

## **Faversham Footpaths Group**

### **Constitution and Rules**

1. The objects of the Group are:
  - a. To assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of footpaths, bridleways and byways in Faversham and the surrounding area.
  - b. To prevent, by making representations to the appropriate public authorities or by any other lawful means, the obstruction of public paths.
  - c. To ensure that public rights of way are adequately signposted and way marked and are satisfactorily maintained.
  - d. To resist proposals for the extinguishment or diversion of rights of way whenever, in the opinion of the Group, they would be contrary to the public interest.
  - e. To press for the creation of new public rights of way.
  - f. To encourage the designation of existing public paths by the deadline of 1 January 2026.
  - g. To organise walks and to encourage the use of public paths in Faversham and the surrounding area.
  - h. To support, and where appropriate affiliate to, other organisations which share the objects of the Group.
2. All persons who satisfy the Executive Committee that they support its objects are eligible to become Members. The annual subscription of members shall be as determined initially at the inaugural meeting and as subsequently agreed at Annual General Meetings. Notice of any proposed changes shall be sent to Members to arrive not less than one week before the Annual General Meeting.
3. All Members are entitled to attend and to vote at General Meetings of the Group. At least ten Members must be present at a General Meeting to constitute a quorum. The Annual General Meeting must be held each year between October 1st and November 30th. Its Agenda must include the election of Officers and of the other Members of the Executive Committee. Other General Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or on the requisition of at least fifteen Members of the Group. The Agenda of a General Meeting must be sent to all Members not less than one week in advance.
4. Officers of the Group are the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The Executive Committee consists of all the Officers and four other Members elected at the Annual General Meeting. Faversham Town Council will be invited to nominate a representative to attend meetings. Any vacancy occurring between the Annual General Meetings may be filled by the Executive Committee itself. The Executive Committee is empowered to co-opt not more than three additional, non-voting, Members. The Executive Committee must meet at least twice in the period between Annual General Meetings and at least three voting Members must be present to constitute a quorum.
5. The Chairman is empowered with the majority agreement of the Executive Committee to form a sub-committee, or sub-committees, to facilitate the

activities of the Executive Committee. At least one member of the Executive Committee must serve on any sub-committee so formed.

6. The Executive Committee may submit Standing Orders to any General Meeting for approval by a simple majority of the Members attending.
7. The Constitution and Rules may be amended at any General Meeting with the approval of not less than two-thirds of the Members attending. Written notice, which is required to include the proposed amendment or amendments, must be sent to all Members, to arrive not less than one week in advance of the General Meeting concerned.
8. The Committee has the sole authority on the admittance or refusal to Membership. Should the Committee decide that any person is unacceptable for Membership or, in the case of an existing Member, has become unacceptable (due to anti-social behaviour, etc.) the Committee is authorised to refuse or terminate that person's Membership. The existing Member must be given seven days' written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee and must be informed of the complaints made against him or her. The Membership of an existing Member may not be terminated unless he or she has first had the opportunity to appear before the Committee and answer complaints made against him or her, and at least two-thirds of the Committee then present vote in favour of his or her Membership being terminated.
9. The Group may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of Members voting at an Annual General Meeting or special General Meeting of the Group confirmed by a simple majority of Members voting at a further special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Group is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a special General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given. In the event of the dissolution of the Group its available funds, its records and other assets shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the meeting of the Group at which the decision to dissolve the Group is confirmed.

Approved at the inaugural meeting of the Group on 2 June 2015.