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

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Tuesday 27th August 2024

Present: AF, LA, JC, MH, AH, BK, LM, TS, JW, HW, JD, JS

Part I

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Apologies	• KB, HG, AS	
Declarations of Interest	• None for LA, AH, JW, HW, JD, JS and BK. MH declared Durrell Wildlife and Friends of Westbrook. LM declared trustee of Community Land Trust and Horsebridge Arts. TS declared was advising Duchy, Community Land Trust member, also Tim's wife is a principal planner at Swale. JC declared Assembly Rooms, Maison Dieu and Community Land Trust member.	
Minutes	• TS and JD mentioned that they were present at the last meeting. Given that change, the minutes were approved.	
Matters arising and AoB	• Item 5b to be discussed later.	

Committee Reports	**Board Exec Committee:** The Board acknowledged these papers – 30 May, 15 July, 22 July, 21 Aug. HW requested to see the Exec minutes sooner rather than wait until the quarterly board. TS requested that the Board issues be highlighted. AF agreed to assist KB with this and add a chairs report to the agenda. **Futures:** AF said that HG no longer being able to chair the Futures Quadrant and E&P Committee has left a hole. It has been decided that is not feasible for HG to continue as chair of Futures quadrant, or on the Exec, but will continue as a trustee and VC. AF had intended to bring the issue of conflict of interest to the board for discussion on how this is managed. HG will pursue environment and planning issues through Faversham Futures group. It is hoped the Faversham Society will be involved in this and therefore potentially no need to duplicate effort. At the moment, the Exec doesn't have the expertise to deal with planning and large developments. How do we deal with regular planning applications? Proposal is to review the TOR of the Environment and Planning committee, refocus priorities and bring this to the board. MH suggested we might look for new members of the Environment and Planning committee. It may be that the Faversham Futures Group could lead on some of the work responding to the new developments, but The Faversham Society will need to retain its independent voice. It would be important to know how this new group is structured and governed. TS agreed with this and said he was reluctant to reduce the E&P work to heritage issues only. LM said we need to review how this E&P work sits within the societies objects and agreed the need to review ToR. Who can do this work? AF stated we need to look at the impact these larger developments have on the town. Importantly, we made an undertaking at the AGM that there would be a meeting in the autumn to discuss the Duchy proposals and our stance on them. JC stated that we need an effective chair/secretary of E&P and Faversham Futures contact. Also, need to decide who on the E&P committee deals with what, who can cope with the small/large developments due to workload pressures. LM reiterated that we need agreed ToR and they are vague about how far we stretch the objects and that we need to define an 'envelope' to engage with Faversham Futures. AF said that if we can do this work quickly, it might help to find a new chair of this quadrant. JC said there is not a lot of time, developers have been encouraged by the new	

	government. JW asked if the other members of the E&P group still prepared to be as helpful as they have been? MH said it depends on HGs continued engagement. TS asked what the terms of reference and the constitution was of Faversham Futures. Have we done due diligence? We shouldn't assume that we abandon planning but make sure it is fit for purpose. MH attended the preparatory meetings, there is currently no TOR or legal status. It is to be addressed at the next meeting, next week where we need to agree our role. LM agreed. JW asked if the Community Land Trust has ToR and constitution and LM said yes, they are on their website. **Outreach:** AF said that LA did a great job with Open Faversham. JC asked that Open Faversham for 2025 be added to the exec agenda for Dec/Jan. **Heritage**: JC mentioned that Saddlers has submitted a further planning application with air extraction vents almost double the size of the original. HW had sent through a detailed report explaining the benefits of museum accreditation. It's been 10 years since the last accreditation. There are no costs, investment is time only. JS, AF and LA have offered to review the necessary documents. MH asked if there were any disadvantages, whether we have to make changes to the fabric of the building. HW explained the process and JS said she thought it was very important to do, the process is like a 'critical friend' and will help us modernise and formalise our procedures. LM said it seems like a good thing; we should ensure we describe the explicit benefits to the town. JC said the process will concentrate our minds and that we need to ensure we have budget allocated. JW explained it's already included but we need to be mindful that our policies might be out of date so this would be additional work The board was enthusiastic about HW's work and agreed the museum is central to our objects. **The board unanimously agreed that they supported accreditation of the museum.** **Resources**: The Board noted this report.	
Finances	BK said that income levels are up and expenditure is well contained. We have a cash surplus of £10k, so we are in good shape. There was a question about the property maintenance expenditure – this cost was to have trees in the Georgian garden attended to, also to remove and replace the dilapidated shed in the garden. LM asked if we were able to split the bookshop income between shop and online. AF said it's typically £500-£600 shop and £150 online per week. JD stated that this month has been very good, boosted by Open Faversham.	

	TS queried why there is no longer a budget item for legal costs. BK explained that they were covered under ‘development appeal’ costs. JC queried why the ‘lighting/ heating’ and ‘telephone / computer’ costs had doubled. AH explained that we had a refund from BT last year. He is engaged in a battle with the energy company and expects a refund from them. BK stated that due to ill health, he was handing over management of the finances to AH. From the next quarter and year end, AH would take over and BK would resign at the AGM. AF thanked BK for his candour and thoughtfulness.	
AOB	AF stated that the next meeting will be in person. LM agreed and thought this is very important. TS agreed there are benefits to face to face meetings, but hybrid may be best.	

NOTES:

Part II

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Confidential matters	-	

Next Meetings

Date	**Agenda**
29th October 2024	Board of Trustees

Future Business