FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee held on 13th November 2024 at 6:00 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, D A Konik, T M Pearce, J M Spargo and Z Young

Also present: Councillor D W Saunby CC

Attendance:	A M Williams	(Town Clerk)
	M Palmer-Williams	(General Manager, Princess Pavilion)
	V Rogers	(Administrative Officer)
	H Attree	(Administration 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.

A1006 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and approved from Councillors G F Evans (trustee meeting).

A1007 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

A1008 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the Part I minutes of meeting held on 11th September 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A1008 TOWN MANAGER REPORT

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

A1009 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Town Clerk presented the Cultural Services Director's Part I report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

The Committee noted the positive feedback that had been received regarding the planned talks in the Art Gallery.

A1010 PRINCESS PAVILION REPORT

The General Manager, Princess Pavilion presented his Part I report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

The General Manager further updated members on the Community Ownership Fund improvements including flooring which would need to maintain the existing character whilst having longevity, which he would update Committee members on. He also further reported upon staffing and recruitment matters and current policy regarding uniform.

A1011 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Spargo, seconded by Councillor Young 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.



Events

• Remembrance Sunday

This is all planned and in place for the Sunday. The usual with security, 4x4, Coast Medic and town council staff. The parade will move through the lower end of the park and Richard's Builders will be clearing a safe path through the works with crowd barriers destinating the route.

• St Michaels Oyster Weekend

As there is no main Oyster Festival taking place this year as mentioned on the previous report there will however be an event at St Michael's Resort, further details below:

St Michaels have sponsored the Falmouth Oyster Festival for over 20 years. It's a key event in Falmouth's community and a tradition that runs deep in the local area. Expect live music from the Oggymen, Will Keating, Soul Sensations, the Military Wives Choir and many more as well as foodie demonstrations from esteemed chefs Jude Kereama, James Strawbridge, Hylton Espey and more.

Entry will be free until 6pm, with evening tickets available to purchase in advance or on the door for a £2 contribution to charity.

• Christmas Lights Switch-On 28th Nov

On Thursday 28th November, the streets of Falmouth will fill with festive fun at this years Christmas Light Switch-On event!

The evening will begin with a performance by Sing Choir on The Moor stage while the parade, led by Kernow Pipes and Drums, makes it's way through town from Events Square.

Compered by Neil and Saffy from Hits Radio Cornwall, expect performances from five local schools while tucking into your churros and hot drinks.



The person nominated to switch-on the Christmas lights will push the plunger and illuminate Falmouth at 7pm. Rock Choir will be rounding off the evening with an energetic performance to get everyone singing along.

• Christmas Tree Festival 1st Dec -2nd Jan

The grand switch-on event for the Falmouth Christmas Tree Festival, kindly sponsored by <u>A&P Falmouth</u>, takes places on Sunday 1st December with plenty of festive celebrations. There will be evening entertainment and Christmas themed refreshments available.

Community groups from in and around Falmouth will each decorate a tree with a chosen theme.

The 'Tree of Wishes' will again be available for people to remember loved ones or make a wish for the future. All donations will go to a nominated charity.

The trees will be open to view until the 2nd January so if you can't make the grand switch on, make sure you find time to appreciate this spectacle.

• The Poly's Christmas Market 6th-8th Dec

At The Poly you will find a selection of unique crafts created by local people, giving you the chance to find that perfect gift. So come along and soak up the atmosphere in our beautiful Grade II Listed building and combine your shopping trip with some warming refreshments in Uppe cafe.

The Poly's Christmas Market 2024 Friday 6th December, 11am to 5pm Saturday 7th December. 10am to 5pm Sunday 8th December, 11am to 4pm

• Falmouth's Festive Weekend 7th & 8th Dec

Attached is the detailed flyer including the wide variety of activities that we have planned throughout the town.



What's On Mare! FALMOUTH'S SAT 7TH - SUN 8TH **DEC 2024 11AM - 5PM THROUGHOUT FALMOUTH** Events Square The Moor SNOW GLOBE - £2PP **ARTIFICIAL ICE RINK - £2PP** Family fun in the snow globe photo attraction! An extremely popular attraction that's great fun for the whole family! FUN CHILDREN'S RIDES - £1PP Have a go on the children's vintage rides! CURLING LANE - £2PP MIRACLE THEATRE'S REAL FATHER Try out this great attraction for some laid back CHRISTMAS - FREE (SAT ONLY) fun and friendly competition! Donate a gift to a family in need and CHRISTMAS MARKET MARQUEE - FREE share your Christmas list with Santa. A wide variety of local traders selling **FALMOUTH MARKET - FREE** their handcrafted wares! Come and visit the market and stock up on SANTA'S GROTTO - £2PP (12PM-3PM) locally produced gifts for family and friends. Father Christmas will be making a special trip LIVE MUSIC STAGE - FREE to Falmouth this year in time for the Festive Come and watch Falmouth's fantastic Weekend! performers sing your favourite carols. NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM **FALMOUTH ART GALLERY - FREE CORNWALL - FREE** (SAT ONLY 10AM-4PM) Explore the NMMC with free entry over Enjoy mince pies, self-led card crafting and Falmouth's Festive Weekend. family workshops. Gallery shop will be open!

Through Jown

SNOWY STREETS - FREE Head to Church Street for some wintry fun! THE FESTIVE LAND TRAIN - £2PP Stopping at The Moor and Events Square, all aboard for Christmas cheer!

Business Improvement District (BID)

THE POLY MARKET - FREE A weekend full of beautiful crafts and festive cheer!

CASH & CARD PAYMENTS AVAILABLE, £4 MINIMUM CARD SPEND FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT FALMOUTH.CO.UK





• Christmas production at the Pavilion 14th Dec – 4th Jan

The nights are long; the winter wind rattles the windows; outside the moon glints on the frozen puddles. Time to stoke up the fire, huddle round the comforting flames, sing some songs and enjoy a gripping story of foolishness and greed, magic and morality. Miracle Theatre is excited to bring you *Duffy and the Stiltskin* – a new take on an ancient Cornish folk tale. Told with the company's trademark blend of comedy, music, physical theatre and sharp writing, the show follows the young Duffy on a fantastical adventure, through which she learns the surprising fact that life can sometimes be too easy, and some offers are too good to be true!

Gather round for a spellbinding story, with huge heart, full of fun and delight for all ages.

Approx running time: 2 hours including interval

• Fire Stations' Christmas Grotto 15th-16th Dec

Falmouth Fire Station is set to transform into a festive wonderland on the 15th & 16th December, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm, as it hosts a magical Drive-Through Christmas Grotto. This unique event promises to bring joy and festive spirit to the community, all while supporting a noble cause.

Santa Claus himself is flying in specially to hand out small gifts to the little ones and wish them a very merry Christmas. Families can drive through the beautifully decorated station grounds, experiencing the enchanting sights and sounds of Christmas, all from the comfort of their cars.

This festive event aims to raise funds for The Firefighters Charity, supporting the brave men and women who dedicate their lives to keeping our community safe. Attendees are encouraged to contribute to this worthy cause, ensuring that the spirit of giving extends beyond the festive season.

Join them on 15th & 16th December for an evening filled with holiday magic, goodwill, and the spirit of giving.

Falmouth Fire Station is located on Trescobeas Road, and the event runs from 4:30 to 7:30 pm.



• Cornish Cinema Club at Pendennis Community Centre 19th-22nd Dec

Join us at Pendennis Community Centre for a magical experience featuring a selection of festive films for all ages. Whether you're looking to relive your favourite Christmas classics or discover new holiday favourites, there's something for everyone. Bring your family, friends, and loved ones to this unique outdoor movie experience, where you can enjoy the festive atmosphere from the comfort of your car. Snuggle up with blankets, sip on hot chocolate, and enjoy the twinkling lights as you get into the Christmas spirit.

Movies will be shown on our state-of-the-art LED screen spanning an impressive 8 meters in width and 4 meters in height, creating a visually stunning display that's hard to miss. With its expansive size, the all weather screen provides crystal-clear resolution and vibrant colours in breathtaking clarity.

Thursday 19th Dec

16:30 The Santa Clause (1994) 19:30 Home Alone 1 Friday 20th Dec 16:30 How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) 19:30 Home Alone 2 Saturday 21st December 13:30 Arthur Christmas 16:30 Elf 19:30 The Holiday Sunday 22nd December 13:30 Polar Express 16:30 Elf 19:30 Love Actually

• Harmony Choir 24th Dec

The Falmouth Harmony Choir will once again fill the streets of Falmouth with festive song as they have done for over 100 years.

On Tuesday 24th December, choirs from across Cornwall will congregate near Five's Cyderhouse, Grove Place, Falmouth before leaving at approximately 10.30am, making their way through town, charming the crowds with their Cornish songs and carols, before finishing at The Moor at around 1pm.

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

Also present: Councillors J Robinson and D Saunby CC

Attendance:	R Gates	(Town Manager)	
	M Lewis	(Cultural Services Director)	
	M Palmer-Williams	(General Manager, Princess Pavilion)	
	V Rogers	(Administrative Officer)	

A998 <u>APOLOGIES</u>

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Edwards (carers leave) and G F Evans (trustee meeting).

A999 <u>INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u> None received.

A1000 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of meeting held on 12th June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A1001 TOWN MANAGER REPORT

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

The Town Manager further reported on a proposed Oyster Festival day at the St Michaels Hotel on 15th November 2024 and that the organisers of the event were in discussion with the Princess Pavilion for future Oyster Festival events.

A1002 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Cultural Services Director presented her Part I report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

The Committee praised the new signage on the Municipal Building.

A1002 PRINCESS PAVILION REPORT

The General Manager, Princess Pavilion presented his report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

A1003 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Seiler, seconded by Councillor D 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.



Events

• Sea Sunday

This worked well through the town to the church and then returning. This was Hayley's in the Town Team's first experience at overseeing the road closure and safety aspects. I am always looking to develop staff skillsets and Hayley did very well. There will be more of this in the future as I am busy with various other aspects. People often forget the safety and planning that is required to enable these functions and events to take place.

• Falmouth Week

We had much better feedback from the Moor activities this year and there was more going on, on more days. Also, the children's workshops and Action Sports Tour that took place on Events Square were well received.

The Pink Wig started the week off well with circa 1300 women in pink wigs and thousands raise for the breast cancer treatment centre at Treliske.

The Carnival had more vehicles in this year and that was a good trial as it would be good to see more floats return to the event in future years.

The evening entertainment was announced quite late this year due to various factors. All being well for 2025 it will be much earlier. That said there were still many busy nights but an earlier ticket announcement will enable people to budget for various nights next year.

I am pleased to say the air display went ahead because although the weather was lovely in Falmouth in was a totally different story for many other places across the UK. Two of the three displays went ahead but at one point there was a chance none could take place. Whilst individual planes/displays will not have the draw of the Red Arrows it is still good to do something for families and the community to enjoy.



• Oyster Festival

As you are no doubt aware The Oyster Festival is not going ahead this year but will return in 2025 dates are 9th-12th October. I have included the release from the organisers below in case you have not already seen it.

Falmouth Oyster Festival 2024 has been postponed.

The organisers of Falmouth Oyster Festival have confirmed plans to withdraw this year's event due to rising costs. Since covid and with soaring costs the event in its current format is no longer financially viable. Despite the festival's popularity and good ticket sales for the evening live music, income has not kept pace with operational costs and coupled with issues around the logistics of organising the event, this has resulted in a decision that the festival will not go ahead this year.

The festival's Honorary Chairman, Mike Rangecroft commented "It is disappointing the festival will not go ahead but the rising costs of running the festival have made it difficult to deliver the event in the way everyone is accustomed to. We would like to thank the team and our sponsors, who all work hard to make the event a success, and everyone who has supported the festival over the last 26 years".

The decision was not taken lightly, and the organising team will be working together to bring the festival back in a new format for 2025. Dates for the 2025 festival will be 9-12 October 2025 and further announcements will be made early next year.

Visit www.falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk

• Mayor's Civic Service

This is all planned in including the change of date during October. The traffic management is all in hand and Emily/Val are working on the various civic requirements.



• Remembrance Sunday

This will be worked on in the next few weeks ensuring everything is booked so the parade can move up to the park for the service and then the safe return to the Moor afterwards.

• Christmas activities

The annual Christmas Lights switch-on will take place Thurs 28th Nov, Falmouth's Festive Weekend will take place Sat 7th & Sun 8th Dec and Harmony Choir will take place Tues 24th Dec.

Many of the larger items to plan for these activities were sorted in January. We will then ramp up the various other bookings such as school involvement starting this month.

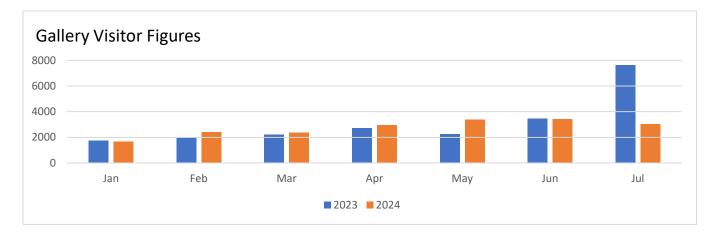
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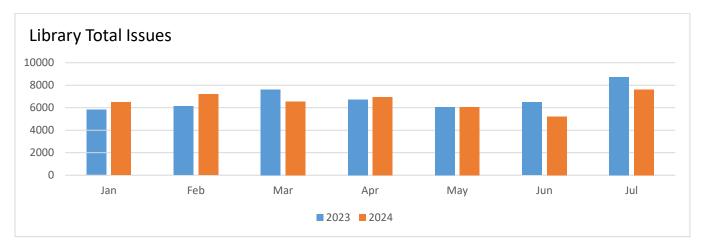
Adele in the Town Team has been making good headway with the Thurs & Saturday markets. Still more things to do but as the numbers and quality grow that will be positive moving into 2025. As many of you will know a market only works if there is enough variety and interest from businesses' trading.



Cultural Services Report – 11th September 2024

Part 1





Activity Report

- The results of Cornwall Council's annual library satisfaction survey have been published, with Falmouth library once again achieving high ratings. Just over 97% of users surveyed were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied with the way the library service (both online and local) is provided. Respondents were very complimentary about the helpfulness and knowledge of staff, while the issues for improvement most commented on were the condition of the building and facilities.
- The Gallery hosted their regular activities for Falmouth Week, including a presence in the carnival and daily craft activities on the Moor. This year staff helped coordinate additional activities with our partners from six other Cornish museums, increasing the cultural offer to families visiting. The activities were very well attended, with over 350 people participating The Library also delivered a daily storytime on the Moor during Falmouth week.
- , The library have hosted two creative summer workshops funded by Cornwall Libraries in collaboration with the university, which were attended by 12 children.

- The Gallery collections team have assisted with the removal and conservation of the mayoral scrolls from the council chamber, which were suffering with mould. They are with a local paper conservator where they will be cleaned and restored, before returning to the chamber.
- New signage for the Municipal Building has been installed to the front and accessible entrances, which internal signage planned for installation in due course. This will be a vast improvement on previous wayfinding into and around the building, particularly increasing visibility of the building's accessible entrance.
- The Gallery's open submission call, *Imagine Falmouth*, was successful with over 380 entries submitted. Successful entrants will be notified mid-September before the installation and launch week beginning 5th October. The exhibition this year is being kindly sponsored by the Cornwall Hotel Group (Greenbank and Falmouth Hotel) and Hine Downing.
- The Library Summer Reading Challenge has been very popular this year, with 508 children signing up to take part, 39 more than last year, and exceeding the target of 399 set by Cornwall Libraries. So far 145 have completed the challenge. Five reading challenge craft activities have been held, which were attended by 91 children and 52 adults.
- The Gallery's new Collections Manager and Learning Assistant have started in post. Attached below is a report provided by the Collections Manager on his activity to date, his appraisal of the collection, its condition, and recommended levels of resourcing.

6 th July – 5 th October	Exhibition - Ammeth	Exploring stories from Cornish farming			
6 th July – mid September	Summer Reading Challenge	This year's theme is Marvellous Makers, focussing on creativity. Free sign up and themed workshops on throughout the Summer holidays			
11 th September 2:30pm	Author Talk	Library talk with author Paula Rooney			
14 th September – 11 th January	Exhibition – Falmouth and the Surrealists	Displaying our archive of work by iconic photographer to coincide with release of biopic film			
18 th September 6pm	Artist Talk	An evening talk by Peter Mason on <i>The Life and Art</i> of Clive Carter, who features in the Gallery's Ammeth exhibition.			
25 th September 2pm	Choir Performance	The Red River Singers performing songs from their <i>Bledhen an Tir</i> /Year of the Land record			

Upcoming and current events

12 th October –	Exhibition - Imagine	Our open show, accepting submissions from 10 th	
18 th January	Falmouth	June	
6 th November	Author Talk	Library talk with author Elaine Johns	

Objective Setting

Short, Medium and Long Term Planning						
	Objective	Date for completion	Progress	Notes		
Short Term - next 12 months	Develop a Cultural Strategy	13.11.2024		Delayed by change in collections manager, will be submitted for sign off once collections policies have been finalised		
	Meeting room for community use	30.08.2024		Meeting room has been decorated, and currently containing stored items while other essential redecoration taking place in chamber.		
	MEND Application Expression of Interest			Detailed in part 2		
Medium Term 2-4 years	Building redevelopment			Detailed in part 2		
Long Term 5+	Reconfiguring layout of Municipal buildings			Start to coincide with 50th anniversary of Gallery opening in MB in 2028; Assess feasibility of Museum service		
years	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 approve the report.

Collections Manager Report

I joined the team back in mid-June and am working to identify and implement cost-effective, practical improvements to current collections care and related collections management practices. At a foundational level I am working with the collections assistant to deep clean and better maintain the collections store, taking the opportunity to redistribute parts of the collection and free up much needed capacity in spaces where works are stored when not on public display.

Parts of the building which house the collection are in poor condition and damp is a major issue. In wet weather relative humidity (RH) is worryingly high, sometimes exceeding 70% and therefore leading to mould growth. In an effort to reduce and better control humidity, I have replaced a number of poorly-functioning historic dehumidifier units with energy efficient models, resulting in significant and immediate reductions to RH. The cost of replacing just 4 of the old units was £1,200 – approximately 20% of the total Collections Care budget for 2024/25.

I am greatly enjoying working with the collection and have begun to identify and prioritize objects for remedial conservation such as Gainsborough's portrait of Cornishman Isaac Donnithorn which, if it's to remain on public display for any length of time, will require cleaning and glazing. In the coming weeks I aim to instigate a grant application in support of the Gainsborough project. However, it is worth noting that a significant number of less prominent objects, including approximately 50% of the gallery's important automata collection, would benefit from various repairs if they are to be safely displayed now and in future. The current collections care budget allocation of $\pm 6,250$ (just 1% of the gallery's total core budget for 2024/25) precludes any effort to make impactful and lasting improvements to the overall condition of the collection, and I would strongly advocate for a proportional increase to the budget in 2025/26.

I have picked up some of the projects previous Collections Managers initiated, most significantly the project to upgrade the gallery's Collections Management System (CMS). The existing system is widely agreed to be outdated and does not meet current nor future requirements of both gallery staff and audiences. My aim is to identify systems which balance useability with broad ranging administrative capabilities and which offer diverse audiences meaningful ways to connect with and learn from the collection. I have organized team meetings and software demonstrations with system providers and am awaiting quotations.

Jacob Moss Collections Manager

Princess Pavilion – General Manager's Report – September 2024

Community Ownership Fund

- The contract has been signed by the government body to release funds.
- The solar contract has been awarded after tendering and the delivery of this is being planned currently.
- We are looking to award the heating contract over thew next few weeks.
- We are confirming a date (potentially January) to have the work on the loft space in the theatre done.
- The loft space needs to be complete to allow the insulation to be installed.
- We are upgrading the power distribution to the garden via a 120 amp distro unit.
- A flooring specialist has visited providing updated information regarding the replacement of the flooring in the garden room.
- A new event lighting package is being ordered.
- A new events sound package is being ordered.

Events

- We are looking to sign a 3 year contract to move the Oyster Festival to the Princess Pavilion.
- The contract for the Christmas Production is nearly complete.
- Part of the Shanty Festival will be moved here next year.
- The Mining conference has signed its 3rd year contract.
- We are seeing a potential slow down in event bookings for 2025.

Princess Pavilion - General Manager's Part I Report - November 2024

The Pavilion is moving into our annual quiet time before it picks up again for Miracle Theatres 24 date run that we have secured for this year.

Events:

https://www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk/princesspavilion/music/

Theatre:

https://www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk/princesspavilion/theatre-dance/

Community:

<u>https://www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk/princesspavilion/community-groups-2/</u> (please note, this does not include all of our community group usage, and we are still providing space for a number of other groups not published on the internet.

We are seeing an increase in community use of The Pavilion with more groups using our spaces that include home schooling sketch club, cancer support group, meditation group (using the quarry garden) Gylly beach wellbeing swimmers.

We are also providing a venue for one off S.E.N group theatre performances.

Site Improvements through Community Ownership Fund Grant:

Solar

Our solar installation will have begun by the time Cultural Services committee meet.

Insulation

The facilities team gained loft access and after surveying the roof have confirmed we have insulation in the roof. This means that we can direct funds from the community ownership fund towards further insulation on site.

Heat pumps

The contract for the heat pumps has been awarded and will have had their second site inspection by the time Cultural Services meets.

Band stand painted

The band stand has been painted again and looks great. We will keep doing this and hopefully look at further work next year on the band stand and a possible renovation/refurb.

Power unit on wall

We have a power outlet now available so we can supply larger events or events with multiple traders in a more efficient manner.

Floor

After consulting multiple trades people, we believe that it could be possible to sand down the garden room and lobby instead of replacing the floor, which will hopefully reduce the cost greatly

Lighting desk upgrade

We have ordered an new digital lighting desk. This desk brings the Princess Pavilion's lighting equipment up to date and a professorial level.

Chas Palmer-Williams General Manager