

AT A MEETING OF FAVERSHAM TOWN HERITAGE, BUILDINGS AND CREEK COMMITTEE held in the Guildhall, on Tuesday 26th May 2026

Present:

Cllr L Coniam	Present	Cllr R Crayford	Apologies
Cllr C Gibson	Present	Cllr C Martin	Present
Cllr T Martin	Present	Cllr J Rowlands (Chair)	Present
Cllr J Saunders	Present	Cllr A Hook (KCC)	(Virtual)
Ms P Dickenson	Present	Mr H Goodwin	(Virtual)
Mr A Thorne	Present		

In attendance: Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

198. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr R Crayford

199. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

200. CO-OPTION

Members received Paper 1 – Application forms for co-option.

It was proposed by Cllr J Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Ms P Dickenson, Mr H Goodwin and Mr A Thorne would be co-opted onto Chair of Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee for the forthcoming civic year.***

201. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 1st April were noted having previously been approved at Town Council on 13th April 2026.

202. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

The latest version of Actions and Matters arising was received.

Minute 99 (04/06/25) – Flood Maps

CG remarked that the Emergency Resilience Forum may want to be involved in projects related to the Flood Maps

Minute 142 (01/10/25) – Heritage Plaques

JS commented that a Borough Councillor may contribute to cost of the plaque commemorating the forge from their members grant.

CG cited that the Cottage Hospital is a Memorial Hospital and raised the possibility of installing a commemorative stone.

203. VICE CHAIR

It was proposed by Cllr C Gibson, seconded by Cllr J Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Cllr T Martin would be Vice Chair of Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee for the forthcoming civic year.**

204. MAGNA CARTA

Members received and noted Paper 2 – Report from Charter Officer

1. Visitor Numbers

It was noted that there had been a decrease in 2025. The figure quoted for 2026 was up to 31/03/26, it looked low and will be interesting to see the figure at the end of the summer and calendar year.

AH suggested that it may be useful to quantify the value that visitors to the Magna Carta bring to town.

Members discussed school visits and questioned if secondary schools were targeted.

ACTION: CO to be asked if she does or is she happy to engage with secondary schools regarding visiting. Are present educational resources appropriate for this age group. What are the implications for promoting visits from secondary schools. **DTC**

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin seconded by Cllr G Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Paper 3 – Loan of the Magna Carta would be discussed in the Private Session scheduled at the end of the meeting.**

205. THE BLAST WALL

Members received and noted Paper 4 – Correspondence from KCC

Concern remained regarding the section of the blast wall that had been removed to facilitate the installation of the temporary bridge. Members were not happy with the response from the KCC's Structures Programme Manager.

The decision notice for the Listed Building Consent (19/504141/LBC) for the proposed temporary removal of 8m of the blast wall was issued 14/11/2019.

It was proposed by Cllr C Matin seconded by Cllr G Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to write to KCC, Historic England and SBC stating we no longer consider this temporary and that the listed wall should be rebuilt (The materials, mortar mix and brick bonding to be used on the work hereby permitted shall match the existing work on either side of the area to be taken down and re-built) as per the Planning Decision Notice.***

ACTION: Faversham Society to be asked if they have record of the wall before removal **HG**

206. THE GUILDHALL

Cllr H Perkin was listed on the agenda item to brief members of the committee on lessons learnt regarding communications at SBC. Regrettably she was unable to attend.

A discussion took place regarding communication concerning building works on Town Council properties, with particular focus on recent events regarding the Guildhall.

TM commented that there was a need for a clear way forward, when change arises that effect timelines of work on Town Council buildings the committee should be updated. Whilst this should be robust, it should not put disproportionate pressure on Officers or the Civic Team. Any policy should include a way to respond when information previously disseminated (press or social media etc) has been superseded by events.

Members will look forward to commenting on the draft communication strategy for building works to be drafted by Policy and Recourse Committee

Members received the quote to hire a boom lift for pre works survey. It was proposed by Cllr J Rowlands seconded by T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the quote £945.00 plus VAT.**

207. PRIVATE SESSION

It was proposed by Cllr J Rowlands seconded by Cllr L Coniam and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.**

208. MAGNA CARTA

Members received and noted Paper 3 – Loan of Magna Carta
It was proposed by Cllr J Rowlands seconded by Cllr L Coniam and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that the Members of the present Town Council had no appetite for the Magna Carta to leave Faversham at this time. A successor council, following the elections in May 2027 may take a different view. For them to make a decision it would be helpful to have clearer terms of reference and a list of potential venues for the members if minded to select from.**

209. CREEK BRIDGE

It was proposed by Cllr J Rowlands seconded by T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that the draft letter should be approved and sent (£500+VAT)**

The meeting closed at 21.03