

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee held on 18th March 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth TR11 2RT.

Present: Councillors E Seiler (Chair) L D Coley (Vice Chair), K J Edwards, D V Evans BEM and G F Evans MBE.

Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
M Lewis (Cultural Services Director)
M C Palmer-Williams (General Manager, Princess Pavilion)
M F Bennett (Administrative Assistant)

A982 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Chin-Quee (ill) and Spargo (Family Matter).

A983 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

A984 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor G F Evans and

RESOLVED that the part I minutes of meeting held on 22nd January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A985 TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The Town Clerk presented the Town Manager report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

A986 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Cultural Services Director presented her Part I report. She reported further in regard to rationalisation of library IT provision, The Legend of King Arthur Exhibition, strategic planning, and future museum opportunities. The report was duly noted, and the Director congratulated on the recent award success of the Exhibition.

A987 PRINCESS PAVILION REPORT

The General Manager, Princess Pavilion presented his report which was duly noted. He reported further in regard to café refurbishment, recent recruitments, and food sourcing review.

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the proposed resident discount for Princess Pavilion users be referred for consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

A988 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor G F Evans 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 18/03/24

A brief report as my focus at this time of year is on many unrelated topics, detail which was on the main full council report.

Events

- St Piran's Day parade

There was a great turnout from the primary schools, and this is thanks to Vicki Ferguson's efforts. As per usual we coordinated the 4x4 vehicles, street closure and marshals.

- Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival

Planning is well underway for this with all groups now confirmed and venues virtually all confirmed.

As I have mentioned in the past this is a major logistical operation to ensure everything comes together in a professional and well organised manner.

The festival will be using the pavilion again and while details are being still worked on, it is likely the usage will be increased on top of the 'Gala Concert' over the weekend. The use of Kimberley Park is also being looked into to utilize the stage. If this is used, then a 'TENS' license will be implemented to use a mobile bar within the park including a few food traders. This will of course link up with the existing regular trader to ensure it works for everyone.

- Falmouth Week

Work has started on this and planning will develop more next month including evening entertainment in Church Street car park. Pink Wig, Carnival, Falmouth Fun Day and the Fireworks will all return as well as the various sailing activities on the water.

- Work experience

The Town Team and the Art Gallery recently hosted Sarasa for work experience over a couple of weeks. Sarasa is from Japan and this was her first visit to the UK, she was very

engaging, polite and keen to learn about different aspects of the area, council, culture and Falmouth generally.



Cultural Services Report – 18th March 2024

Part 1

Visitor Figures - Gallery	Jan	Feb	User Figures - Library	Jan	Feb
Total Onsite	1958	1788	Total Issues	6515	7194
Adults	48	8	New borrowers	92	134
CYP	160	104	Public Network Usage (Computers)	495	413
Unknown (clicker)	1750	1676			

- **Image Delivery**

Following the resolution by CS&L last year to mothball the image delivery facility, the three printers were inspected and declared obsolete by Booths printers in Penryn. Booths also very helpfully removed the equipment from the library, which they will be recycling usable parts of as an in-kind recouping of the disposal cost. This has enabled CS to avoid weighty recycling charges and benefited a local business. The former work room will be returned to staff use and enable further reconfiguration of library facilities.

Decision required: To note the report

- **Barclays in the Community**

Barclays Bank now have a community presence in the library three days a week, and initial figures indicate that there is much greater uptake of the service than at its previous location at the Maritime Museum.

Decision required: To note the report

- **Exhibitions**

- Opening on 2nd March will be *Walking Women*, which serves as a complementary exhibition to *Chosen Terrain*, and examines the relationship between walking and artists’ creative practice.
- From 20th April local artist Jamie Medlin will have a two- room retrospective show exhibiting his technique photo-realist painting, with works from private lenders and his own collection. This will run through until the end of June, and therefore coincide with the Falmouth Classics event in mid-June.
- Attached is the final report from the King Arthur exhibition which will be circulated to lenders and funders. Please speak to the Director if you require an electronic version of the document, as there is a clickable link embedded which links to footage of the show taken to document it.

Decision required: To note the report

- **Staff activity (additional to routine events)**

Benow Festival

At time of writing staff are working to deliver on the programme for this year’s *Benow* (Cornish for ‘feminine’) festival which runs from 7th – 9th March, and coincides with International Women’s Day on 8th March. This year’s theme is *Women Making a Noise*, which explores music, soundscapes

Dementia Café Project

The Access & Interpretation Manager has been working with a researcher at the university and Dementia Cafés in Falmouth and Wadebridge to understand the impact of engaging with automata as a therapeutic tool for people living with dementia. This forms part of a larger body of work involving several other Museums and Galleries, a legacy project from Cornwall Museums Partnership.

Cornwall Heritage Awards Nomination

The *Legend of King Arthur – A PreRaphaelite Love Story* Exhibition, was nominated for the *Best Exhibition* category at the Cornwall Heritage Awards, which was held on the 19th February. Unfortunately it didn't win, but received a *Highly Commended* certificate.

King Arthur Final Report

A final report for lenders and funders has been produced providing a summary of the impact of the *King Arthur* exhibition (attached). Please contact the Director if you wish to view the footage referenced therein.

Decision Required: To note the report

- **Objective Setting**

Short, Medium and Long Term Planning				
	Objective	Date for completion	Progress	Notes
Short Term	Develop a Cultural Strategy	31.05.2024		Adding in accreditation requirements has taken more time; aim for submit for June's CS&L meeting
	Meeting room for community use	30.08.2024		Several dependencies mean other space needs to be freed up before meeting room can be cleared; this has started with clearing of the image delivery room
	Submit MEND Application Expression of Interest	18.04.2024		First round EoI is open, CS Director and OPO staff are compiling the application.
	Well-being champions	18.03.2024		Decision required; Is this a strategic priority?
Medium Term	Building redevelopment – MEND			This objective is subject to progression of EoI to second round, and success of full application; completion date is for speculative start of building works
Long Term	Reconfiguring layout of Municipal buildings			Aim for project start to coincide with 50th anniversary of Gallery opening in MB in 2028.
	Large public art / multi-media installation at Prince of Wales Pier			No update.

Decision required: To review progress and approve the report.



**Princess Pavilion Cultural services update
18th March 2024**

We are now we are competing year on year with our own team's performance from 2023.

We have seen a quiet January which is the norm for hospitality and live music, but with a strong February, we have matched our takings from last year and exceeded them.

I will be able to report in further detail when the I and E for Feb is sent over from finance at the start of next month.

We are currently working on the following to be launched together:

- suitable uniform guidance that works with the Pavilion brand.
- refreshed menu for 2024
- 10 percent locals discount card launch
- Café re-furb.
- Marketing to support the above
- Mailing list (to always include feedback option)

Our team is starting to see more music/comedy/theatre agents working with the Pavilion, which will gradually increase the amount of exciting and established acts playing the Pavilion as the Pavilions reputation grows over the course of this and next year.

2024 is looking healthy and we have a good number of bookings and we now have bookings in place for 2025

Please see attached feedback cards (you may have seen some of these already, but I thought I'd share digitally as there are a few more) and an email below from a couple who got married here:

Princess Pavilions.

I love this place; it's always been a part of my life in Falmouth. I remember Christmas pantos, school plays, big gigs and the famous beer festival all being highlights throughout my time living here. This year I was lucky enough to get married here as well, and it was the best day of my life.

I feel like the gardens and pavilions are an odd one out in Falmouth's rich history of extortion and piracy. It was built philanthropically and has served the town as a venue for over 100 years. Generations of people have looked after it and poured their love into it and I think you can really feel that as you walk around.

Over the last couple of years a new lease of life has been released into the Princess Pavilions by a new generation and, in my opinion, they have surpassed all expectations. Any time I talk to people about it they comment on how its looks better and better each time they walk through. There is a new hustle and bustle to the place that's hard to miss and all the staff look happy and busy. The buildings and gardens look the best that they have in my lifetime and playing host to all the projects, events and fairs is turning it into the community hub that Falmouth always needed.

My wife and I would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for making our day so special. Everyone involved was incredible and created a relaxed, professional backdrop to the carnage of our happy day. Allannah and Tom went above and beyond in preparing and organizing for us and the whole team are fantastic. You guys rock.

I would also like to thank Falmouth for having its community's venue closed for these private events like my wedding and others. The Pavilions is doing more and more for the town and is making itself indispensable to us, but it is just the perfect place for any event and now has a team that could pull off anything to the highest of standards. If you haven't made it down for an event, community project or just a cuppa recently, I highly recommend it. They are up to exciting things and deserve all the help and praise they can get.

Getting the balance between so many different functions is a tricky act. The thing I am most proud about has to be everything the Pavilions team is doing for the community but in having the privilege of getting married here you has made a grotty little Falmouth boy very happy.