

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 1 DECEMBER 2015

Present: Trevor Payne (Chairman)
Brian Caffarey (Secretary)
John Coulter
Andrew Osborne
Anne Salmon
Brian Turner

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Roy Campbell (Treasurer).

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 21 OCTOBER 2015

2. The minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Walk on Sunday 15 November 2015 and next walk on Sunday 10 January 2016

3. Nineteen people, including some walkers from Linda Harrison's Health Walks group, had taken part in a very enjoyable walk on 15 November. The next walk will be on Sunday 10 January, meeting at 10.00am outside the Guildhall. Steps were being taken to publicise the walk.

(ii) Proposal for an exhibition at the Fleur (para 4)

4. Trevor Payne said that he understood from Clive Foreman that this proposed exhibition had been postponed because of pressure of other work. In the meantime Andrew Osborne had obtained some publicity material from Ramblers which Brian Caffarey would keep pending an exhibition.

(iii) Website 'hits' (para 5)

5. In a recent 30 day period 106 users had used the website for 168 sessions, looking at over 350 pages in total. This was a substantial increase in users over a similar 30 day period prior to the last meeting.

(iv) Social media etc (para 6)

6. The website and Facebook page had been updated. It was agreed to open a Twitter account.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

(v) Walkers' groups (para 7)

7. No reply had so far been received to the request to Antony Millett to publicise the Group and its walks.

(vi) Lakeside Close (para 9)

8. The Secretary had written to Chris Oswald-Jones to inform him that the planning application for Lakeside Close had not included an earlier provision to improve footpath ZF3 leading from the rear of the development. KCC had said, however, that they would inspect it to see if some improvements were necessary.

(vii) Proposal for a path from Jubilee Way to the Rec (para 10)

9. John Coulter said that the proposal for securing limited vehicular access from Jubilee Way to the Rec was still being pursued by the Municipal Charities but it was clear from a site visit that access from the existing car park posed problems since it would not lead directly to the rugby club and because of the difference in the height of the land. The matter had been raised with Swale Borough Council and can be raised further at a meeting about Rec improvements involving the Municipal Charities, Swale BC and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

(viii) Court of Appeal judgement (para 10)

10. KCC had advised that this judgement appeared to have little or no implications for footpaths in the Faversham area since there had been few enclosures in Kent.

(ix) Ramblers' Big Pathwatch (para 11)

11. Because of other priorities no action had yet been taken to follow up the question whether the Group could take some active part in this initiative.

(x) Google searches (para 13)

12. Some 'tweaks' had been made to the website, which might help marginally in ensuring that people were directed to it, as well as regular updating. John Coulter said that he had ensured that a link on faversham.org had been made active. The Secretary would check whether other changes to faversham.org still appeared to be required. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

(xi) KCC budget (para 23)

13. As agreed, the Chair had written to KCC praising the service provided by PROW in spite of its limited resources and urging that its budget should not be cut further.

TREASURER'S REPORT

14. All subscriptions, apart from a couple received in the last few days, had been banked. The Group now had 50 members.

15. The Secretary had established that the Group could not apply to be formally registered as a charity because it lacked sufficient income but he had made an application to HRMC to be registered for gift aid.

16. The Treasurer would follow up the request to arrange for subscriptions to be made by standing order. **ACTION: ROY CAMPBELL**

FOOTPATH ZF5 AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

17. It was understood that KCC officials hoped to submit a report to the Council's Regulation Committee before Christmas for consideration at a meeting in the New Year. In discussion the EC's expectation was that this would contain a recommendation to proceed with the proposed Creekside footpath as proposed in the June consultation document.

KCC'S CONSULTATION ON THE DMMO APPLICATION

18. KCC had written to the Group to consult on the application made by Faversham Town Council in December 2013 to add to the Definitive Map of Footpaths the path round the perimeter of the Faversham Reach estate. This application had been made in preparation for the public inquiry which had eventually been held in May 2014 and which confirmed that the path was already a public right of way. The Group had written to KCC expressing its full support for a Definitive Map Modification Order, whilst making it clear that this would in no way diminish its support for a Creek-side path at Faversham Reach and Waterside Close.

ENGLAND COAST PATH

19. It was understood that Natural England were now collating and summarising all the comments received from their drop-in sessions and also contacting those landowners who had not so far responded. As regards the route round Faversham Creek, it was clear that some landowners and residents had not been aware of the effect of the 'coastal margin' provision. NE had confirmed that a number of objections had been received to a route following the water's edge. They hoped to draw up provisional proposals by February/March next year and had said that they were well aware of the need to keep closely in touch with interested parties.

20. It was agreed that the Secretary would continue to liaise with Natural England and KCC.

21. As agreed at the last meeting, the Secretary had asked for an update from KCC re the design of the new bridge, in particular in respect of the width of the footway and the allowance for a Creek-side route on the town side. KCC had replied to the effect that detailed design work would begin once firm approval had been given for the bridge.

DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

22. The EC welcomed a suggestion from KCC that, as a first step in identifying paths which might require designation by the deadline of 1 January 2026, the Group should submit a list of paths/alleyways in Faversham town in order to see if these were already on the list of streets. It was agreed that Andrew Osborne, John Coulter and Brian Caffarey would meet in the New Year to take this forward and that, in the meantime, Andrew would obtain an appropriate map. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY, JOHN COULTER and ANDREW OSBORNE**

23. It was noted that other action would need to be taken subsequently to look at rural paths. The various parish councils could be expected to take the lead in identifying paths at possible risk.

LOG OF ISSUES RAISED WITH THE GROUP

24. The EC noted a summary which had been prepared of the various issues raised with, or initiated by, the Group. The Secretary would update it and revise it with a view to possibly adding it to the website. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. The EC discussed whether it should pursue concerns about the fencing of land at the entrance to Bob Amor Close but decided that it fell outside its remit.

DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

26. The next EC meeting will take place on Wednesday 17 February 2016, at 7pm at 130 Athelstan Road, subject to checking nearer the time that it does not clash with any public meetings.

3 December 2015