

Report to Faversham Town Council Planning Committee

Subject: Queen Matilda Place

1.0 Request

On 26th October 2023 the Town Council received an email from a member of the public raising the point that the lane or alley passing in front of St Mary of Charity down to Abbey Place would appear to have no name.

On 17th November 2023 the LLPG/GIS Support Analyst & Street Naming and Numbering Officer (SBC) confirmed that they had no official name and advised that the Town Council could submit an application.

2.0 Town Council Action

The request to consider naming the route from St Mary of Charity to Abbey Place, Matilda Place/Lane was listed as an agenda item for the Town Council Planning Committee Meeting held on 11th December 2023.

Matilda was taken for the Draft Street Name List that was being considered by the Heritage and Buildings Working Group (extract below). The Heritage and Buildings Working Group recommend the report for approval at its meeting on 3rd January 2024, and it was approved by the Town council on 12th February 2024.

Matilda

Queen Matilda was the wife of King Stephen. Research indicates it was she, rather than the king, who was the founder of Faversham Abbey. Buried with her husband and son in Faversham Abbey.

It was proposed by Cllr H Perkin, seconded by Cllr R Newman and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to support naming the route Matilda.**

On 2nd April 2024 Swale Borough Council sent a quote for the provision and fitting of two nameplates (£872)

The Town Council (8th April 2024) made the following resolution.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the quotation from SBC (for works for the new street plate – supply and delivery of 2 No. Street Nameplates £572/Installation of 2 No. Wall Mounted Street Nameplates £300), but look for an alternative source of funding for appropriate charities, SBC grants and any other potential sources. Only use TC funding if needed.**

On 23rd April 2024 the Deputy Town Clerk submitted an application to Faversham Municipal Charities. This application was unsuccessful.

3.0 Delay to ordering signs

On 1st May 2024, Mr Andrew Osborne contacted the Town Council stating that he had submitted an application to officially name the route Shooting Meadow in August to Swale Borough 2015. He claimed that the route was historically known as this. He advised that he would be pursuing the matter with SBC and that the Town Council should not proceed with ordering signs until the matter was resolved.

On 22nd August 2024 the Deputy Town Clerk and Mr Andrew Osborne met with the following SBC representatives, Chief Executive, Head of ICT and LLPG/GIS Manager. They confirmed that the application submitted by Mr Osborne was to make changes to a property address, not to name the route. At this point the path remains unnamed on the Local Street Gazetteer (LSG) and the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG)

Further the route cannot be named Shooting Meadows, following SBC policy. Since 2012 it has been policy that a name cannot be misconstrued, and this name implies a firearm which would not be allowed.

SBC are keen for a line to be drawn on this matter, which has involved significant Officer time, dealing with Freedom of Information Requests and other correspondence.

The Chief Executive Officer has outlined two options for the Town Council:

- 1) Proceed with naming the path Queen Matilda as agreed on 11th December 2023 and appropriate signs be fitted
- 2) Confirm that the path will remain officially unnamed on the LLPG And LSG