

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 10 August 2026 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: JR Pugh (Chair)

PM Hadley
PL Jameson
PA Law

PI Osborne
JS Power (as substitute)
P Young

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Anna Renton and Verity Anthony (Directors, Penlee House) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services and Governance Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor How.

Members were advised that Councillor Power was acting as substitute for Councillor How.

Councillors Marrington, Reed, Smart Knight and Trevail were absent without having provided apologies.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed that Councillor Hadley be appointed Vice-Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee.

(Proposed: Councillor Hadley; seconded: Councillor Jameson)

It was then further proposed that Councillor Young be appointed Vice-Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee.

(Proposed: Councillor Young; seconded: Councillor Law)

Vote; Three in favour of Councillor Hadley. Four in favour of Councillor Young.

It was therefore

RESOLVED that Councillor Young be appointed Vice-Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was no confidential business to be transacted.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2026

Having been circulated, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Hadley; seconded: Councillor Osborne)

Vote; Five in favour. Two abstentions.

7. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Application to Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisation Scheme – Cornwall Consortium

Penlee House Gallery and Museum had benefited from Arts Council England funding as part of a consortium of Cornish museums in various forms since Major Partner Museum funding began in 2015. Relunched as National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding from 2018 to 2022, the funding was extended for a further year, 2022 to 2023. A successful application to the current round of funding, for 2023 to 2026, was extended for 2026/27 and would be extended for a further year from 2027/28. The application window for the new round of National Portfolio Organisation Funding would open in October 2026, and it was intended to make an application as a consortium of Cornish museums once more.

During the debate, a Member referenced an error within the report which referred to the new round of funding concluding in March 2023 which should, in fact, have been March 2033.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The necessary work be undertaken, as part of a consortium of Cornish Museums, to develop an application to Arts Council England for National Portfolio Organisation funding for 2028-2033.
2. A further report be presented to this Committee, at its meeting scheduled to take place on 5 October 2026, regarding the progress of said application prior to its submission.

(Proposed: Councillor Law; seconded: Councillor Osborne)

(b) Virement of Funds from the Penlee House Plant Fund for Plant Maintenance

The plant which managed the air temperature and humidification at Penlee House dated, in the main, to 1997 and continued to deteriorate with areas needing repair and replacement.

Officers had recently received a quote for the replacement of an essential element of the chiller unit, the condenser coil, for £8,998.00. It was therefore recommended that expenditure of £8998.00 from the Penlee House Plant Fund earmarked reserve was approved to enable the replacement of this component.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the use of £8,998.00 from the Penlee House Plant Fund earmarked reserve (4995/1/7) be approved for the replacement of condenser coil within the chiller unit at Penlee House Gallery and Museum.

(Proposed: Councillor Osborne; seconded: Councillor Young)

(c) **Expenditure from the Penlee House Building Reserve for Building Condition Survey and Redecoration Costs**

Roof repair work at the Penlee House Gallery and Museum had been released for public tender and officers hoped that a suitable contractor would be appointed shortly. Once the roof was repaired, there were three areas within the building which would require redecoration and these were detailed within the report. As the Gallery and Museum was closed for the refurbishment of the café and shop area in January 2027, it was hoped that this work could be undertaken during this timeframe.

In addition, an updated, costed, building condition survey was required to enable officers to plan finances and workflow as well as to enable future applications to funders such as the Arts Council England MEND fund. Officers hoped that this survey report would also inform the next steps with regards to the overall plant replacement and/or refurbishment.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The use of up to £10,000 from the Penlee House Building Fund earmarked reserve (4995/1/2) be approved for internal building redecoration.
2. Authority to be delegated to the Town Clerk to seek quotations and appoint contractor(s) to undertake said redecoration work.
3. The use of up to £4,000 from the Penlee House Building Fund earmarked reserve (4995/1/2) be approved to commission an updated buildings condition survey.
4. Authority to be delegated to Town Clerk to seek quotations and appoint a contractor to undertake said survey.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Hadley)

8. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The following reports for information were noted:-

- a) Penlee House Director's Report
- b) Report of the 2026 Golowan Festival
- c) Flags Project 2026 - Update
- d) Budget Comparison Report – 1 April – 31 July 2026

9. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT ONLY

Members were informed that a further report would be presented to the next meeting regarding Penlee House Gallery and Museum's application for National Portfolio Organisation funding as part of a consortium of other museums.

Finally, the Committee wished to thank the Co-Director / Visitor Experience & Retail Manager of the Penlee House Gallery and Museum, for all of her hard work and dedication since she had been in post, as she would soon be leaving Penzance Council for pastures new.

The meeting closed at 7:52 pm

Chair
5 October 2026