



# 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, Heather Wootton, Christopher Wright, Sir David Melville (Vice-Chair), Jan West, Jane Secker, Jackie Davidson and Katie Begg.

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

Present: HG, DM, BK, JW, LM, MH, AS, JC, AH, HW, JD, JS, CW

#### **Part I**

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
<b>Apologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>KB</li></ul>	
<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>None</li></ul>	
<b>Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes from June were not available to approved so will be approved in the September meeting.</li></ul>	
<b>Matters arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The membership report shows an increase in new members.</li></ul>	
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b>Board Standing Committee – has not met</b> <b>Museum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HW raised that we are getting more visitors on the days we are open, but we need to get more volunteers.</li> <li>- There is an action and project list alongside the minutes, and HW suggested these can be sent to Board if necessary.</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment – has not met</b></p> <p><b>PEEP – has not met</b></p> <p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MH received a letter from the company applying for the communications mast in central car park. They are in the process of appealing the decision to refuse the application. The fall back option is to place the mast in the Queens Hall car park. This is still within the conservation area and will affect listed buildings. There is no date for the decision on the appeal. The company has given residents until 5<sup>th</sup> Sept to lodge a reaction as nearby householders. AS raised the timeline would be dependent on the appointment of the inspector. HG raised that the Society should object. MH will be putting in an objection on the same basis as the central car park mast. MH asked whether we should coordinate with the Town Council but HG advised the Society should just submit on its own.</li> <li>- AS raised that we have been lobbied by the residents of Boughton about the garden hotel conversion. The residents are covering the points the Society would have anyway. AS did not feel the Society could add much. HG said we may want to add our voice to that of residents. JC finds it difficult to object to the principle of the development because of other local development, but could object on traffic grounds. CW suggested that there is low levels of traffic on that road. AS said the plan is for 16 houses. DM said he feels there would be a traffic impact. JC also raised whether the application has listed building consent. AS will be drafting the objection for the Society.</li> </ul>	
<b>Finances</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BK presented the half-year finances.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Society expected a deficit of £19k for the shop move but this came in at £17k</li><li>• There continue to be excellent returns from the bookshop. The VIC is seeing good footfall but income is not up. Open Gardens yielded £6k for the Society but insurance issues will need to be considered if it is to go ahead next year</li><li>• The Society has a significant uplift in funds to £700k</li><li>• The Finance Committee supports the move to the bookshop and believes the spend to be worth it. JC commented that the figure of £50k given was for both moves (VIC and Bookshop).</li><li>• The windfall legacy of £450k was discuss. The Finance Committee recognised the responsibility to make appropriate plans for this money. BK raised that the Society may inherit Ardens House in future, and that until the legacy donation, the Society would have struggled with how to manage Ardens House. However, Finance Committee will continue to discuss how to use the legacy.</li><li>• The Finance Committee has one proposal – to remove museum entrance fee and put collection boxes in place.</li><li>• There is also a restricted legacy donation of £10,000 to maintain the collection of Usborne plaques</li><li>• JW received a letter from Tassels last week and there is an additional £15,051 coming to the Society from Hazel Pyatt's estate.</li><li>• DM welcomed the finance reports and to reinforce BK's message that we should think of the legacy in terms of the future and the future need of Ardens House. DM asked how the money in lieu of entrance to the museum via collection boxes might be used and accounted for.</li><li>• DM raised a reference to Open Houses in the report which should be Open Gardens</li><li>• HG explained the insurance issues relating to Open Gardens, and how people opening their gardens are not covered by the Society's insurance.</li><li>• HW raised that the Museum being free would be a good thing. With regards to the legacy, HW raised that the Fleur premises may also prove to require significant investment.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board <b>approved</b> the Finance report.</li> <li>• BK also raised that the Society will be affected as much as any one else by the upsurge in energy costs, and this will be considered by the Standing Committee and Finance Committee.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cleve Hill</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DM updated on Cleve Hill. The detailed planning submissions are now being received. There is 8 weeks for SBC to respond. DM advises we do not need to respond to all of them but they are being carefully considered on a case by case basis.</li> <li>• Environment Agency has requested more information regarding the batteries. KFRS has expressed concern about the application being approved in the absence of battery information.</li> <li>• The statutory consultees vary from one condition to another.</li> <li>• The Society has objected to what SBC has done with regards to the battery evidence and our submissions, and has queried the process used by SBC.</li> <li>• The Society is awaiting details of the process for proper consultation at SBC. The new planning officer is William Allwood. He is having a meeting on Cleve Hill, which DM has been invited to, at Graveney Church, which will be an opportunity to raise the issues.</li> <li>• DM has spoken to councillors on the Planning Committee at SBC who confirmed that the conditions have not come through the committee.</li> <li>• BK asked who owns Cleve Hill. MH suggested a company called Quinbrook own it.</li> <li>• JC said the Board should be clear we support all of DM's work on Cleve Hill. JD suggested that a lot of planning blockage is happening at KCC and there are issues between KCC and SBC. DM explained that as the whole Cleve Hill development is in SBC it is within their power. DM raised concerns SBC does not have the capacity and expertise.</li> <li>• The new planning officer with responsibility for Faversham has started a series of meetings – HG said there is an opportunity to have a much more productive dialogue with the SBC planning department.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HG asked whether there might be opportunity to raise Abbey Fields with the planning officer. DM suggested a separate meeting. HG also said he should be aware the Society will financially support the conservation area appraisal.</li> </ul>	
<b>Opening of bookshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been a very successful first week in the new bookshop.</li> <li>• DM said he thought the bookshop was stunning and a really nice open feel to the shop. JS said she was really impressed when she went in this week and that the reading room is particularly nice.</li> <li>• JD said the figures were exceptionally good. However, there are some issues that need to be sorted out soon. HG asked that those issues come to the Standing Committee. JD raised that the windows are smeared – JC advised we are looking for a specialist glazier to fix this. The Board thanked JC for his hard work, and thanked Wendy and the bookshop team for all of her hard work in making it a success.</li> </ul>	
<b>Duchy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Duchy is undertaking archaeological work and has informed the Society. They have asked the question as to whether the Society would be interested in displaying any archaeological finds from the site.</li> <li>• JC said it didn't seem like an unreasonable request. HW said it might be perceived to be siding with the Duchy.</li> <li>• DM advised that the Society respond saying to let us know what they discover and we will decide on that basis. The Board <b>agreed</b>. JW will draft a reply</li> </ul>	
<b>Board restructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LM updated on this, and said thank you to those on the original succession group and to all others who have helped.</li> <li>• LM shared slides outlining proposals and reasons for needing to restructure the Society's Board.</li> <li>• There is a need to balance the mission of the Society with the resourcing issues</li> <li>• The slides represented where the thinking has taken us. The next step would be form the Executive subcommittee and then begin with the necessary governance documents.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DM expressed support for the proposal. DM asked how it would map on to the constitutional and existing arrangements for the Society. LM suggested the Exec Sub-Committee would replace the Standing Committee. The Secretary role needs to fit with our formal governance arrangements. It is HG's view that we may need to go to the next AGM with any necessary arrangements to the Society's governance documents.</li> <li>• LM said we need to communicate the plans to volunteers and members and how it will give them a stronger voice in the Society.</li> <li>• BK believes the load on the Chair needs to be reduced as soon as possible.</li> <li>• AS suggested she has the intention to revive the Planning Committee and asked if this fits into the structure. LM said that this was given a lot of thought and further conversations need to happen, but that there is a strong focus on Planning as a key committee within the Futures Group.</li> <li>• JS asked whether Board members would lead each group and LM confirmed this is the case.</li> </ul>	
<b>Oral History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HG proposed he meet with Age UK Faversham to see if we can undertake this work in partnership. DM suggested we also approach the University of Kent history department. Skilled interviewers are needed and this could be incorporated into student work. HW said that one of the new members has a background in being a museum trustee and worked with students on specific projects</li> <li>• LM and JS suggested we could train interviewers across the town too.</li> <li>• HG will pursue and report back.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>60<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be an exhibition on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October, with a members' event on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• HG proposed that we do a town-wide leaflet drop advertising this. JW suggested the budget for this is available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>Conservation area appraisal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HG will pursue a conversation on this and report back at the next Board meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New members: Leigh has done work on this which contains all the information as to member benefits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

**NOTES:**

Part II

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Confidential matters		

**Next Meetings**

Date	Agenda
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Board of Trustees