



# 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, Matthew Hatchwell, Andrew Holden, Brian Kelsey, Anne Salmon, Laurie McMahon, Tim Stonor, Jan West, Heather Wootton, Christopher Wright, Sir David Melville (Vice-Chair), Jackie Davidson, Jane Secker and Katie Begg.

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Present: HG, JW, JD, JS, DM , TS, LM, KB, MH, HW

#### **Part I**

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
<b>Apologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>BK, CW, AH</li></ul>	
<b>Welcome to new Trustees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HG welcomed JD and JS to the Board and explained how the Board meetings run.</li></ul>	
<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>None</li></ul>	
<b>Minutes</b>		
<b>Matters arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The meeting between Helen Whately and the Maritime Minister was postponed. There is not another date yet.</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Charity Commission has responded to our self-reporting of the administrative errors relating to the AGM saying our response will be kept on file. The Board noted the response and suggested no further action needs to be taken with the Charity Commission.</li> <li>• DM and KB will work on a response to the volunteer who raised issues with the AGM and further issues around the management of the Society.</li> </ul>	
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b>Board Standing Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has not met</li> <li>• <b>Environment</b></li> <li>• HG will incorporate DM's suggested amendments to the statement on housing</li> <li>• MH asked for a correction in the minutes to reflect Graham Setterfield is working with MH on the water issue</li> </ul> <b>Museum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW raised that the professional museum mentor has sadly passed away. The museum is therefore without a mentor for the time being but one is being sought</li> <li>• HW is in communication with Davington Church regarding the loaned items.</li> <li>• <b>PEEP</b></li> <li>• Has not met</li> </ul> <b>Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HG sent around the planning applications for the past month.</li> <li>• HW declared an interest in the application on Nobel Court.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TS raised that the application regarding 2 Egbert Road is a matter for concern. TS advised the Society object – it is a strategic site on the corner of Egbert Road and Watling St (A2). TS raised that what is proposed is poor quality and makes no response to the corner site and Watling St. TS asked JC to look at the application. It is not the issue of densification of the site and the replacement of the bungalow, but we should object to seriously poor architecture and poor quality. JD raised that census data suggests there is an ageing population in Faversham and bungalow properties will be necessary and that he didn't feel it was fitting with the environment.</li> <li>• TS and JC will draft some language to submit in opposition to the application.</li> </ul>	
<b>Open Gardens</b>	<p>There was an issue regarding the Open Gardens insurance policy, where the cover taken out was not sufficient.</p> <p>This was remedied by JW and HG.</p> <p>DM raised that Open Gardens was a very good event and the gardens were wonderful. JS and DM reported gardens had experienced the highest number of visitors ever seen.</p> <p>The Board thanked the organisers of Open Gardens and thanked Christine and her staff.</p>	
<b>Bookshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JD raised there is a lot of disquiet among the bookshop volunteers about the move into the new bookshop premises.</li> <li>• HG raised that the Board needs specific issues of continuing concerns.</li> <li>• JD said that although there are no disabled wheelchair users in the bookshop and that in the back room the bench is too high for wheelchair users</li> <li>• The signal is a bit intermittent but could be improved.</li> <li>• There is also a problem with the front desk and it would be very difficult to get a wheelchair in there.</li> <li>• JD offered to do a survey of the bookshop volunteers to give the Board a better understanding of the issues that are on people's minds so the Board can resolve things.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HG explained that we know that there will be difficulties with the move but it will be hard for the Board to resolve them in this meeting</li> <li>• JC explained that the move of the VIC raised the same issues with volunteers and that to some extent this is always to be expected in times of change.</li> <li>• JC explained that we are dealing with historic listed buildings and the Disability Discrimination Act does not apply within the context of listed buildings – but owners should improve the situation as far as possible for people with disabilities of all kinds.</li> <li>• JC explained that the desk in the back room is exactly the height requested by the Bookshop Manager and if this needs to be lowered JC will do so at the request of the Board. JC also explained that the front desk is as requested and the cupboard unfortunately has to stay. The cost of removing the electrics etc in the cupboard is prohibitive. Unfortunately, the level of the rear of the bookshop and the front of the bookshop differ – but this is irreversible except with costs that are currently prohibitive. We had to reconcile a sloping floor with a horizontal floor. There is now a small step with a hazard tape is the compromise reached. Giles and a joiner are still making shelving and they will be available shortly.</li> <li>• HG suggested moving in and then seeing what issues there are. JD suggested he will be able to view the bookshop on Friday.</li> <li>• JW and HG have met with the new bookshop manager, who has been found by Wendy Clarke, to deal with money and the rota. JW suggested with NatWest closing there might be a need to review the baking arrangements, and she is working on it with Christine.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Succession Planning</b></p>	<p>LM presented to the Board on the progress being made by the Succession Planning group on ideas for reforming the Board and function of the Society. The Succession Planning Group is now LM, MH, HW and AH.</p> <p>The current proposal is that there would be 4 groups within the Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heritage Group</li> <li>- Futures Group</li> <li>- Outreach Group</li> <li>- Resources Group</li> </ul>	

	<p>There should also be reflection of what the Standing Committee does for the Board but also bringing the Board together</p> <p>JC thanked LM for his clarity on this.  HG suggested that this may require terms of references for Committees to be reviewed.  JD suggested that the new system would be much clearer than the old system and was simple and easy to understand  TS agreed that it is much better, and easy to comprehend. TS' asked where the money would sit in this structure and whether finance would be central and whether each sector would have its own budget.  DM agreed and endorsed TS' comments on the proposals.</p>	
<b>60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HG understands that we now have 60 objects for the exhibition</li> <li>• The two days of exhibition for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October – this will celebrate the Society's 60 years and will include one members meeting and one guests meeting. We need to announce there will be exhibition about what we have achieved over the past 60 years and what we want to achieve for the future.</li> <li>• There will be a working group formed to organise this.</li> </ul>	
<b>Open Faversham/Wikipedia Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JS introduced a project regarding grants that are being made available for opening up heritage assets using digital tools. HG and JS attended a webinar about a programme offering the opportunity for training in how to edit Wikipedia.</li> <li>• JS suggested this is a real opportunity for us – JS has secured the Faversham library and started a list of people that will be invited to the training to form a core group who can cascade that training to others so that they can improve the quality of the Faversham Wikipedia page.</li> <li>• HG said this is an opportunity as there is a lot of inaccurate info on the pages. But also that it is important to enhance the skills of our volunteers for the future, as Wikipedia is such an important influence and we can get links to Faversham in articles.</li> </ul>	
<b>Gove Letter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is still no reply to the letter to Michael Gove and HG and DM recommended that we pause this activity.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a letter that came back to the Fields, Farms and Fresh Air Group, and it was not satisfactory.</li> </ul>	
<b>Creek Bridge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This stakeholder meeting for the bridge clashes with the CLT meeting so HG cannot attend. DM will attend.</li> <li>• Anthony Hook is proposing a new campaign about the bridge and that nothing has happened.</li> <li>• Helen Whately is pursuing the Minister to pursue an abatement order against Peel Ports in order to procure the money for the bridge.</li> <li>• 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm – HG asked that other Board members attend with DM.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conservation Area Appraisal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faversham is overdue a conservation area appraisal. There is money available in the Society's budget for commissioning a conservation area appraisal. JC proposed, LM seconded and the majority of the Board <b>voted in favour of</b> using funds to commission this work.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cleve Hill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are still waiting for developers to come up with detailed plans. This will come in the form of 16 detailed plans. Those will go to Swale to determine in the local planning process.</li> <li>- The Society is on the consultee list.</li> <li>- DM has published another scientific paper arguing for the need for specific safety checks in relation to batteries. This is currently a matter of judicial review in Ireland. DM will summarise for the newsletter.</li> <li>- We would also like to challenge the battery safety plan on grounds of danger. DM has identified the first academic, who is currently practicing, who has taken a critical interest in the safety of batteries. DM will contact him and see if he would agree to be a consultant to look at the battery safety management plan that is submitted to Swale. The Board agreed DM should proceed with this plan.</li> </ul>	
<b>Faversham Eye</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 4 pages in the Faversham Eye are going ahead</li> <li>• KB will ask Kerry for a membership form in a format that can be printed.</li> </ul>	
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hillary Whelan has left the Society a legacy of £20,000. The Board expressed its sincere gratitude.</li> </ul>	

	- Helen Colebrook has in her will has left the Society a painting of Oare by John Doyle. HG and JC suggest hanging this painting in the VIC. The Board agreed. She has also left the Society the original architects contract drawing for the Almshouses. This will need conservation.	
<b>Officers Report</b>	<b>Chair's Report</b>	

**NOTES:**

Part II

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Confidential matters		

**Next Meetings**

Date	Agenda
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Board of Trustees

**Future Business**