



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

President: Richard Oldfield

Trustees: Harold Goodwin (Chair), Leigh Allison, Katie Begg, Jackie Davidson, Jonathan Carey, Matthew Hatchwell, Andrew Holden, Brian Kelsey, Laurie McMahon, David Melville, Anne Salmon, Jane Secker, Tim Stonor, Jan West, and Heather Wootton.

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting: 24th May 2023

Agenda Item	Minutes
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ann Dixon• Robert Dixon• Ann Furedi• Paul Channon• Griselda Musset• Juliet Besley• Marika Sherwood• Pauline Miles• Mike Cosgrove• Chris Wright• Tim Stonor• Jonathan Carey• Brian Kelsey
President's Welcome Address	<p>In his introductory comments, President of the Society Richard Oldfield spoke about the multiple activity that is undertaken by the Society, and that there are new things on the way, like Open Faversham. Richard also celebrated our continued work, such as the museum, VIC and bookshop. Richard also spoke on the new history of the church publication, and also that planning matters in Faversham will be dominant in the coming years.</p> <p>Richard said that this will be the last year Harold Goodwin chairs the Society, and remarked on the excellent job he has done over his term in office. As President, Richard has seen and admired Harold's work. The AGM expressed their gratitude to Harold.</p> <p>Richard also remarked that this is Dorothy Percival's 63rd AGM for the Society and thanked her for her contribution.</p> <p>The President celebrated that the Society is wholly run by volunteers. He thanked all members, and especially all volunteers who work so hard to keep the show on the road.</p>

Minutes of the 2022 AGM and matters arising	There were no matters arising from the 2022 AGM. The minutes were noted by the AGM
Chair's Review and receipt of the Annual Report	<p>Harold Goodwin (HG) started his review by saying he was relieved the AGM is quorate given the two emergency meetings happening in the town tonight on the tip and the Ham Road development. HG raised that the Neighbourhood Plan will preclude Ham Road. He said that the reason the Neighbourhood Plan is slow is because it is Faversham, and there is a record number of responses to the consultation. Faversham has a lot of participation.</p> <p>HG received an email from Griselda Musset yesterday saying the Society had been involved in setting up the tip. HG asked for evidence, and Dot Percival arrived with that evidence. HG suggested the Society must take a big role in arguing for the tip to stay in Faversham.</p> <p>Dot spoke then, and outlined how volunteers of the Society gave Arthur the ammunition to bring the tip to Faversham, and outlined the legal process. She said that there is a chance KCC are acting illegally. There is also a DEFRA consultation on tips that the KCC should wait to see the outcome of.</p> <p>HG said that the benefit of the Society is that it has records of issues that have arisen in the past.</p> <p>HG thanked everyone for attending. HG said it has been and still is an honour and privilege and serve as Chair. He highlighted the annual reports and accounts, and said they remind him of the significant contribution made by our volunteers. HG said that everything we do, all of our achievements, and down to the efforts of our volunteers. It is our volunteers who determine what we deliver, and who does the work.</p> <p>HG joined the Board 12 years ago and the request of Arthur Percival. HG moved to Faversham 45 years ago and remembered his first night in the town. Jack Harris introduced Harold to the Sun and treated him like a friend and local.</p> <p>HG said that the Mayor-making event last night was a celebration of volunteering and community in our town.</p> <p>HG said that Arthur Percival told him before he joined the Board that he had benefited from the Society's work but not contributed – and so he felt he had no defence to that and joined the Board. He was elected as Chair two years later. Since then, HG listed achievements as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding finances • Moving the VIC and charity bookshop which are both thriving <p>The next stage will be to complete the work in the Fleur, and we will begin to make progress. Faversham has a rich collection of archives – and we are establishing closer relationships with the universities.</p>

	<p>HG listed all the museum and heritage assets in the town. HG is hopefully that the Town Quay will come into town ownership in future and become a heritage centre. There is much to come in the future.</p> <p>HG outlined how the intention is to refit the exhibition spaces in the Fleur to make sure the museum is enhanced for the future. Open Faversham will be a good addition to the heritage and culture of the town.</p> <p>The environment remains a significant part of the Society's work. The Environment and Planning Committee has been active on the local plan and has defended Abbey Fields by retaining a planning barrister. The Society will lobby against the closure of the tip and is likely to lobby against new development. The Local Plan being in place may help but developers are likely to start banking applications.</p> <p>At the next AGM the members will need to elect a new chair. The Board will begin work to identify new chair candidates for the AGM. HG hopes this person will be known and have mutual respect for the volunteers.</p> <p>The conservation area appraisal is ongoing and the Society will continue to support.</p> <p>The bad news is that the biggest threat to the future of our heritage is inheritance. Heritage is only safe if that which is passed on is sustained by our children.</p> <p>John Owen proposed the annual report, Paul Moorbath seconded. The AGM voted to receive the annual report.</p>
<p>Receipt of the Annual Accounts</p>	<p>Alistair Mackay Miller introduced the annual accounts. He outlined that the function of the committee is to consider matters that may have an impact on the financial position of the Society. This is not about routine expenditure. It is more about budgets, policies and the longer view.</p> <p>AMM reported that he had all good news. The last two or three years have been erratic financially and difficult to review in isolation. However, government grants have all been received, the impact of covid 19 has now abated, the reorganisation projects have been completed and both the Visitor Information Centre and the second-hand bookshop are settled and flourishing in their new premises. Stability has been restored.</p> <p>Costs are of course rising, but so too is the Society's income. The operating budget for 2023 has been set in accordance with the established policy of breaking even. The prudent reserves policy served us well when the pandemic struck and with the assistance of government grants received, we still have ample reserves if needed to fight any future disaster. The Property</p>

	<p>Maintenance Fund remained at £47,000 at the end of 2022 and the rolling maintenance programme can now be resumed.</p> <p>AMM said that for volunteers, the past three years have been difficult. There has been uncertainty, frustration, not enough to do or too much to do and a lot of hard work. AMM said he could not be standing here now, saying what he is saying, if they had not all risen to the challenges encountered, overcome them and achieved what they did. They are our greatest asset.</p> <p>The Financial Report in the Annual Report that accompanies the figures aims to give some clarity. The non-financial reports are a good read and give an insight into the activities throughout the year that result in the figures in the accounts.</p> <p>Further commentary can also be found in the formal accounts which will be filed at Companies House. They have been reviewed and approved by the Independent Examiner, McCabe Ford Williams. The receipt of the annual accounts and the re-appointment of the Independent Examiner each have to be approved by the members and you will be asked to vote on those two items shortly.</p> <p>At last year's AGM, AMM reported that the Society had just received a substantial legacy. We were fortunate to receive further bequests in 2022. This has added to the financial strength of the Society. Pending decisions being made in due course as to the use of these funds, they have been securely and professionally invested across a number of banks. The recent increases in interest rates have meant that, for the time being, we are earning useful additional income.</p> <p>AMM concluded that, financially, the Society is now in a good position to direct its focus on the core objectives of the Society.</p> <p>The accounts were proposed by Paul Dawson-Bowling, and seconded by Deborah Lawther. The AGM approved receiving the accounts</p>
Appointment of an Independent Examiner	<p>McCabe Ford Williams was proposed the as Independent Examiner on the recommendation of the Finance Committee and Board.</p> <p>Proposed Paul Dawson-Bowling, seconded by Paul Moorbath. McCabe Ford Williams were duly appointed</p>
Election of Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by Chris Wootton, seconded by Paul Dawson-Bowling, Leigh Allison was was duly elected as a trustee • Proposed by John Owen, seconded by Julian Blatcham, Jonathan Carey was duly elected as trustee • Proposed by Paul Moorbath, seconded by Chris Wootton Harold Goodwin was duly elected as trustee • Proposed by Deborah Lawther, seconded by Wendy Clarke, Matthew Hatchwell was duly elected as trustee
Election of Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by Paul Dawson-Bowling, seconded by Laurie McMahon: Harold Goodwin was duly elected as Chair of the Faversham Society

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed by Deborah Lawther, seconded by Dot Percival: David Melville was duly elected as Vice-Chair of the Faversham Society.
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Baxter asked: Historic buildings: Swale Borough Council is putting together a list of potential listed buildings. What is the Society's engagement with listed buildings? HG responded that the conservation area appraisal is nearly complete. This will go to the council for consultation. The proposal is to extend the conservation area a little bit. But the town has a remarkable amount of conserved area. On listed, there are two ways of doing this – the list kept by Historic England and the local list kept by Swale Borough Council. HG has discussed this the consultant who undertook the conservation area appraisal, and they are pushing for a review of the local listed buildings list. They have come up with 20-25 properties that should go onto the local list. The concern is it will take council resource and Swale Borough Council is strapped for cash. We may have to push hard to get the local listing appraisal done.
AoB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be circulated in the newsletter

AGM Attendance List

Eileen Allen
Robert Baxter
Katie Begg
Graham Bernthal
Wendy Clarke
Andrew Clarke
Caroline Clarkestone
John Clarkestone
John Coulter
Jackie Davidson
Sue Davidson
Jennifer Dawson-Bowling
Paul Dawson-Bowling
Genevieve Ellis
Tim Fletcher
Harold Goodwin
Tom Harding
John Harrison
Pamela Harrison
Jackie Heslin

John Hilton
Andrew Holden
Eldon Hinchcliffe
Tim Ingram
Sylvia Jones
David Lamberton
Deborah Lawther
Alistair Mackay-Miller
Mary Mallett
Nigel Mannouch
John Marsh
Marilyn Marsh
Heather North
Richard Parris-Piper
Amicia Oldfield
Richard Oldfield
John Owen
Laurie McMahon
Paul Moorbath
David Melville
Frances Moskovits
Trevor Payne
Dot Percival
Anne Salmon
Michael Rees
Jim Reid
Pat Reid
Glynis Rumley-Bernthal
Colin Rushton
Jonathan Scott
Jane Secker
Neil Tonge
Frances Ward
Peter Ward
Peter Youngman
Yvonne Wills
Rosemary Wilson
Anna Witham
Joanna Wood
Chris Wootton
Heather Wotton
Jan West