

MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Held at the Guildhall on Monday 15 October 2018

Present:

Cllr Nigel Kay
Cllr Mike Cosgrove
Cllr Geoff Wade

Ted Davis
Clive Foreman
Louise Bareham - Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Simmons and Belsom

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were noted and

4. HLF

NK reported that the HLF bid had been unsuccessful as in the view of HLF the project would not sufficiently achieve the outcomes of the HLF programme and HLF considered that the project could have been strengthened with more focussed aim and clearer specific heritage outcomes. HLF expect strong competition for HLF grants to continue so they recommend that the FTC should not reapply for the project in the current form and in fact the Heritage Fund grants stream had now closed.

GW felt it was frustrating that after the HLF gave such clear guidance on how the project should be developed, which resulted in the application being developed by a consortium of the Town's heritage organisations under Faversham Heritage Together. HLF were effectively sending the FTC back to the original plan when 12 Market Place was acquired.

HLF did recommend that FTC considers applying for a smaller project under the current "our Heritage" programme (grants available up to £100,000) the final deadline for which before the fund closes was mid January 2019. In a subsequent telephone call with HLF it was suggested that in view of the limited time available before the fund closes the FTC should submit an expression of interest for a project based on the display, protection and preservation of the Magna Carta, the other 17 Charters and the Town Medieval artefacts..

CF believed in the idea of the Heritage Hub and felt funding could be found for it elsewhere. TD confirmed that the Faversham Society was still keen and were convinced the money for the hub project could be raised elsewhere.

There is an opportunity to move the Doddington Library into the Reading Room, which would make the collection more accessible to students. It was expected that the FTC would be approached formally with a request to do this.

It was agreed that the next steps were to arrange a meeting of the groups involved in Heritage Together, chaired by Harold Goodwin to develop plans for the Heritage Hub. This would take some time and this would mean that the front exhibition area would be available for other uses in the interim.

FOR NOTING The Town Clerk advised as there was no cost implications the Heritage Committee had delegated authority to submit an “expression of interest” to HLF in accordance with HLF’s comments. It was agreed that Cllr Kay and the Town Clerk should do this as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION That if a positive response for HLF is received to the Expression of Interest a formal grant application is lodged under HLT’s “Our Heritage” Grant Scheme for a discreet project based on the Town’s Medieval Heritage and Treasurers..

5. Strategic Plan

Ideas for projects for next year should be circulated.

6. Budget

£10,000 had been agreed the previous year for the HLF project. Funds would be required for any proposed events.

7. Events

A re-enactment event for Henry VIII’s visit to Faversham was discussed. While it was clear that the event had been a major incident in the Town’s history and had taken place in 1519, there is no record of the specific date for the visit. It was agreed that the most appropriate date for such a commemoration would be in June 2019. NK had spoken to the organiser of the Canterbury pageant. A budget would be required, but possibly Arts Council funding could be available.

RECOMMENDATION That the Town Council authorises a detailed proposal being developed for 2019

12 Market Place

It was agreed to contact the Heritage Together to ask their Members if they would like to book the front exhibition area for exhibitions that they did not have facilities to put on in their own premises. In addition it was agreed to contact Kent Archives and to investigate travelling exhibitions. Canterbury Christchurch University would also be approached to assist as they had done in 2018.

A set of rules, including minimum hours of opening, to be agreed for users.

Town Hall Talks

It was agreed that the talks programme should continue, including offering the opportunity to inexperienced speakers in support of public speaking.

Visitor figures between July and September 2018:

Open House with Medieval Faversham	7th, 14th, 21st July	672
Medieval Faversham	3rd-30th Aug	942
Faversham 365	1st-9th Sept	3800
Faversham & District Camera Club	21st-22nd Sept	1200
TOTAL		6614

8. Signage

Examples of signage for the building were considered.

RECOMMENDATION for signage to read Faversham Town Council for the top of the building (example attached)

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd December, 5pm