



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, 13th December 2022

Present: HG, KB, DM, HW, AS, LM, AH, CW, TS, JW, JC, JS, JD

Part I

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MH, BK	
Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">None	
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The debate on solar was held in the Commons rather than the Lords.The lithium battery record also needs correctingWith amendments, the minutes were proposed by JW and seconded by CW. The minutes were approved.	
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DM raised the Creek Bridge, and updated the Board that there has been some progress. A Lib Dem Peer who has moved into Faversham has raised a question in the House of Lords, which has been	

	<p>answered by the Maritime Minister, who sits in the Lords. The question raised the issue and that this is something that prevents all kinds of development. Helen Whately is also due to discuss with the Maritime Minister. The Town Council has also raised the issue with Government. It is within the Government's gift to issue an abatement order to require Peel Ports to find the money for this. However, it appears Peel Ports is not responding to Government correspondence. However, it is positive that the Government is now applying some pressure to Peel Ports on this issue. DM will attend a Steering Group meeting in January. HG asked whether the Government could very simply issue an order – DM explained there is due process to go through, and no guarantee the Government will prioritise this.</p> <p>-</p>	
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Board Standing Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The issue of the keys/keypad for the back door was discussed. There is no simple solution to this. HW will discuss with the Standing Committee later this week. - LM updated on the work of restructuring of the management functions of the Society. LM suggested it would be ideal if Leigh could become a trustee if she is going to become a chair of the quadrant. There is no space for co-option onto the Board at present. - HW asked about the timeframe for this and HG explained we may want to revise the articles ahead of the AGM so new articles can be proposed then and voted through at that meeting by the full membership. <p>Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board fed back that HW's executive summary of the museum committee minutes is useful, and thanked her for doing this. - HG asked about when the accreditation process might be, and HW advised the earliest would be 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

- HG raised that TS Hazard and the 1917 pump house and town quay will likely move to town council ownership. There may be a proposal for a maritime heritage centre, and there may also be a natural heritage recognition facility.
- HG asked whether we should look at the implications of growth in the number of Faversham museums on our own museum. HG's aspiration is that our heritage centre is the central focus.
- HG also reported that St Mary of Charity will be organising an Open Faversham week in August to use the church as a central point to direct visitors and residents to other heritage assets.
- CW asked if the museum interacts with Faversham Life, and HW confirmed we do have a relationship, but we have limited resources to support.
- HW advised that Davington has confirmed that the religious artefacts have been received.
- JC raised an issue on the mapping project. JC and HW will pick up offline.
- **Environment – has not met but will meet next month.**

PEEP – has not met

Planning

Abbeyfields – HG reported that it looks as though the developers will be pushing through proposals very fast. HG asked permission to send the paperwork back to the barrister to seek advice on anything else we could possibly do. JW confirmed that we have spent £3.6k so far on this, so there is money left to do this in the original £6k budget. **The Board agreed this course of action.** CW raised concerns that there are no traffic issues raised in the applications. HG will raise traffic with the barrister. CW suggested he may be able to find an independent analyst

	<p>to give a view on the traffic issues. CW will seek individuals who might be able to quote in this.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan consultation – this will begin in the first week of January. Richard Oldfield has offered to chair a members’ meeting on this on 20th January. The Board agreed this approach.</p> <p>Conservation area appraisal – this work will begin in January.</p> <p>War Memorial – HG raised that the Society should respond to the proposals as we have to the past proposal. JC raised that the history of the purpose of the garden opposite the hospital, and how this appears to be being disregarded. AS raised that she supports the proposal as it will make the ceremony to commemorate more accessible. The Board did not reach a position – and will review again when the planning application is submitted.</p> <p>Pedestrianisation – AS raised that yellow lines should not be opposed as they are for safety. DM raised his support for pedestrianisation. CW also raised support. HW raised concerns about the pedestrianisation of Preston Street given there is no access to the rear of the properties for business deliveries. HW and JD both raised this may have a detrimental impact on business. HG raised that it is likely that we will see this scheme go ahead, and DM proposed that if the Board is split on the proposal we should abstain from comment.</p>	
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are nearly back to 800 members. 1 in 8 of our members are under 60. • The Board thanked Leigh for her work, and for organising the volunteers coffee mornings and HG encouraged as many Board members as possible to attend the next one. 	
Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board noted the new Charity Commission conflict of interest guidance for trustees. • KB will write a new policy for conflicts of interest and will make a first version of a register of interests that will be updated on a regular basis. • LM raised that all committees meetings should declare conflicts at the beginning. • DM raised that we may not need a separate register. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH suggested we should publish a register of interests with our accounts 	
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end of year accounts will be available for the January Board and therefore the Board postponed full discussion until then. • JW proposed the Society support the Christmas lights with a donation of £500. The Board agreed, and HG suggested we promote our involvement. • AH asked the Board to agree the budget for this year will be rolled over into the new year before the finance committee can meet. The Board agreed. 	
Expenses Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JW proposed the expenses policy to recognise that some volunteers will struggle financially with the cost of travel etc. • HW suggested clarification that we will reimburse cost of travel from volunteers' homes to work. • The Board approved the expenses policy 	
Almshouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Colebrook acquired one of the first contract almshouses drawing. This has been donated to the Society but needs some restoration and consolidation. JC has obtained a quote for this work, and will approach other funders first, but asked whether the Board would commit the funding should those bids not be successful. • TS asked what process the Board should following for taking decisions on spending on this kind of thing – as the trustees who do not have expertise may struggle to decide. • HG raised that the new structure of the Society should address these issues – but in the interim we need to make decisions at Board. • The Board agreed that the budget should be made available. 	
Bookshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HG said that the bookshop's success since the move should be recorded and acknowledge by the Board. The Board thanked the bookshop volunteers. • JD raised that the issue in the bookshop is collections – which is causing a backlog of books to remove. This is meaning books are blocking the fire exit. HG suggested that this should be discussed by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

	<p>Ann and JD. JC understood that one fire exit issue has been resolved. HW said that today she used the fire exit easily today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JW raised that the staff may be wearing t-shirts that may not be appropriate and this is a reputational risk for the Society. HG will discuss with the bookshop managers. 	
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have received donations from the Duchin and Tassells families, including a rare complete copy of a book on Kent. JC raised we are fortunate to receive these, and that there may be future conservation considerations. Dm raised that since the Duchy exhibition, we have not had feedback on view expressed. DM was interviewed by a reporter from the Times on the local objections to the Duchy. TS declared his conflict of interest in the Duchy issue. 	

NOTES:

Part II

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Confidential matters		

Next Meetings

Date	Agenda
27 th September 2022	Board of Trustees