

**MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING** held in the Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 2 February 2026 at 7:00pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors: P Young (Chair)  
JR Pugh (Vice-Chair)

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| PM Hadley  | SJ Reed     |
| JM How     | SJ Reynolds |
| PA Law     | PC Trevail  |
| PI Osborne |             |

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Cal Bagshaw (Corporate Services Manager), Verity Anthony (Director, Penlee House) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services and Governance Officer).

### **34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jameson and Marrington.

Councillors Broadhurst and Smart Knight were absent without having provided apologies.

### **35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **36. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public was in attendance and spoke regarding the Cornish language, referencing the Census 2031 consultation being conducted by the Office for National Statistics and the inclusion of the Cornish language and national minority information, the inclusion of Cornish language signage in local shops, greater use of the Cornish language by Councillors within their emails and a suggestion for regular promotion of local place names and their meanings.

### **37. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

### **38. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2025**

Having previously been circulated, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor How; seconded: Councillor Pugh)

Vote; Seven in favour. Two abstentions.



**39. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

(a) Penlee House Gallery and Museum Access Statement

The Access Statement listed the actions which the Penlee House Gallery and Museum would take to be as accessible as possible to members of the public. It was an overarching guiding statement, rather than a policy, but was indicative of the efforts undertaken by Penlee House Gallery & Museum.

The statement had been presented as it required review every three years in order to ensure that it remained relevant and adhered to current museum standards.

During the debate, a Member highlighted that the Statement referred to the Penlee House Committee and requested that this be amended to refer to the Arts and Culture Committee.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the updated Access Statement for Penlee House Gallery & Museum, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, subject to references to the Penlee House Committee being replaced with the Arts and Culture Committee.

(Proposed: Councillor Hadley; seconded: Councillor Law)

(b) Expression of Interest for 2028 UK Town of Culture

On 14 January 2026 the Department for Culture Media and Sport published guidance for bidders for the first UK Town of Culture competition, due to take place in 2028, '*building on the success of previous UK City of Culture, recognising that great culture is rooted in communities across the country*'. The competition was targeted at all towns, whether small, medium or large.

The report therefore recommended that Penzance Council submit an expression of interest for the competition and provided background on its aims, criteria, stages and so on.

During the debate, Members questioned whether any submission would be based on Penzance itself or the wider parish with the inclusion the surrounding villages and hamlets. In addition, a request was made that Members be kept apprised of any expression of interest prior to its final submission.

In response, Members were advised that the intention was to submit an expression of interest for the parish as a whole but that discussions with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport were ongoing in this regard. There was some potential for a draft submission to be presented to a future meeting of the Council but this would necessarily be a work in progress and may have been better suited to an informal briefing.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that



1. The development and submission of an expression of interest for the 2028 UK Town of Culture Competition be approved.
2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, following consultation with Members of the Arts and Culture Committee and a broad range of stakeholders, to develop and submit said expression of interest.

(Proposed: Councillor Hadley; seconded: Councillor Reed)

(c) Town Flags and Promenade Banners Specifications 2026

The report provided background on the proposals for Town Flags and Promenade Banners for the 2026 Summer season and these proposals were reflected in the corresponding specifications.

During the debate, Members referenced the specification documents and their stating that *'Penzance Council does not want to restrict the 'creative' elements of the banner production and as such would request simply that the banners are produced with imaginative and appealing designs'*. However, the view was expressed that Penzance Council should be explicit in setting themes for the flags and banners as these would form an integral part of any future submission to the UK Town of Culture Competition and could potentially be linked with the Golowan theme each year.

While it was acknowledged that a non-specific theme was less of an issue for the 2026 season due to the Town of Culture Competition being at the 'expression of interest' stage, it was requested that this Committee have greater involvement in specifying the theme and/or design of the flags and banners for the 2027 season and onward.

Finally, the report stated that a lower figure had been budgeted for 2026 but that a higher budget would be necessary for 2027 in order to provide for the replacement of a larger number of banners, effectively moving to an alternating budget between years. However, a request was made that funds were not allocated in this manner but that, instead, cost smoothing was employed to spread increases evenly across years.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. The Promenade Banners specification, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and released for public tender.
2. The Town Flag specification, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and released for public tender.
3. The flag and banner rigging / de-rigging specification, as set out at Appendix 3 to the report, be approved and released for public tender.
4. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to appoint the preferred contractors for said contracts upon the closure of the public procurement exercise(s).

(Proposed: Councillor Law; seconded: Councillor Pugh)



**40. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

The following reports for information were noted:-

- a) Penlee House Director's Report
- b) Arts and Culture Forward Plan – Progress Report
- c) Penlee Coach House Redevelopment – Progress Report
- d) Budget Comparison Report – 1 April – 31 December 2025

**41. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT ONLY**

There were no matters arising for report.

The meeting closed at 7:49 pm

Chair  
30 March 2026