

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP – INAUGURAL MEETING  
2 JUNE 2015 IN THE GUILDHALL

MINUTES

1. The meeting had been called with a view to setting up a Faversham Footpaths Group. Some 20 people attended, with apologies for absence from a further 13 people who had indicated that they supported this initiative.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. Roy Campbell, chairing the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Brian Caffarey read out the names of those who had sent apologies for absence.

PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL ELLIS OF KCC'S PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SERVICE

3. Mr Ellis had been asked to give a brief presentation on the understanding that in doing so KCC was not necessarily endorsing the setting-up of the Group. He gave an overview of public rights of way in Kent, drawing attention to KCC's overall strategy, the extent of its responsibilities and the ways in which problems which were reported were prioritised and tackled, given the limited resources available.

4. Mr Ellis ended by saying that he would be happy to be contacted if any problems were encountered with rights of way in East Kent. His email address is [Michael.Ellis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Ellis@kent.gov.uk) and his phone number is 03000 418142.

DISCUSSION OF CASE FOR SETTING UP A FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

5. Brian Caffarey explained that the proposal to set up this Group had arisen from a feeling that it would be useful to have a more locally-focused footpaths group than those which currently existed. The two main groups at present were the Ramblers Group based in Canterbury and the Swale Footpaths Group, which seemed to focus primarily on the Sittingbourne area and which had not been supportive over the Faversham Reach public inquiry. While a new Faversham-based Group could no doubt be helpful in the forthcoming consideration of the coastal path, there were also broader, longer-term objectives, as reflected in the objects set out in the draft constitution.

6. In a brief discussion, those present indicated their support for setting up the Group as proposed.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION

7. The meeting considered a draft constitution which had been circulated beforehand.

8. The draft was approved subject to one amendment to paragraph 1 (c) to make the reference to maintaining public rights of way more inclusive. The final version is attached.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, SECRETARY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9. The following were elected unanimously:

Chairman – Trevor Payne

Treasurer – Roy Campbell

Secretary – Brian Caffarey

Other Members – John Coulter, Andrew Osborne, Anne Salmon, Brian Turner

#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2015-16

10. It was agreed that the membership subscription for 2015-16 should be £5 per person. Following the meeting 17 people immediately joined the Group.

#### CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE APPLICATION FOR CHARITABLE STATUS

11. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that an application for charitable status should be made provided that the Executive Committee, on examining this matter in more detail, agreed that this was desirable. **ACTION: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. The following points were noted:

- It was intended to create a website for the Group and a domain name had already been acquired
- Those who had been unable to attend but had expressed support for the initiative would be contacted and encouraged to join the Group
- Publicity would be given to the setting-up of the Group with the aim of attracting other members
- It was intended to contact walking groups and parish councils to notify them of the new Group
- It would be desirable to organise some local walks, partly to assess how well maintained rights of way were.

4 June 2015