



TOWN CLERK – MS LOUISE BAREHAM
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OPEN LETTER

8th March 2022

Larissa Read
Chief Executive Officer
Swale Borough Council
Swale House, East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent

Dear Larissa

TS Hazard is a building vital to the history of Faversham. Built in 1429 it has stood on the bank of Faversham Creek for nearly 600 years and been part of the commercial life of the Town ever since.

Faversham Town Council asks that Swale Borough Council takes active responsibility for the serious and immediate “at risk” situation of the building. TS Hazard came into the ownership of Swale Borough Council in 1974, almost 50 years ago and was for many years in active use by the local Sea Cadets. In recent years they have been forced to leave entirely due to the seriously poor condition of the building.

Swale Borough Council, as the planning authority, has a clear responsibility for the condition of this 2* listed building as it has for all listed buildings at risk. More to the point it is directly responsible as owner for the building and its condition. As the Town Council understands the crucial and urgent problem right now is the roof. This is badly damaged, leaking and in danger of collapse if a further storm occurs, or indeed with any bad weather. In the only slightly longer term the timber frame and walls are in poor order and the frequent flooding is certain to be damaging the foundations.

Faversham Town Council formally requests Swale Borough Council:

1. Immediately to have a thorough survey of TS Hazard conducted by a surveyor with expertise in timber framed ancient buildings to ascertain what work is required so that the building is no longer in any way at risk. Thereafter

promptly to do all necessary works identified.

2. To consult meaningfully and quickly with local organisations in Faversham, including, but not restricted to the Town Council and the Faversham Society, with a clear objective of finding a secure and financially viable future for TS Hazard. It is clear that in the last 20 years there has been little or no maintenance carried out on the building.

This issue has gone on for too long. It must be solved and the responsibility clearly lies in the hands of Swale Borough Council. We therefore look forward to discussing your plans as a matter of urgency and reaching an agreed and speedy solution.

Yours sincerely

Louise Bareham

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Town Clerk