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 29th October 2024

Present: AF, BK, HW, JW, AH, TS, KB, JD, AS, LA, JS

Part I

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Apologies	• HG, LM, MH, JC.	
Declarations of Interest	• TS declared he had acted as an advisor to the DoC, is a Community Land Trust member, and is married to a principal planner at Swale. There were no other declarations of interest	
Minutes	• HG requested a clarification to the minutes on his changed position viz. the Environment & Planning Committee. The Chair insisted the circumstances had been reported to the Board correctly; HG had chosen to step down from that Committee. • LA proposed, JS approved. The minutes, pending clarification, were approved.	
Matters arising and AoB	• None	

Committee Reports	**Board Exec Committee:** The Board had no additional comments on the Outreach report **Futures:** There was no report from the Futures Quadrant since it's work was being managed in an ad-hoc manner since the dissolution of the Environment & Planning Committee. TS stressed the importance of this work and the urgency of reestablishing a formal committee, which AS offered to join. The meeting agreed that there were many Faversham residents with relevant expertise. The Chair agreed that the re-formation of the Committee was a priority. **Outreach:** The Board agreed to donate £1,000 to towards the Christmas lights. HW would be the Museum contact for the switch-on. Outstanding payments relating to Open Faversham were being followed up. **Heritage**: N/A **Resources**: 34 new members had joined the Society, many in anticipation of the Members' meeting on local developments. The Chair observed that demographic of the membership was reflected in that of the public meeting. There was a risk that the Society would be seen as representing the older population of the town only. The meeting accepted that it would be hard to integrate a new generation into the existing organisation and TS suggested that Society might offer support to organisations established by and for Gen Z.	
Finances	BK said that AH would manage the Society's finances upon his retirement as Treasurer. It was reported that second-hand book sales for the year had, so far contributed almost £30k. A net cash surplus of c. £14k. was reported but some budgeted expenditure, mainly on archives and education is unspent. HW explained that part of this was due to delays in work on a Faversham Archive Plan AH reported that expenditure on the new shed would be realised in January. BK confirmed that the cash position was healthy and the Board agreed to an additional sum of £2000 for it licencing.	
Museum statement	HW proposed that the Board agree a statement that explained the relationship between the Board and Museum, which was necessary for the reaccreditation process. It was noted that outstanding matters included a security review and an access review. It was expected that these would accrue costs The Board was mindful that commitments made during the accreditation process must be met.	

	JW, AF and LA are helping with documents for accreditation. **The Board approved the statement.**	
Neighbourhood Plan	**The Board agreed to support the campaign for a Yes vote** on the Neighbourhood Plan. TS said aspects of the plan were disappointing, and that the product is not of a quality that the Town deserves. TS said that while the Society should support the plan, but that the process had been flawed in some parts. He believed it favoured south and east of the town in relation to critical junctions. JD reported on problems that buses experienced with some junctions. The Chair observed that it was difficult as a lay person to understand the Plan's intentions and purpose. But it should be supported. It was noted that a No vote would leave the town vulnerable to development on inappropriate land. TS suggested that difference in LCWIP and Neighbourhood Plan critical junction maps should be aligned, but that any approach to the Council should be post-referendum – and perhaps we should draft correspondence for consideration of sending at the January Board.	
Large Scale Development	In compliance with the Conflict of Interest Policy, TS re-iterated his conflict in respect of his work for the DoC, which was highly relevant since their proposed SE Faversham development would be discussed. The Chair agreed that there was indeed a conflict, which was understood and acknowledged by all in the meeting. This being fully understood, The Chair asked if Members were content for TS to remain present – so as to be able to provide, on request, information that would benefit the discuss. He would not, of course, vote. This was agreed *nem con.* The previous night's meeting, at which 103 members had attended to listen to and question the platform on the proposed large-scale housing developments. The speakers were: Helen Whately MP; Swale Borough Cllr, Julian Speed; Faversham Town Cllr. Josh Rowlands, Harold Goodwin, Faversham Community Land Trust and Carol Goatham, Farms Fields and Fresh Air. The discussion was lively but respectful and it was agreed that the meeting was successful, and AF was congratulated on her chairing. The Board agreed to a statement/announcement that: (i) welcomed the Neighbourhood Plan; Supported the development of affordable homes, while remaining opposed to *all* large developments on greenfield sites; and declared a willingness to engage with stakeholders to minimise the risks and maximise the benefits to the town.	

	It was agreed that this statement , which is attached to these minutes ,would be published within one week.	
AOB		

NOTES:

Part II

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Confidential matters	There has been no change to the Restricted and Designated Funds – and BK asked if there has been any movement on Ardens House. AF said that JC is managing this. We have been in communication with the family who have indicated they would like to start the process of transferring ownership asap. Our solicitors have been notified and we are allowing them to set the pace for transfer. There are tenants in the house which we see as an advantage as it allows us to take time to make plans. We also now have access to work out exactly what needs to be done. AF said we now need to start making a business plan that is fully costed. BK said we need professional expertise and discussion at the Board. JW asked if we can move the £37k into property maintenance. BK said that the Land Fund of £46k who wished it to be used for the acquisition or upholding of important buildings within the confines of Faversham, and that we should move this to Ardens House and this would be the first port of call for any immediate costs. TS said that this feels like a big deal and we are not yet owners – so TS said	

	that we may not need to make the decision now – but we need a survey to understand basic costs and a commercial plan. JW said that our insurers need to see it too. AF said that the property will need to be valued. AH said that there might be a hybrid approach of commercial and heritage asset. **The board agreed the transfer of the Land Fund.** -	

Next Meetings

Date	Agenda
28th Jan 2025	Board of Trustees

Future Business