

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee held on 15th May 2023 at 5:00 pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth TR11 2RT.

Present: Councillors K E Edwards (Chair), E. Seiler, D V Evans MBE and D Saunby CC.

In Attendance: R Gates (Falmouth Town Manager)
M Lewis (Cultural Services Director)
M Williams (Town Clerk)
M Bennett (General Administration Assistant)
K Springfield (Youth, Families and Development Manager –
Dracaena Centre – from point mentioned)

A929 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors L. Coley (work commitments) Z. Young (work commitments) and G.F. Evans (ill)

A930 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

A931 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Seiler

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A932 TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

The town manager presented his report to the Committee which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes. Further updates were offered Armed Forces Day and Tall Ships event, including additional advertising and promotion for the Tall Ships event. This was endorsed by the Committee.

Further updates were offered regarding the ongoing vandalism and maintenance of the public toilets and street furniture.

A933 CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Youth, Families and Development manager provided an overview of youth services offered by the Dracaena centre, including youth groups and detached youth work. An update was also provided on funding and grant applications and awards.

Further an update was provided on the proposed 2024 Youth festival of creative arts for 11 – 18-year-olds. There is hope that this will become an annual event offered in partnership with Falmouth Art Gallery, Falmouth University and the Cornish Bank.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor D V Evans and

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Council supports the 2024 Youth Festival and offers in-kind assistance as appropriate.

The Cultural Services Director presented part 1 report, including a further update on The King Arthur Exhibition, which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

A934 SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PLANS

SHORT TERM

- Changing Places toilets – ongoing – council to fund additional costings,
- Passmore Edwards – ongoing,
- Arthur Exhibition – ongoing.

MEDIUM TERM

- Murals and Street Art,
- Further Staffing establishment rationalisation and succession planning.

LONG TERM

- Layout of Municipal Buildings,
- Public art on Prince of Wales Pier,
- Municipal Building redevelopment,
- Museum to consider MEND funding 2024.

A935 INCOME GENERATORS

It was agreed that the following matters be considered:

- Sales of public artwork in public spaces e.g., Princess Pavilions,
- Printing of Event posters to sell,
- Art Society Annual Exhibition – used to be in the Methodist Church, then in the Poly which was expensive (40% inclusive of VAT)
- Falmouth branded merchandise, begin with Art Gallery and expand to Princess Pavilions,
- Redistribute items like postcards to other venues e.g., Princess Pavilions and Information Services front desk,
- Use of rooms in the Municipal Building for community group hire,
- Reconfigure the research offer charge for staff time.

A936 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Seiler and

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of contractual matters and personal information, it is advisable, in the public interest that the press and public, be excluded from the meeting.



Town Management Events to Cultural Services 15/05/23

Events

Town Clean

- Whilst this is not an event as such I wanted to highlight as it was a very positive and well received initiative, Karen Hall organised it and it was great that so staff from across various depts as well as Cllrs were involved. Karen is planning to do more in the future.

Mayor's Civic Service & Parade

- The parade all went to plan and there were no incidents. Fortunately, everyone attending managed to dodge the heavy downpour so that worked out well.

Falmouth Pride

- This is an event not organised by us but always well received through the streets of Falmouth and kicks off the Falmouth Pride annual calendar of events across Cornwall.

Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival 16/17/18th June

- As I mentioned on the last report this event has gone through a huge change behind the scenes, but it is now coming together well. We have confirmed 78 groups performing across the 28 venues. This is one of the most complicated events to organise due to so many factors. SW Bars & Events are taking over the commercial aspect, but this is very much a transitional year.

- We have the most venues ever requiring PA and sound engineers, but this is a good thing as the quality of the event and the groups continues to improve and become more professional while still keeping the ethos of shanties.
- I am sure you have all attended before but if by chance you have not it is certainly one not to miss.

Armed Forces Day/Weekend 23/24/25th June (Main day Sat 24th June)

- There will be public comms about this event from Cornwall Council in the very near future explaining everything that is taking place. I will explain more in person at the meeting for the various elements.

Falmouth Week 4th-12th August

- This is all on track with all elements following a similar pattern to 2022 apart from no flying display as I have discussed before.
- Still a large amount to do but that is not surprising with June's events nearly upon us as well as Tall Ships.
- Pink Wig will start the week off, followed by the Carnival and the Sailing. The Monday will have 'The Lightning Seeds' performing moving through the week to the fireworks on the Friday night.

Tall Ships 15/16/17/18th August

- Pleased to say that the Mexican ship Cuauhtemoc is confirmed for the event. This is a Mexican naval ship and a real spectacle, when they arrive in port. This gives five Class A ships which was the target to achieve. Whilst we will have much less ships overall than in 2014 we will have more of the Class A which is what people come to see.
- With such a big year of so many things going on there is still a huge amount of work to do for this event. We are where possible replicating work that Cornwall Council is doing for AFD for Tall Ships so this helps with the workload.
- There will be a printed programme that will help with revenue and this is linked with Fal River.



Town Management Events to Cultural Services 15/05/23

- Ticket sales continue to tick along, we now have bus stop posters installed in available spaces where Fernbank have room. Currently there is a prominent one for example on Dracaena.
- www.falmouth.co.uk/tallships for the full details as it keeps developing.

Part One

Visitor figures Jan-Mar 2023

Gallery

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total Onsite	1723	1979	2205
Adults	63	185	235
CYP	164	167	343
Unknown(Clicker)	1496	1627	1627

Library

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total Onsite	7504	7919	No data*

*New counting system being introduced by Cornwall Libraries

Gallery Visitor Figure totals

There was a year-on-year increase of 54% in visitors to the Gallery, up from 19,262 in April 2021-March 2022, to 29,570 in April 2022-March 2023. This is broadly consistent with national trends which have seen figures recovering to 78% of pre-pandemic figures; the gallery has so far recovered to 68% of its pre-pandemic attendance levels. It is hoped that this upward trend will continue with the increase in public programming and exhibitions over the summer.

Current exhibitions

Unfamiliar Territory is running from 11th February to 1st June, and is curated by the Collections Assistant. It brings together artists of local importance from the 20th and 21st centuries who have been inspired by Cornwall's diverse and changing landscapes to create works that show it in unusual and innovative ways. It explores how Cornwall's iconic landscapes have evolved over the years and how artists have responded to them.

The Stroke Club who meet monthly at the Gallery have curated show which draws together work they have created during and since the pandemic, which responds to artworks held in the permanent collection. Having branched out from supporting solely stroke survivors, the group spans different experiences of illness and participants have researched artists with similar experience of illness and how it is reflected in their art. The exhibition will run in the entrance gallery from 4th February to 4th June.

The Community Quilt exhibition - 'It Takes a Village' is the culmination of the FTC funded project led by artist Jessica Voke who invited the community to help slow-stich a patchwork rainbow quilt. This collaborative textile project took place across the course of five days in January 2023 at The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, inviting the entire community to sit and work side by side to heal the trauma of the many months of obligatory isolation experienced during the national lockdowns with a focus on lockdown mums. This is the first time the finished quilt has been displayed and the exhibition also features photography, poems and other collaborative artworks created during the event. The quilt is on display in the community gallery until 22nd May.

Staff activity (additional to routine events)

International Women's Day

The Learning and Engagement manager and our trainee curator delivered an excellent event for International Women's Day, in the form of a four-day festival called *Benow* (Cornish for Feminine) at the start of March. It included a film screening, creative workshops and a yoga session in the gallery, among other activities. Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive:

How enjoyable were the sessions you took part in?

11 people (80%), very enjoyable
3 people (20%), enjoyable

Would you attend the Festival again in the future?

14 people (100%), yes

How do you think the festival could be improved?

'It was just perfect'

How do you think the Festival affected your life?

'It helped me connect with new people', 12 people agreed (85%)

'It helped me feel less isolated', 5 people agreed

'It helped me reflect on aspects of my femininity and/or womanhood', 4 people agreed

Other comments

'I loved to start my weekend with the yoga session with Aylin which was amazing, and the breakfast from Nude was delicious. My kids really enjoyed the creative workshop with Eve and the storytelling with Jo! Such a beautiful day and a great event! We'll definitely come again!

Library Events

The Passmore Edwards bicentenary event was very well attended, with 70 people attending a talk and cream tea in the Library and council chamber on 29th March.

Around 30 people attended a performance in the Library by Shallal on Friday 28th April. Coming up there is a workshop and performance for 2 school groups arranged by Cornwall Libraries in conjunction with Hall for Cornwall and Ed Rowe and also a special storytime for children with author and illustrator Alexandra Fowler.