



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

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Tuesday 30th January 2024

Present: HG, KB, LM. LA, AS, AH, BK, HW, JD, JS, JW, JC, TS

Part I

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MH, TS (in parts), DM	
Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">None	
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AH proposed, LA seconded. The minutes were approved.	
Matters arising and AoB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">JD reported that the bookshop has four new members and there may be more people interested.	

<p>Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Exec Committee: KB presented the minutes of these minutes. JS commented that it is good to see budget allocated to Open Faversham again.• Futures: HG said that it is frustrating that we are in a position to be mostly reactive to events happening in the town. We know we will need to respond on the Neighbourhood Plan soon, and that we will soon see the plans for the Duchy. SBC is more often complying with its-three-week response time to planning applications, and HG said that this is why the Board may have more limited opportunity to comment on some activity. LM said that he was upset about the lack of respect for the process with Cleve Hill. JC said that he thinks Cleve Hill is costing the developer £100k per day, and that is why the developer will be acting in this kind of way. The developer will be profit and costs driven. JC feels the behaviour is inevitable. LM said he understood JC's points, but on the particular issue of battery safety it looked as if the developer should be held to account, but they are not. LM said we need to be careful the Society does not appear to be anti-solar energy but comment only on battery safety. HG said that the Society has focused on the batteries for a long time now. We worked with GREAT, who understandably have wider concerns about the impact of development. DM has been representing the Society at meetings with SBC. Despite lack of resource and training to deal with major infrastructure, SBC now has responsibility for determining whether or not the developer's proposal complies with the DCO, and the Society now has an opportunity to assist SBC in understanding of batteries. The difficulty we have is that Cleve Hill is the first such development. We have asked SBC to challenge the developer on battery safety and the safety management plan. At the last meeting, SBC is realising that it lacks capacity and expertise to manage this. They have also asked their consultant for more detail and the consultant is being asked to address battery safety questions we have raised. HG said we should continue to campaign. The board approved the Environment Committee's recommendation on Cleve Hill. <p>Duchy: KB asked how we will gather member views on the Duchy proposal to inform the Society's position. HG replied that in the first instance we should encourage people to think of the Duchy proposal in the context of alternatives and risk. There will probably also be a new set of SHLAA sites come in after the Duchy proposal. HG said the Environment Committee's approach is to try and hold onto a rational approach of what is the least objectionable application. KB said that we just need to think about how we engage members.</p>	
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	<p>Kiln Court: The Environment Committee produced a short statement on this. KB proposed, LM seconded. The Board approved to statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach: LA presented the report from the Outreach group. She raised that Pat Reid’s new book will be launched at the Literary Festival, but due to numbers we will be holding a secondary event in March. In March, Chris Wootton will also give a planned talk about the photo collection and their work to preserve and enhance them digitally. We have a new town walks volunteer with new ideas. She is writing a piece for the newsletter as they will start in Easter. There has been a lot of social media engagement, and new social media accounts will be set up for the walks and museum. At the moment there is a Love Your Town membership drive. • Heritage: JC presented the report from the Heritage group. JC said he tries to call in to the museum, VIC and bookshop regularly and is heartened by the enthusiasm of the volunteers. The amount of activity is extraordinary and largely unseen. JC asked trustees to engage with what is going on in our buildings and meet volunteers. The archive and museum are getting more volunteers. HW added that the Katherine Parr prayer book has been analysed and two of the parts of it are very rare, and the third part does not exist anywhere else. It is returning tomorrow to be put away securely and registered to the Fleur De Lis Museum. JW asked that to go into the newsletter. JC said we should get the book revalued and look at insurance. • Resources: AH and JW presented the resources group report. Membership numbers have dropped. LA is tackling this. 	
<p>Finances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BK presented the finances, including the budget and 2023 accounts. He produced a summary paper. - The accounts for 2023 were very good, and our income improved from a budget of £88k to £118k. The bookshop performed exceptionally well, and interest rates have been high. We therefore have a surplus of £32k. £10k of this goes in depreciation of buildings, and £20k of the surplus will go to the building maintenance fund. So, we carry forward a modest surplus of £3k in the context of being a not-for-profit organisation. The details are in the management accounts which have been translated into the summary accounts which will go to the independent examiner for audit. These will be turned into the official financial report for 2023. HG expressed gratitude to all who raise money for the Society. Bk agreed it has been a team effort. - BK has changed the presentation of the management accounts and summary accounts. Priority is now given to charitable activities. This is the same for expenditure. The Finance Committee has approved this. The Board gave its approval. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BK presented the budget for 2024. The budget is £125k for income. Expenditure is also budgeted for a similar level, with spending on new initiatives within the budget. There are new budget lines such as archives, archaeology, development appeal costs etc. This is to allow the Society to do more. Overheads will be rising. It is therefore a break-even budget. The responsibility of each management group is reflected in the report now and AH has produced a scheme of delegation to support. - AH commented the Outreach budget still has some outstanding issues to resolve but that will be dealt with at the next finance meeting. - HW said she is familiar with the museum budget but asked for more information on the archive and education budget. BK said it appears that we have excellent and extensive archives, and they need to be properly preserved, and so there is budget to support securing and preserving them – and particularly the AP archives. JC added that he is keen to allocate funds and keep every sector of our activities properly funded, and that flexibility is required in the budget and that this section of the budget reflects this. - On the education budget, this is intended to support the talks/adult education sessions he is planning to run. - JW about the museum review and where will the budget come from for this – this will come from budget lines 11 or 12. External costs for storage would also need to come from 12. The storage of Tassels tables and chairs will need to be paid for by the end of Feb. - LM said it was good to see the way we're managing our money fitting with the new organisation of the Society. LM said this is very reassuring. - AH proposed the budget, JC seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the budget. - JC led the Board in thanking BK for his work on the budget and accounts. 	
Cleve Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was dealt with in Environment quadrant report • 	
Scheme of Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HW said it might need an extra sentence to cover normal budget holders. HW will email AH and JW on that. 	HW to email AH on scheme of delegation
Talks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH was unable to attend so this item was delayed to the next Board meeting 	
AOB	None	
Officers Report	Chair's Report	

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NOTES:

Next Meetings

Date	Agenda
30 th April 2024	Board of Trustees

Future Business