

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee held on 24th March 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth TR11 2RT.

Present: Councillors E E Seiler (Chair) L D Coley (Vice Chair), D V Evans BEM, T M Pearce, J M Spargo and Z Young

Also present: Councillor D W Saunby CC

Attendance:	A M Williams	(Town Clerk)
	R J Gates	(Town Manager)
	M Lewis	(Cultural Services Director)
	M C Palmer-Williams	(General Manager, Princess Pavilion)
	H Attree	(Administrative Assistant)

The Chair reminded attendees that the Council had committed to the Civility and Respect Pledge, that is to treat everyone participating in the meeting tonight with civility and respect in their roles. For us respect is treating others with dignity, recognizing boundaries, being non-judgmental and accepting of differences. Behaviour breaching that commitment will not be tolerated. In dealing with the business of the meeting we will adhere to our agenda and the processes set out in our Standing Orders. Please be aware that the meeting is a public one and there may be recordings of your participation.

A1026 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved for Councillors G F Evans (family matter) and Konik (child care).

A1027 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

A1028 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Coley, seconded by Councillor D V Evans and

RESOLVED that the Part I minutes of meeting held on 15th January 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A1029 TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The Town Manager presented his report and responded to questions regarding Falmouth Week logistics and acts. The report was noted and forms part of these minutes.

A1030 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Cultural Services Director presented her report and responded to questions. The report was noted and forms part of these minutes.

A1031 PRINCESS PAVILION REPORT

The Princess Pavilion General Manager updated the Committee on Princess Pavilion matters including the works currently being undertaken under the Community Ownership Fund. He responded to questions and would prepare a report for the new Council of remaining necessary and desirable site capital works. He confirmed that the café and community space were operated as required by the Council. Later licensing hours would not be in the spirit of the agreements with local residents. The report was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

A1032 CORNWALL LEISURE STRATEGY

The Chair reported upon the constructive meeting with Cornwall Council's Leisure Manager and Pendennis Leisure CIO. Cornwall Council recognised the need for swimming provision in Falmouth and that the Playing Pitch Strategy could be more effective. He was supportive of revisiting the FPM assessment parameters in the County Leisure Framework and the heatmap. The report was noted.

A1033 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Coley, 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 report to Cultural Services 24/03/25

Events

St Piran's Day

This all went well moving through the town despite the roadworks taking place. Thank you to Hayley and Adele for overseeing this working with 4x4/security and the police and everyone taking part in the parade.

St Nazaire

This had been one of the largest turnouts I think we have ever had which is great. The weather helped but it was still chilly. There was a concern a few years ago that events such as this will reduce in numbers as veterans sadly pass away. That has certainly not been the case and it even included forty students from St Nazaire that made the trip across the channel which shows an excellent commitment and interest.

VE Day

We are working closely with Pendennis Castle and more details will be made public next month once all confirmed for the event on the 8th May. There will be the flag raising and service in Kimberley Park in the morning.

As I have mentioned previously this is during new Cllr inductions and just after the elections, but we hope returning councillors and new ones are able to attend. There will be a beacon lighting in the evening across the country.

Shanty detail/ Fundraiser

The fundraiser at the museum was a great success and there was at least another 100 people who wanted to purchase tickets. The popularity of shanties just goes from strength to strength.

We have now closed submissions for groups to the main shanty festival due to so much demand and capping the limit, it remains over 80 groups which is significant but manageable. We will have the most Breton groups who have visited in one year, there is also a group



Town Management report to Cultural Services 24/03/25

attending from the Orkney Islands, a group from Ipswich who are cycling the whole way here before performing!!! and many many more.

Falmouth Week

You may have seen that announcements for the evening entertainment have now started, this is much earlier than in previous years to give people more time to plan and also to phase when they are purchasing their tickets (ie not in just 2/3 months).

We are waiting on confirmation of the air display and should know soon

Princess Pavilion

Obviously, you will have the report from the PP via Chas but I just wanted to highlight the excellent coordinated approach from Chas and the team and also Ruth Thomas/Karen Hall/Andy Medlin for the COF (Community Ownership Fund) Funding. This is not an easy thing to do/apply/implement and ensure it stays on track and we get the best possible outcomes for the PP and the longer term.

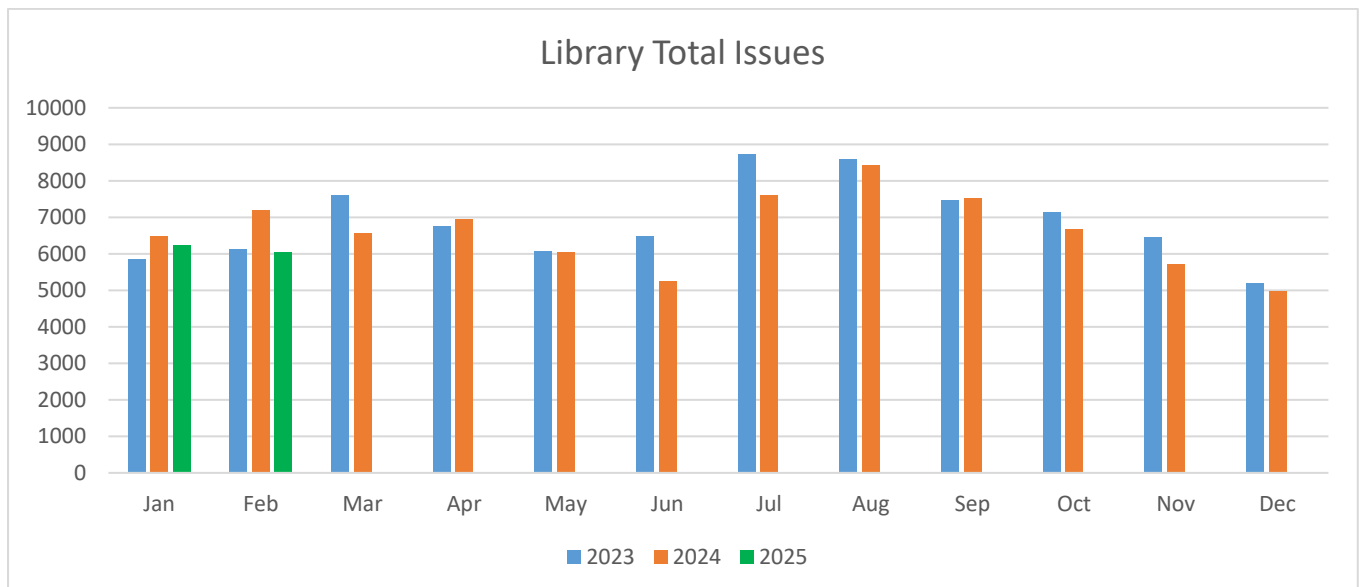
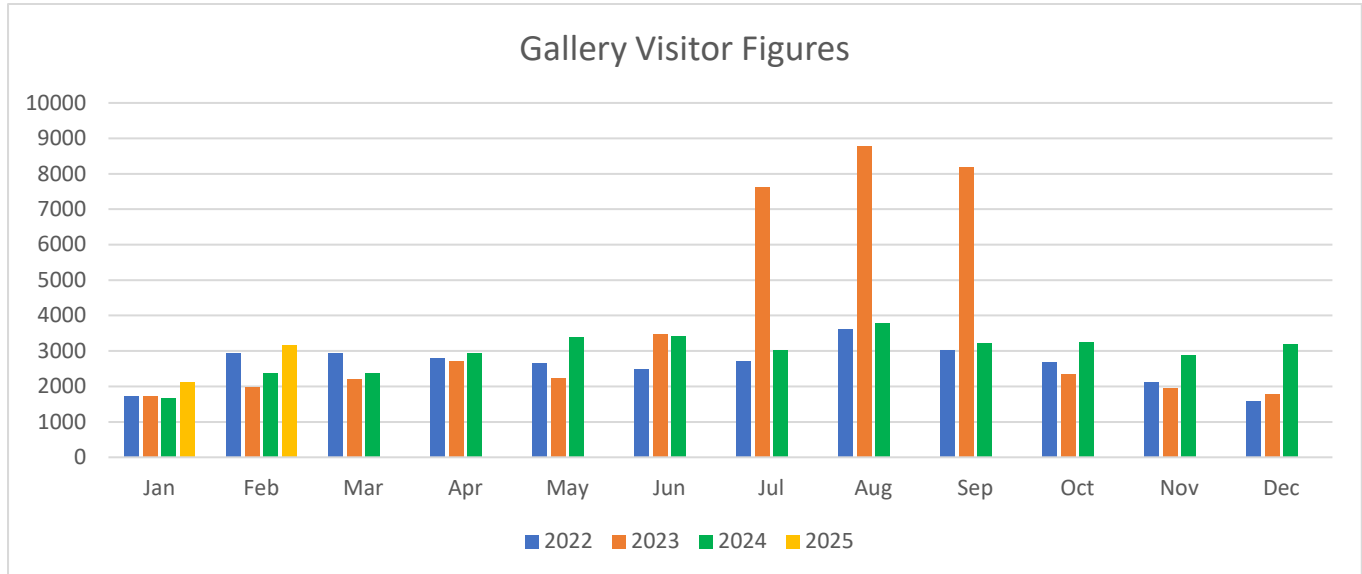
I am extremely proud of what we are all collectively achieving in what would have been private residences of some form if we didn't take it on and it would be lost forever.

Yes, there are challenges/learnings and difference of opinions, but I would personally like to thank the council/councillors and our staff for continue to develop this community asset.



Cultural Services Report – 24th March 2025

Part 1



NB Reporting in 2025-26 will follow financial years, and Library reporting will cover footfall instead of total issues to better reflect the wide variety of purposes for library visits (eg. browsing, computers, children's activities, workspace)

Activity Report

- The advert is now out for a 15 hour marketing officer role for Cultural Services, which closes on 23rd March. The role will enhance the marketing provision of Cultural Services, which until now has been spread ad hoc across the team.

- The Gallery's annual *Benow* festival, coinciding with International Women's Day was a success, with this year's theme of Women and Craft. The Gallery welcomed several practitioners to run workshops in basketry, brush-making, lino printing and plaster casting among others, alongside free children's workshops and a round table discussion. In all 203 people participated in the festival.
- The Gallery's February half-term activities were popular, with 157 children and parents/caregivers participating.
- Both the Library and Art Gallery have seen a flurry of school visits in the past couple of months, with all but one local schools participating in the Gallery's new Early Years offer, and multiple class visits to the library with more scheduled. The senior Library Assistant is also visiting several of the local nurseries and pre-schools, with return visits to the library also planned.
- The Gallery has also welcomed several Falmouth University department study visits, including Illustration, Costume Design, Photography, and Art Foundation. The Visitor Services Manager is also continuing to work with the Sustainable Product Design in creating prototype products for the Gallery shop.
- The CS Director and Learning Manager have secured £1950 of funding from Art Fund to participate in community activity around [The Herds](#) project. *The Herds* journeys with life-size animal puppets 20,000km from the Congo Basin to the Arctic Circle, with community artistic performances and initiatives along the way to raise awareness of the climate crisis. Our activity will take place between May and June of this year.
- The Gallery's CMS (Collections Management System) project is reaching its conclusion, with due diligence concluded and an order raised for the appointed supplier, Axiell. This project is being kindly supported by Arts Council England.
- An access audit of the Municipal Building has been completed by Access Cornwall, which highlighted areas of strength and improvement. The CS Director can share the contents of this report with councillors on request.

Upcoming and current events & exhibitions

16th January – 21st June	Exhibition – Collections Display update	Rotating display of the Gallery's permanent collection
1st February – 10th May	Exhibition - Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize	Touring exhibition showcasing exemplary drawing practice in the UK.
Mondays 24th February – 31st March, 6-7 pm	Moving Marks Taster Session (Gallery)	Come and shake off the winter blues by expressing your creativity, finding joy in moving your body, and connecting with others!
24th March – 5th April	Exhibition – Community Gallery: Year 2 Photography Student Display	A selection of work from Falmouth University Students.
7th – 19th April	Easter Holiday Crafts - times & dates TBC (Library & Gallery)	Easter hat & zine making in Library; Gallery TBC

4th April & 2nd May	Monthly drop-in collections talk	A free 30 minute talk by the Gallery's Collections Manager on a feature of the permanent collection
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Objective Setting

Short, Medium and Long Term Planning				
	Objective	Date for completion	Progress	Notes
Short Term - next 12 months	Develop a Cultural Strategy	15.01.2025		Completed but will be submitted to new Council post-May
	Meeting room for community use	30.08.2024		Reviewed and original room unsuitable due to server equipment; focus now is on Library computer room
Medium Term 2-4 years	Building redevelopment	30.09.2025		Changes to be made to Library layout May-Sept 2025 - plan to be funded from cost savings in facilities/CS budgets but may need to make request to general reserves.
Long Term 5+ years	Reconfiguring layout of Municipal buildings			Start to coincide with 50th anniversary of Gallery opening in MB in 2028; Assess feasibility of Museum service
	Large public art / multi-media installation at Prince of Wales Pier			Consider Automata civic art piece for public display

Decision required: To review progress and note the report.

Cultural Services Report Princess Pavillion

Friday 14TH MARCH 2025

Chas Palmer-Williams, General Manager

Summary:

We are seeing an increased usage of the Pavilion from the local community that include a rise in home schooling, community theatre, mental health wellness groups amongst others.

Upcoming events (not including community groups) :

14th March Arts society lecture

14th March Willie and The Bandits

16th March Cornwall Hospice Care Run

17th – 25th March Spring Flower Show

25th March Tell Tales Story time

27th March Golden Gloves Boxing

28th March Ferocious dog

29th March Jam First Big band

Community Ownership Fund:

The C.O.F upgrades are now complete, with only reporting to finalise

- Theatre low carbon heating system installed; heating/cooling improved with reduced environmental impact.
- New doors installed to garden community space improving insulation and security
- Power distribution and replacement cabling work across site
- New superior L.E.D lights and control desk installed reducing electric usage and improving live performances
- Sound desks upgraded from of date analogue systems. Replaced with digital systems.
- Theatre curtains treated and replaced.
- Craning in and purchase of shipping container to extend needed storage space
- Replacement theatre chairs with grid system allowing for a new seating plan with 2 additional chairs per row increasing the return on investment
- Solar panels and batteries installed and generating power

Cont.

Staffing:

- We did not find a suitable candidate for the marketing officer and as this is such an important role this will be advertised again.
- We interview for the replacement chef role W.C. 17th as a chef has left.

2024 Statistics

- Organised and hosted 1022 events and community groups last year
- We saw 63,173 guests last year at events and community groups
- We hosted 90 shows in the theatre, with a combined total of 20,213 guests
- There were 774 community-focused or charity events, with 20,690 people attending
- We celebrated 10 weddings
- 1,494 guests attended corporate conferences and events

Future events and what's on:

https://www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk/events?action=search_events&em_search=&category=16

Regular community groups:

<https://www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk/princesspavilion/community-groups-2>