

## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.00 pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors K E Edwards (Chair), G W Chin-Quee BEM (Vice Chair), L D Coley, D Evans BEM, B M A Ross, E E Seiler and Z Young.

Councillor J S Kirkham also attended.

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

### **A897 APOLOGIES**

An apology was received and approved from Councillor G F Evans (ill).

### **A898 INTERESTS**

None received.

### **A899 MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

### **A900 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.

The Committee noted that some short-term aspirations had been achieved and considered others, along with medium and longer term proposals.

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

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) Short terms aspirations to include: a review of the Committee composition to inform the wider Council Committee review; the Princess Pavilion Working party to consider and inform the site operation contractual arrangements for 2022; the Chair to liaise with the Neighbourhood Plan Stakeholders Group to develop community engagement and discussion themes from the Plan and the Falmouth Place-Shaping proposals; a changing places toilet facility be developed;
- (ii) 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;

- (iii) 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.

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

Signed: ..... Date: .....

### Introduction

This report covers the fourteen weeks since the Cultural Services Zoom committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and details the community activity that has taken place in the Library, Art Gallery and Pavilion. It will be accompanied by a brief verbal update from Youth Services at the meeting.

### Library and Information Service

- 1.1 Covid-safety measures have for the most part been relaxed in the Library except for the request to respect each other by wearing a mask and making space. The computer room is now open for every other terminal and keyboards are sanitised after use.
- 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 still considerably down which is a concern going forward.
- 1.3 In line with the Cornwall Library Service recommendation, we are ceasing to charge overdue fines for the following reasons:
  - It is the role of the library to provide free access to books and information to all regardless of an individual's means. Fines provide a barrier to the service which disproportionately hurt low-income borrowers. For many the cost, or even just the threat, of overdue fines becomes a big enough barrier to stop them engaging with the service at all.
  - There are no overdues on e-book lending. This creates an inconsistent service and an uneven playing field for those who cannot access digital services.
  - They create a stressful work environment for staff and damage the library brand.
  - Rather than encouraging timely returns, late fees can stop borrowers returning books at all, choosing instead to keep hold of the books and never return to the library.
  - Overdue fees represent relatively small pots of money. With the majority of branches, it costs more to collect the fees than the total of the fees themselves. Collectively, for the five Cornwall Council sites, it costs approx. £12,500 to collect £10,000 of charges
- 1.4 The Summer Reading Challenge themed *Wild World Heroes* was less successful than in previous years in terms of numbers of children signing up. However, the Thursday workshops run by 'Mr. Sam' and held in the Pavilion veranda throughout the

summer holiday to support the reading challenge were amazingly well attended and well received.

- 1.5 Other successful workshops held in the Library were part of the first Falmouth Book Festival. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October Robert Crowther ran a Pop-Up book workshop; Rebecca Cobb ran an illustration workshop and author Anita Sethi ran a nature writing workshop. On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Felicity Tattersall also ran an illustration workshop; Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek ran a Cornish language workshop and Craig Barr-Green ran a storytelling workshop
- 1.6 The Library also hosted a stimulating talk by Lamorna Ash and Gavin Knight discussing the way in which fishing has helped define Cornwall's culture and the challenges that are being faced by the industry today.
- 1.7 It is anticipated that Rhyme time and Storytime will be starting up again in November

## **Art Gallery:**

### **2. Supporters Scheme, donations, grant Income and awards**

- 2.1 Nothing new to report
- 2.2 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 The two current exhibitions *Henry Scott Tuke* and *Freud, Minton, Ryan: unholy trinity* contain major loans from the Tate, the Royal Academy as well as London's Guildhall and Nottingham Castle.

### **4. Exhibitions and displays**

- 4.1 The aforementioned exhibitions opened at the Art Gallery on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September respectively. Both shows were complex hangs due to the size of the paintings on loan and the exhibitions team has done a wonderful job. Visitors are very much enjoying the shows – see comments in visitor book Appendix A.
- 4.2 Both exhibitions will end on 20<sup>th</sup> November and will be replaced by a three room show *Thanks for the Apples* curated by external curators Naomi Frears and Ben Sanderson featuring artworks by Yemi Awosile, Nicolas Deshayes, Keira Freije, Georgia Gendall, Katie Schwabb, Daniel Sinsel, Caragh Thuring and Marie Toseland.

### **5. Visitor Statistics – art gallery**

- 5.1 In line with the Library we have relaxed our Covid measures except to ask visitors to respect each other's space and wear masks. The popularity of the two shows has

helped to increase our visitor numbers but they are still down on our pre-Covid visitor numbers and of course our community workshops were moved out into the open air at the Pavilion this summer.

## **6. Community and learning – art gallery/Pavilion gardens**

- 6.1 We continue to run Baby Jam and Little Fingers either on the grass or in the veranda at the Pavilion and further outreach sessions with Marlborough and Penryn ARB unit. Monday morning Make and Take has moved indoors and is now on a Thursday and have a new group that meet on Monday afternoons called *Together Art and Dancing*.
- 6.2 Baby Paint continues to be run at the Dracaena Centre where it can be run with doors open and fresh air in a more Covid-safe way.
- 6.3 As promised at 6.4 in July 2021 Director’s report a table of engagement at the Pavilion from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to date of writing is included at Appendix B. It is gratifying to find in just over six weeks that 5,500 people have had some sort of meaningful engagement with culture at the Pavilion. This figure, of course, does not include members of the public visiting the café.

## **7. Staffing, training and volunteering**

- 7.1 Volunteers are returning to the Library now and have been extremely helpful in manning visitor desks in the Art Gallery throughout the summer.
- 7.2 A&P have approached the Town Council and offered their apprentices to help restore the veranda. The Director is in conversation with Penny Phillips about this.
- 7.2 The Director will be bringing an evaluation of the self-managed team experiment in Cultural Services to the next staffing committee.
- 7.3 The Job advert and Job description for a Venue and Events Manager for the Pavilion has now been drafted and is ready to go out on 26<sup>th</sup> October. We anticipate short-listing on 17<sup>th</sup> November and interviewing on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

## **Youth Services**

- 8.1 No update available for this report but hopefully a verbal update at the meeting.

## **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 seems to have stalled and requires some fresh input from the Director.

### **Ponsharden and other Cemeteries**

11.1 This continues to be a frustrating process with two further interested parties pulling out (one because the job was too complex and one because it was too small). We are, however, continuing to pursue the piecemeal approach and are about to let the contract for the restoration of headstones in the Jewish Cemetery to Torquil McNeillage and have had encouraging negotiations with Sally Stracey Monumental Masons who have already tendered on the monuments in the Dissenters' Burying Ground but are prepared to take on more of the delivery in terms of boundary wall repairs etc We should be cognisant that there is romping construction inflation at present and it may be that we will achieve less than we envisioned two years ago when the application was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

### **Joint Marketing and Publicity**

12.1 We have been working closely with Donna Sharpe to ensure that the Pavilion and other cultural activities are comprehensively marketed.

Director of Cultural Services  
October 2021

# Appendix A:

Date	Name & Address	Comments
	Nice + Angela Jaks Falmouth e-mail	A terrific exhibition - love you.
	Julie Howe Penryn e-mail	"Fabulous" Hurray for Falmouth Art Gallery
	Matthew Baker Kingston on Thames e-mail	Really impressive - Mintan's Jamaica Village is a masterpiece
	Jenny Baxter + David Bates West Buxsich, London e-mail	Both exhibition totally engaging - well curated, thank you!
	Maven Tabor Falmouth e-mail	Brilliant!
	Jayne Kirkham e-mail	Amazing to be contacted by a friend sharing friend as you walk into the gallery lovely surprise!

Date	Name & Address	Comments
25TH SEPTEMBER TO 20TH NOVEMBER	ALICE, MINTON AND RYAN: UNHOLY TRINITY	
	MACHIE DUNDREY ROAD 8 WINDSOR CROSS BUCKS e-mail machie.machie@hotmail.com	LOVELY EXHIBITION - REALLY WIDE-RANGING AND GIVING A GREAT INSIGHT INTO ALL THE ARTIST'S WORK AND RANGE.
	Han Henderson St High St. Fordington, Dorchester. e-mail annhenderson72@gmail.com	Wonderful & enlightening exhibition. Very well explored.
	SARA ROTALACK TRILLIAN (17) e-mail	Beautiful exhibition, a wonderful collection of paintings beautifully hung.
	JANET MACKELL TRILLIAN (14) e-mail	Fabulous & exciting to see this collection of paintings here - Hooray, I'll be back often!
	42 FULLS TRILLIAN GPS e-mail	Excellent exhibition. Really enjoyed it.
	Rene Rutland St Austell PL25 5JS e-mail	What a brilliant exhibition - this gallery is a gem and always gets great beautiful art.



## Appendix B: Public engagement at Pavilion

Who	Where	When	Numbers
Sketch Club	Veranda	01/09/2021	40
The Love of Bingo	Bingo evening - Garden Room	03/09/2021	90
Agent	Dreadzone - Theatre	04/09/2021	400
Anbos Workshop	Workshop- Garden Room	06/09/2021	8
RNLI Committee	Meeting	07/09/2021	12
Breton Music group	Rehearse	08/09/2021	10
Public	Wedding party	10/09/2021	80
Church	Harbour	12/09/2021	100
Miracel Theatre group	Everyman - get in for Rehearsal	13/09/2021	12
Miracel Theatre group	Everyman	14/09/2021	12
Theatre group	Shallal AGM	14/09/2021	0
Harbour Church		15/09/2021	100
Theatre group	Everyman	15/09/2021	12
Theatre group	Everyman	16/09/2021	84
Theatre group	Everyman	17/09/2021	75
Private		18/09/2021	20
Theatre group		18/09/2021	60
Theatre group	Everyman	18/09/2021	60
The Great Big Green Day	Veranda	19/09/2021	200
Church	Harbour	19/09/2021	100
Falmouth Film Festival	Screening	20/09/2021	10
Public	Telltales	21/09/2021	25
Theatre group	Everyman	21/09/2021	84
Theatre group	Everyman	22/09/2021	20
Theatre group	Everyman	22/09/2021	60
Theatre group	Everyman	23/09/2021	70
Theatre group	Everyman	24/09/2021	84
Theatre group	Everyman	24/09/2021	75
Public	Wake	25/09/2021	30
Public	Street Party	25/09/2021	40
Theatre group	Everyman	25/09/2021	50
Theatre group	Everyman	25/09/2021	84
Private	Buffet party	26/09/2021	45
Funky Friday		27/09/2021	12
RNLI Committee Meeting	Teas coffees etc	28/09/2021	14
Falmouth Walks Group		28/09/2021	20
Aggie Folk Band	Veranda	28/09/2021	10
Inana's Kitchen	Mabon Celebration Dinner	29/09/2021	55
	FRF	02/10/2021	1500
University Group	TEVI	05/10/2021	20
Senior keep-fit group	Garden Room Teas	05/10/2021	12
Public	WAKE	06/10/2021	20
Falmouth Twinning Assoc	Coffee Morning	08/10/2021	15
FTC	Staff reception	08/10/2020	65
Swashbuckling Life Drawing	Bandstand	09/10/2020	12



Seaweed gathering	Veranda	09/10/2021	10
Christening Party	Veranda	09/10/2021	30
Reginald D Hunter	Comedy	09/10/2021	260
Church	Harbour	10/10/2021	100
Public	Repair Café	10/10/2021	50
RNLI	Committee	12/10/2021	12
Falmouth Book Festival	Dawn French - theatre	13/10/2021	320
Falmouth Book Fest	Raynor Wynn, Anita Sethi - theatre	14/10/2021	260
Band	Countryman - theatre	16/10/2021	200
Falmouth Book Fest	Nina Stibbe etc	17/10/2021	100
Church	Harbour	17/10/2021	100
Cornwall Council	Van Working Group Meeting	18/10/2021	12
FTC	Ships & Castles consultation	19/10/2021	20
Vineyard volunteers	Cleaning the woodwork	24/10/2021	20
Church	Harbour	24/10/2021	100
		TOTAL	5,501