

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

## FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20 APRIL 2016

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

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Brian Turner sent his apologies for absence together with some comments on agenda items.

### MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 17 FEBRUARY 2016

2. The minutes were approved.

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

##### (i) Recent and forthcoming walks (para 3)

3. Recent walks had been well attended, with some 20 people participating. The EC thanked Linda Harrison for organising them. The next walks are on Sunday 8 May and Sunday 12 June. Details would be posted on the website and on faversham.org as well as being sent to members.

##### (ii) Website hits (para 4)

4. In a recent 30-day period 77 users had used the website for 87 sessions, looking at 213 pages in total. This represented a significant decrease in the number of users compared with the figure recorded in the previous minutes but it was noted that usage inevitably fluctuated depending on the number and importance of new postings on the website.

##### (iii) Social media etc (para 5)

5. The website, Facebook page and faversham.org had been updated as necessary. A Twitter account had not yet been opened. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

##### (iv) Proposal for a path from Jubilee Way to the Rec (para 6)

6. John Coulter said that there had been no change since the last meeting, with the proposal for securing limited vehicular access from Jubilee Way to the Rec still being considered by Swale Borough Council. It was noted that the most important improvement from the Municipal Charities' standpoint would be to stop vehicles entering the Rec from the Whitstable Road.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

7. All subscriptions had been banked. The Group now had 58 members and £290 in its account. The £30 cost of hiring the Sydney Room for the AGM would need to be met, together with some £25 for hosting services for the website and the domain name.

## FOOTPATH ZF5 AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

8. Following the unanimous decision by the KCC panel to approve the proposals for a Creekside path at Faversham Reach and Waterside Close it was understood that KCC officials hoped to issue the Orders for a four-week consultation period at the end of April/early May. It was agreed that every effort should be made to encourage individuals to write in support of the proposals.

9. There seemed to be no reason, given the various pledges which had been made, why it would not be possible for KCC, at the end of the consultation period, to satisfy themselves that sufficient funds would be available to carry out the necessary works.

10. The May edition of the Faversham Society newsletter carried a piece by Trevor Payne drawing Society members' attention to the proposals and to the benefits which the path would bring. It was noted that the Society had added a footnote to the piece, purporting to explain its position; however, no one present had been able to fathom its meaning!

## THE FOOTPATH ROUND THE BACK OF FAVERSHAM REACH

11. The Order adding this footpath to the Definitive Map would come into effect automatically on 29 April provided that no objections were received.

## ENGLAND COAST PATH

12. The meeting noted that the discussions with Natural England on 31 March had been helpful, especially in clarifying the timetable and confirming that NE saw no grounds for excluding the communal areas of Faversham Reach, Waterside Close and Provender Walk from the 'spreading room' provisions – with the effect being that even if, for some unexpected reason, the coast path ran inland from the Creekside, those areas would be subject to public access. NE had also confirmed that they would expect to contribute financially if the coast path route followed KCC's proposals at Faversham Reach and Waterside Close.

13. It was noted that NE hoped to publish their 'emerging proposals' for the route of the path at the end of May. This should therefore follow publication by KCC of the Orders relating to Faversham Reach and Waterside Close.

## DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

14. Andrew Osborne, John Coulter and Brian Caffarey had held a further meeting at which they had identified a number of paths etc in the town centre which might require designation action in order to ensure that rights of way were not lost. Detailed descriptions of these paths etc were now being drawn up. A consolidated list would be prepared following another meeting taking place shortly and this would then be sent to KCC to check the status of the paths etc.

15. The meeting also discussed a proposal to make an application to KCC to add two paths to the Definitive Map. It was agreed that before evidence of historical use of these paths was sought from

members of the public, KCC should be asked to check whether the maps which had been drawn up were satisfactory and that enquiries should also be made to check the status of a relevant road.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

#### PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

16. The meeting considered a note by the Secretary, prepared in consultation with Linda Harrison, about the possibility of obtaining public liability insurance to guard against the remote possibility of a claim of negligence in relation to the Group's guided walks. It was agreed in discussion that this was not necessary provided that the more formal arrangements set out in the note were followed. These included a written assessment of any potential hazards and orally relaying them to walkers before the start. These arrangements had been followed in the case of the most recent walk.

#### AGM AND MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

17. It was noted that the AGM would take place on the evening of Tuesday 8 November 2016 in the Sydney Room at the Alexander Centre. The Secretary was asked to invite an NE representative to give a talk on the coast path. It was agreed that the EC should propose that membership should remain at £5 per person; that it should run on a calendar year basis; and that anyone joining the Group after 1 September in a given year should have their membership extended to cover the following calendar year. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

#### LOG OF ISSUES RAISED WITH THE GROUP

18. The meeting noted the revised update of issues that had been raised with, or pursued by, the Group.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. There was a brief discussion of the possible implications for Creekside paths of the inspector's report on the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan, in particular in relation to Swan Quay. Andrew Osborne said that he would look at this in more detail. **ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE**

#### DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

20. Further EC meetings were arranged for Wednesday 1 June 2016 and Thursday 28 July 2016, both at 7pm at 130 Athelstan Road.

23 April 2016