



QUEENBOROUGH SOCIETY MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 5TH MAY 2017 IN THE GUILDHALL AT 7.30 pm

PRESENT

COMMITTEE:

Mr. E. Pye	Mrs. M. O'Callaghan
Mrs. L. Vine	Mr. R. Eatwell
Mr. P. Moore	Mrs. A. Mason
Mr. G. Mason	

MEMBERS:

Mrs. E. Hancock	Mr. K. Hancock
Mr. C. Boosey	Mrs. J. Boosey
Mrs. M. Brett (representing Charter Committee)	
Ms. C. Howard (representing Charter Committee)	
Mr & Mrs. Allsworth (representing Charter Committee)	
Mr. N. Hancock (representing Charter Committee)	

1) APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received for Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Eatwell.

In the absence of the Mr. Reckless Mrs. Vine chaired the meeting, welcoming all members particularly Mr. Hancock who had agreed to address the committee on the forthcoming Charter Celebrations.

2) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 3rd March 2017 were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by Mrs. Vine (Vice Chairman & Secretary).

3) MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None

4) CHARTER CELEBRATION COMMITTEE REPORT BY MR. HANCOCK (CHAIRMAN)

Mr. Hancock began with a brief history of Edward III granting the Royal Charter to Queenborough in 1368. He went on to report that the committee formed to arrange celebrations of this event had been holding numerous meetings since 2015. Strong support was being received from the Town Council and Swale Borough Council. The committee were employing an Event Manager, who had advised that the original idea of a jousting event was not viable. Plans therefore included a medieval fayre to be held on the Well Bank site and spread over the first Bank Holiday weekend in May 2018, banquet, street entertainment, historic walk and hog roast. The Museum will be holding a week long exhibition. A site meeting is being held on the 17th of this month with an Event Company, Swale Borough Council, the Event Manager, Mr. Fowler, and the Charter Committee. It is hoped that Queenborough School will be involved as well as the Big Fish Band. Start up monies have been received from the

Town Council and QFT. Heritage and Borough Councillor grants have been applied for. For research purposes members of the committee had visited archives at Kew and Maidstone as well as Westminster Abbey and Leeds Castle. It was hoped to invite the Archbishop of Canterbury but he has a full diary so an invite will go out to the Bishop of Dover.

Mr. Moore asked if there was anything the Harbour could contribute to the celebrations and he was asked if after speaking with Trust members the Harbour Trust could put some ideas to the Charter Committee for consideration. The Charter Committee are anxious that the medieval theme is adhered to throughout the entertainment and other events.

Mr. Hancock was thanked for sharing the plans of the Charter Committee with the Society.

5) LAND ADJACENT TO THE GUILDHALL

Mr. Moore understood that the land adjacent to the Guildhall had been put up for sale by Swale Borough Council at a price of 75k. Mr. Moore felt that the piece of land was important to the future of the Guildhall, namely accessibility to the building. If the land is lost it is difficult to see how the building will be used in the future. Disabled residents should be able to have access to the Guildhall for Town Council meetings. It was confirmed through discussion that there had been homes on the land in the past, that Swale own the land and are, in most probability, looking for a developer to build houses on the land. The Rowing Club wishing to expand had been turned down for a lease on the land. There was further debate with various points raised including;

- Asking Swale to hold back on a small area of land next to the Guildhall for a future disabled lift.
- Speaking with the Town Council.
- Where would the money come for the lift?
- The Harbour Trust would like to develop the area for amenities for harbour users e.g. toilets & showers and training block for community use but do not have the available funds.
- There could be problems taking a lift into the Guildhall as it is in a conservation area.

The proposal was put by Mr. Moore - that to facilitate wheelchair access to the 1st floor of the Guildhall the area of land to the rear of the Guildhall, or part of it, should not be sold by Swale Borough Council for development other than for an extension to house a lift facility and amenities. This was seconded by Mr. Eatwell with the majority voting in favour with one abstention.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Eatwell will write accordingly to Swale Borough Council and Mr. Moore will attend the Town Council Meeting this coming Monday to hear the views of the Town Councillors.

6) MUSEUM:

Mrs. Vine did not have much to report apart from slow but steady numbers and some advanced bookings. The museum was now displaying a small collection of Victorian coins with some relevant information alongside and facsimiles of two

Edward III coins. The Harbour Trust had donated an original copy of the Queenborough Harbour Act 1876 to be kept at the Museum.

7) HARBOUR:

Mr. Moore gave a report on the Harbour Trust. Coastal Community funding had been received of ½ million. Moorings will be increased in the Harbour making it economically viable for the future. Including swinging, fore & aft and alongside moorings. Although there are a number of hoops to jump through before the Harbour Trust receives the money there are possible benefits to the Town from Harbour improvements; job opportunities and increased visitors. Mrs. Brett was thanked for the work she puts into the Harbour Trust Newsletter.

8) OUT AND ABOUT:

Mr. Mason mentioned one of the cottages in the High Street had been clad with weather boarding and wondered if this was allowed. Mr. Pye reported that the Town Council had approached the Conservation Officer who was looking into it. The eyesore of Boswain Stores was also mentioned and would look much better with blacked out windows. The In Bloom committee had tried to find the owners some time back but to no avail. A bench in the memory of Sid Crowder was now behind the barriers along Rushenden Road. Mr. Pye reported that the Town Council has taken this up with Swale and the bench will be repositioned.

9) TOWN COUNCIL REPORT:

Mr. Pye will report at the next meeting.

8) SOCIAL PROGRAMME:

It had been mention for the June meeting a trip to John Stanford's establishment at Brambledown. Mrs Vine will make enquiries as to access.

9) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Brett commented on her disappointment that the Queenborough Museum did not have a mention in the text of the current Sheppey booklet. Mrs. Brett wondered if you had to pay to be included at there was a full page about the Blue Town Establishment. Mrs. Brett felt strongly that Queenborough should have more of a mention. Mrs. Vine was not sure how it worked as she had no recollection of having been contacted for input. It will be looked into.

10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

2nd June.

