



MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Alverne Room, St John’s Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 29 September 2025 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: P Young (Chair)
 JR Pugh (Vice-Chair) (from 7.01 pm)

JM How	PI Osborne
PM Hadley	SJ Reynolds
PL Jameson	PC Trevail

Also present: Councillor Peter Lapin, James Hardy (Town Clerk), Verity Anthony (Director (Maternity Cover), Penlee House), Cal Bagshaw (Corporate Services Manager), Cameron Sil (Finance Manager) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services and Governance Officer).

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Law, Marrington, Reed and Smart Knight.

Councillor Broadhurst was absent without having provided apologies.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public was in attendance and spoke regarding the Cornish language and its inclusion within the 2026 Communications Plan, going on to thank the Council for its commitment to promote greater use in future.

29. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

30. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

Having previously been circulated, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor How; seconded: Councillor Trevail)

31. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Arts and Culture Predicted 2025/26 Outturn and Proposed 2026/27 Budget

The Acting Director of Penlee House Gallery and Museum, the Finance Manager and the Town Clerk presented the report and provided an overview of its content.

The report and its appendices set out the context and background for the proposed 2026/27 Arts and Culture budget.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PENZANCE COUNCIL that

1. The projected outturn for 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
2. The Arts and Culture proposed budget for 2026/27, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
3. The level of existing earmarked reserves and their respective contributions in 2026/27, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and adopted.

(Proposed: Councillor Pugh; seconded: Councillor Reynolds)

(b) Disposal of Asset – Transfer of Painting to the National Army Museum

Following consideration by officers at the Penlee House Gallery and Museum, it had been identified that the oil on canvas painting, ‘The Battle of Tubabacelong’ by Louis Chevallier Desange, did not fit with Penlee House Gallery & Museum’s Collecting Policy, which sought ‘to collect, preserve, display and interpret art depicting the far west of Cornwall and art associated with that area’. It was therefore recommended that the painting be transferred to an institution where it had a greater connection to the context of the existing collection, thereby giving it a stronger narrative, and where it could be accessed by a much larger audience.

The Museums Association ‘Disposals Toolkit’ framework also advocated that items for disposal be transferred to a more relevant, preferably public, institution and contact had therefore been made with the National Army Museum, which owned several other works by Desanges, including many from this series, which had confirmed that it would be willing to accept the transfer of the painting into its collections.

During the debate a question was raised as to whether the painting could be sold rather than transferred but it was confirmed that the Gallery and Museum was prevented from selling its collections. With that in mind, a commitment was sought from the National Army Museum to promote that the work had been donated by Penlee House Gallery and Museum when on display, preferably in the form of a plaque.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PENZANCE COUNCIL that the oil on canvas painting ‘The Battle of Tubabacelong’ by Louis Chevallier Desange be transferred to the National Army Museum, London.



(Proposed: Councillor Jameson; seconded: Councillor Osborne)

32. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The following reports for information were noted:-

- a) Penlee House Director's Report
- b) Penlee Coach House Redevelopment Report
- c) Budget Comparison Report – 1 April – 31 October 2025

33. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT ONLY

There were no matters arising for report.

The meeting closed at 7:43 pm

Chair
2 February 2026