



THE FAVERSHAM SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1962

FLEUR DE LIS HERITAGE CENTRE

ESTABLISHED 1977

Company No. 7112241, Registered Charity No.1135262
Address 10-13 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NS

Trustees: Harold Goodwin (Chair), Jonathan Carey, Andrew Holden, Sophie Kemsley, Brian Kelsey, Pat Reid, Anne Salmon, Laurie McMahon, Tim Stonor, Graham Warner, Janice West, Heather Wootton, Christopher Wright, Sir David Melville (Vice-Chair) and Katie Begg.

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Tuesday, 26th May 2020

Present: HG, AS, JW, HW, SK, BK, CW, DM, TS, AH, LM, JC

Part I

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PR	
Declarations of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TS is giving voluntary and unpaid advice to Swale Borough Council on walking and cycling strategies.HG, CW, TS, LM and DM are involved in the Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Technical Committee – unpaid and voluntary.	
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">JW proposed, AH seconded. The minutes were approved.	
Matters arising and AOB	DM and KB to make a proposal on the organisational membership fees	

	for the next Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KB and DM to discuss organisational membership fees.
Committee Reports	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not met <p>Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HW circulated a paper on the proposed Museum Mentor. The Board agreed that the plan was good. HG agreed there were significant advantages to having a mentor from Chatham Historic Dockyard. HW also agreed to add some wording to make allowances for COVID. <p>Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 5 of the Planning minutes – the appeal of – AS suggested we should not take part in his appeal. The Board agreed. The mathematical tiles at Court St. AS received a reply from the Enforcement Officer promptly but has received nothing since. AS and JC believe that the scaffold is soon coming down and some of the tiles have been removed. HG raised whether the Society should raise with Swale Planning that enforcement has failed in this case. The Board agreed that the Society should write a letter to Swale Planning. AS will draft and send to HG for sending to Swale. 19.5 West St: AS agreed with JC’s position and AS will amend the text to take account of this position. The White House, Badlesmere Lees: There was debate as to whether the Society should comment on this application. The Board voted in favour of submitting a comment. The Gate House, Lees Court: AS will combine hers and JC’s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS to draft letter for HG to send to Swale on mathematical tiles.

	<p>comments to form the Board's position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gate Service Station: The Board agreed the position • 58 Preston Park: The Board agreed the position • 142-146 The St, Boughton: The Board agreed the position • 54 Stone St: This is not a listed building. The listed building referred to is Warren House a few doors away. The Board agreed JC and AS's position. • 89-90 Preston St: The Board agreed the position. • Perry Court: 58 dwellings: There was significant debate at the Board regarding the Society's position in relation to this application. DM and CW raised concerns on traffic impact, TS raised concerns about over-development. KB asked that our opposition be based on evidence. AS raised that this application is likely to be granted in appeal and that the development is appropriate. • Perry Court, retail units: AS raised that the units may be used for positive purposes and provide needed infrastructure for the site. AS also raised that it may reduce traffic leaving Perry Court and travelling into Faversham. CW suggested that a residential site with retail units may prove outdated for society. CW also raised that it may discourage use of the town centre, which should be encouraged. • In relation to Perry Court the Board voted in favour of expressing the Society's opposition to further development at Perry Court. <p>GPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not met. No membership report was given but JW 	
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	<p>understood we are 4 or 5 members down which is understandable in the current climate – people are not able to drop cheques into the Fleur.</p> <p>PEEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not met 	
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BK update the Board on the current financial position. • JW has secured two grants for the Society as a result of COVID. • The accounts are extremely healthy but there is significant forecasted expenditure in the second half of this year, including the roof spend and boiler. • The roof work could commence on 8th June. HW asked whether any special coverings etc will be needed for the museum. JC suggested dust sheets will be required for protection. • JW raised the state of the window in the Marlowe Library. JC suggested we may be able to review that when the gutters are reviewed. • The Board approved expenditure on the roof. The work can commence on 8th June. • BK suggested that the half year report at the July Board meeting will include up to date estimate of year end finances. This will include estimated works costs to the end of the year. HG suggested if estimates of further works were presented to the June Board, we might approve those costs. BK raised that this would be appropriate with the half year accounts. • HW asked whether we would need to account for or track our COVID grant expenditure. HG explained we do not. HW raised there are other avenues to explore for museum grants. 	
AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date has been set for September. We will be able to hold that meeting by Zoom if necessary. The Board approved this plan. 	
Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members have until 3rd June to suggest amendments to the annual report, after which it will be sent to Richard Oldfield for his contribution before publication in July. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was decided that obituaries will be only included for Board members or former Vice Presidents. 	
Cleve Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM updated the Board that the decision is expected on 28th May 2020. • The campaign engaged a large number of people – 4,300 people signed the petition against the power station. • The Society was copied in on 113 letters to the Secretary of State. There have been articles in the Telegraph, Times, Guardian and the Express. There is also an interview of Talk Radio, and Austrian public television has approached the campaign. • HG asked for the Board’s permission to coordinate and make the Society’s response to the Ministerial decision, supported by DM. The Board gave permission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HG and DM to coordinate Society’s response to Ministerial decision
Neighbourhood Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council has issued a statement of its intentions in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan. • HG has been asked to be on the steering group for the plan. The Board approved HG’s membership of the steering group. HG will report fully to the next Board after each steering group meeting. • The Board asserts its independence in pursuing the Society’s view of what is best for Faversham and HG would need to declare any conflicts of interest which may arise. • TS raised that any Board member involved in the development of the plan needs to declare an interest. So far, HG, DM, CW, TS, LM, and JC have been involved in the technical committee. Other Society members have been involved too. 	
Researching Development sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a proposal for 900 houses at the junction of the Western Link and Watling Street. • HG proposed that he convene working groups with flexible membership to assess proposed sites, to ensure that we were 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TS to draft 20s Plenty letter for HG to send.

	<p>prepared when they came or planning. Where appropriate the ad hoc Working Groups should engage with ward councillors FTC & Swale. .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM also suggested the Society should form a broader position on where developments might be appropriate and what the standard of development should be. • LM asked whether the Society has a clear view on its criteria for what good town planning and development is. CW said that the Board endorsed a set of principles developed by the Faversham Future Forum, and they could be used as a starting point. • TS raised that there is overlap with the neighbourhood plan, and that this should be the guiding set of principles. DM suggested that we might need to move in advance of the neighbourhood plan process as sites were coming to Swale planning. • TS raised the emergency COVID response from DfT, with the Transport Secretary requesting local councils work on cycling and walking strategies, including the 20s Plenty implementation. These will inform the neighbourhood plan too. • TS will provide a draft on 20s Plenty implementation for HG to send. The Board approved this action. 	
Migration stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has evolved to be a Historic Swale project. • Migration is important to Swale and may also engage younger audiences. PR informed HG that she and her husband migrated into Swale. • The project is now underway, and they may want to film in the Museum. 	
Reopening the Bookshop and VIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Jessop has looked into the protocols for opening the bookshop. It is the easiest premises to open in a safe way. • HG suggested volunteers should be asked to sign a document to 	

	<p>state they will comply with safety measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HW suggested the Board should issue a statement that we want to open facilities but will only do so when we are confident it is safe to do so. • HG explained that the Society should only consider opening the bookshop. • SK asked whether we need restrictions on customers on touching books, given the unknown risk of transference of COVID on objects. JW suggested we should ensure customers use hand sanitiser upon entering the shop. • DM agreed with the hand sanitiser approach. HW highlighted the website she linked to in email – and that we should consider a training programme for volunteers returning to the shop to ensure they are able to work safely. BK raised that the bookshop has continued to provide income for the Society during lock down. The Board expressed its gratitude and thanks to Wendy and the volunteers. • The Board agreed the bookshop can be re-opened if safety measures can be put in place. 	
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HG shares HW's concerns that volunteers may not return after lock down ends. It is difficult to predict, and that volunteers should be contacted by telephone by volunteer managers to ask their intentions. • JW suggested that JC and AH look at the VIC in the context of the space review as Christine Smith is of the opinion that the layout prevents any consideration of re-opening. 	
Boiler and burglar alarm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The burglar alarm is being dealt with. 	
Website and newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HG requested more contributions to the newsletter and website. The Board thanked Chris Wootton for his contribution on the video 	

	channel.	
AoB	None	

NOTES:

Part II

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Confidential matters	None	

Next Meetings

Date	Agenda
30 th June	Board of Trustees