

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee held on 11th September 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), 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 APOLOGIES

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

A999 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

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.



Town Management report to Cultural Services 11/09/24

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 it 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.



Town Management report to Cultural Services 11/09/24

- 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.



Town Management report to Cultural Services 11/09/24

- 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

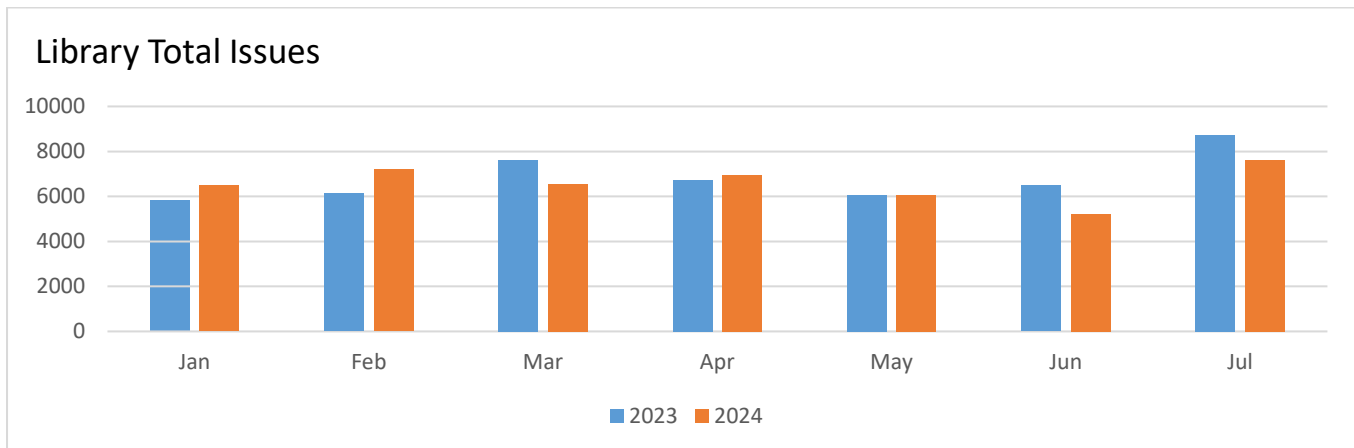
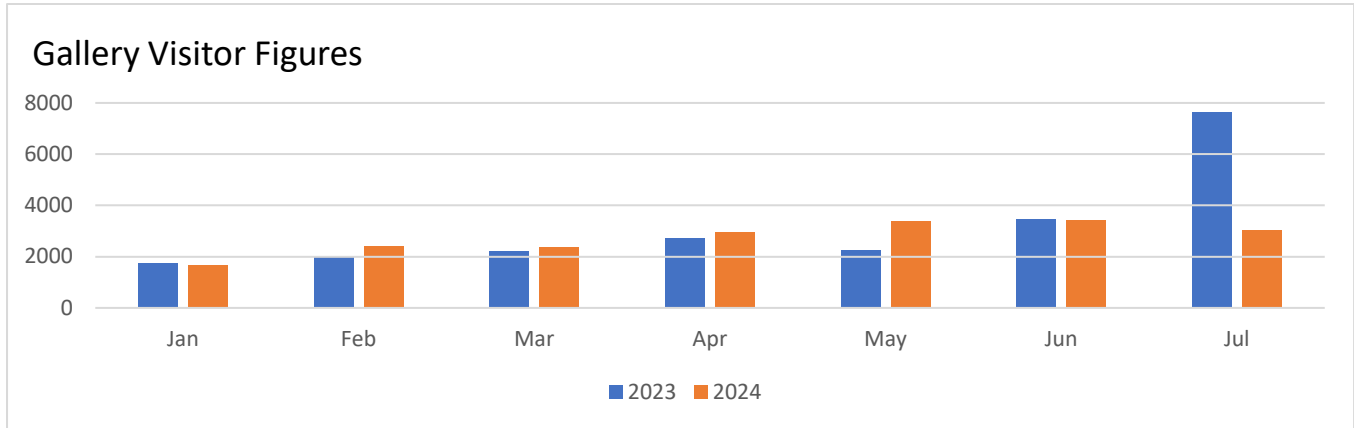
The annual Christmas Lights switch-on will take place Thurs 28th Nov, Falmouth's Festive Weekend will take place Sat 7th & Sun 8th Dec and Harmony Choir will take place Tues 24th Dec.

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.

- AOB

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.

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.

Upcoming and current events

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

12th October – 18th January	Exhibition - Imagine Falmouth	Our open show, accepting submissions from 10 th June
6th 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+ 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 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 £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 the 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.