes Falmouth Art Gallery an important player in both the Cornwall Museums Partnership and Arts Council England's eyes.
- 4.3 *In Her Shoes* will come down on Sunday 18th July to be replaced by an exhibition from our collection called *Weird and Wonderful* curated by last year's trainee curator, Lizzie Broughton who has also been doing sickness cover for Natalie Rigby for the first six months of this year.
- 4.4 The Community Gallery has just been rehung with an exhibition that focuses on Home Educators.
- 4.5 The exhibition *Freud, Minton, Ryan - unholy trinity*, which is a Falmouth Art Gallery collaboration with freelance curator and writer Julian Machin, has opened at the Victoria Art Gallery in Bath and will be travelling on to Falmouth in September. Collections Manager, Natalie Rigby and Lizzie Broughton are to be congratulated on pulling together the complex strands of this thought-provoking exhibition.

5. Visitor Statistics – art gallery

- 5.1 In line with all museums and indoor activities this summer the impact of 'booked ticket slots', reduced opening etc. had a major impact on our visitor figures. We usually include statistics but the Director has not got around to compiling the daily visitor numbers since May 17th. Suffice to say that an estimate of about 30-50% of our pre-Covid visitor numbers is a realistic estimate.

6. Community and learning – art gallery/Pavilion gardens

- 6.1 As with 5.1, we usually include a table of community engagement at this point but most of our community engagement has taken place out of doors either in outreach in schools or at the Pavilion and we have not had time to collate the numbers. Our digital engagement has dropped off a bit and is harder to measure as it has mostly featured outreach activity and digital activities that we have posted up on <http://open.falculture.org>.
- 6.2 We have been running Baby Jam and Little Fingers either on the grass or in the veranda at the Pavilion and we have accommodated schools visits from Marlborough, St Francis, Mylor, and Flushing. We have also been doing outreach with Marlborough and Penryn ARB unit. Monday morning Make and Take has continued to run in the veranda. We also staged a third year Photography degree show in the veranda and were able to allow groups of 30 students at a time to have a small celebration at the end of what was for them a very difficult academic year.
- 6.3 We have transferred Baby Paint from the Gallery to the Dracaena Centre where it can be run with doors open and fresh air in a more Covid-safe way.
- 6.4 Community groups who have been using the Pavilion veranda include, Telltales, Miracle Theatre, Sketch Club, Knit and Natter, Tai Chi, Cornish Bank with Jesca Hoop, The Oggeymen, Falmouth Marching Band, Men are Singing, Falmouth Civic Society, the Trefoil Guild and U3A Cornish Dancers. Numbers of participants will be attached in a table in the next report.
- 6.5 We held a most successful day with the Cornwall Music Service Trust on Saturday 17th July with five of their bands playing successively in the bandstand. At 12:00 *Sax is our Business* with their training group - *the Genies* 13:00 *Cornwall Youth Brass Ensemble*, 13.45 *Carrick Winds*, 15:15 *Carrick Breeze*, similar to *Carrick Winds* but for younger players finishing at 16:00 with *Recorders Rule*. We estimate around 250-300 people including performers and their families who came to support. The café ran out of ice-cream and at one point nearly ran out of tea pots!

7. Staffing, training and volunteering

- 7.1 Some of our volunteers are coming back into the Art Gallery after a long absence but we have not reintroduced volunteers in the Library yet.
- 7.2 Tamsin Bough and Sara Baistrocchi have been implementing their new approach to appraisals and performance management in terms of establishing Personal Plans with most of the staff in Cultural Services as agreed with the Town Clerk. They are working alongside Emily Middleditch and Val Rogers with the implementation of the new Citrus HR software.

Youth Services

8.1 No update available for this report.

Festivals & Events

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

Parks & Gardens

10.1 Jacqui Owen continues her secondment to Cormac for the Making Spaces for Nature (MS4N) project.

10.2 The Director is working with Simon Nield of Source FM and architect, Michael Hormann to produce a scheme for Kimberley Park Lodge to include community recording studios and a café. This is being given a push week beginning 19th July to move it on to Planning.

Ponsharden and other Cemeteries

11.1 The tender process for a Main Contractor has been frustrating with only one over priced tender finally received after an extension of two weeks. The Director has had a Zoom meeting with Case Officer, Kirstie Wallace at the National Lottery Heritage Fund and has received dispensation to break the project up into smaller contracts all controlled by Falmouth Town Council with the services of a local building contractor to act as Principle Site Construction Manager and responsible for Health and Safety. We are perhaps a month behind programme but the solution will allow us more agility in the long run.






Joint Marketing and Publicity

12.1 FTC are now recruiting a new Marketing officer and it is hoped that the profile of Cultural Services as well as activities at the Pavilion will benefit and the Town Council's services get better recognition as a result.

Henrietta Boex,
Director of Cultural Services
July 2021

Appendix A

Heine Bequest

	<p>DAME ELIZABETH FRINK (1930-1993): An etching "Head II" depicting turquoise ground portrait of head, 13/70, framed and glazed, 108cm x 73.5cm. £500</p>
	<p>FRANCIS HODGKINS (1869-1947): A lithograph in six colours, one of 60-70 signed from 150 printed, signature lower-right, framed and glazed, 46cm x 61.5cm. £1,800</p>
	<p>HOWARD HODGKIN (1923-2017): An etching with aquatint. "Away", dated 2001, 23.5cm x 28cm, 8/50, framed and glazed £800</p>
	<p>GRAHAM SUTHERLAND (1903-1980): An engraving of slim cottage by pathway, pencil signed and numbered 47/60, framed and glazed, 16cm x 20cm. £1,200</p>
	<p>ROBERT BEVAN (1865-1920): A print "The White House", 1921, 20/50, unframed, 21cm x 24cm. £200</p>

	<p>RICHARD BAWDEN(1936-): A lithograph of cliff landscape “Old Harry Rocks”, 4/85, framed and glazed, 40cm x 58cm. £200</p>
	<p>SONIA DELANEY (1885-1979): A lithograph “The Half Circle”, blocks of colour, signed in pencil, 50/75, framed and glazed, 19.5cm x 18.5cm. £200</p>

Keith Sleeman Bequest

	<p>PETER LANYON Untitled: Cliff Face, 1964 Mixed media on paper 76.2 x 55.88cms</p> <p>The work was purchased by the donor i[Keith Sleeman] n January 2020 from Beaux Arts London for £31,000 (listed price £35,000). The purchase invoice gives the following provenance: “Direct from the Estate. Will’s Lane Gallery, St. Ives. Private Collection.”</p>
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Appendix B:

Large Wave Machine by Peter Markey – kindly loaned by Sir Nicholas Goodison



An extract referring to Paul Spooner's piece on loan to the *Ingenious?* exhibition
DEVIIOUS DEVICES

New Automata inspired by twentieth century objects selected by Terry Gilliam

A CRAFTSPACE TOURING & CROYDON CLOCKTOWER COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION

Devious Devices is a nationally touring exhibition of new commissioned automata by artists, sculptors and engineers. Amazing machines, from large scale sculptures to small scale devices have been created to surprise, astonish and amuse the visitor. The exhibition, which is funded by the Crafts Council, is a major touring showcase for contemporary automata featuring the work of 18 leading makers in a diverse range of media.

This will be the first exhibition to include a significant proportion of large scale and free standing works, to maximise visual impact and opportunities for audience participation. The exhibition has been designed by Axiom Design Partnership to provide a dramatic setting and theatrical atmosphere to enhance individual pieces, and create a powerful environment for the show as a whole. Themes within the exhibition have been developed through the

involvement of film director Terry Gilliam, whose selection of a range of objects and ideas - "totemic" symbols of the 20th century and the coming millennium - have formed the starting point for each maker's piece. Selected objects have ranged from a psychiatrist's couch and test tube baby to the rocket and a toothbrush.

Automata making as a distinct crafts practice has a long and fascinating history, from the spring and wind mechanisms of the master clock and watchmakers of late eighteenth century Germany, to the penny arcades of the English seaside. It also has a relationship to kinetic art of the 20th century in the work of Alexander Calder who made and performed moving wire circus and made motor driven mobiles and also Jean Tinguely whose 'metamatics' were robots combining sound, movement and painting.

In Britain, Paul Spooner, Ron Fuller and Tim Hunkin have among others brought contemporary automata making to centre stage. Described by Paul Spooner as "tourists in the world of engineering", automata makers are characterised by their spirit of invention and individuality of approach and background, defying "curation" or classification through media, mechanism or iconography. The apparent simplicity of technology and the predictability of cause and effect are contradicted by a sophistication of action and anarchy of narrative, which subvert the viewer's expectations and leave them delighted, surprised, amused and disconcerted.

Automata makers in the exhibition are: Jim Bond, Sokari Douglas Camp, James Chedburn, Ron Fuller, Andy Hazell, Rachel Higgins, Joe Holman, Tim Hunkin, Hazel Jones, Tim Lewis, Keith Newstead in collaboration with Ralph Steadman, Andy Plant, Robert Race, Paul Spooner, Darcy Turner and Johnny White.

Exhibition Aims:

- To delight and inspire visitors and would be inventors.*
- To promote and contextualise the work of Britain's leading automata makers (whether they call themselves artists, craftspeople, scientists or engineers).*
- To highlight the cultural and political significance of automata*

Automata making is at once a popular and very eccentric practice which appeals to a diverse audience including home inventors and model makers, scientists and engineers as well as children and families and a more traditional art gallery audience.