

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 28 JULY 2016

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Brian Turner and Roy Campbell sent their apologies for absence.

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 20 APRIL 2016

2. The minutes were approved. (The meeting planned for 1 June 2016 had been cancelled.)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Recent and forthcoming walks (para 3)

3. Well-attended walks had taken place on 8 May, 12 June and 10 July. The Committee thanked Linda Harrison and Brian Caffarey for organising them. The next walk would be on Sunday 7 August, starting from Selling. A note had been sent to members and posters put up in town.

(ii) Website hits (para 4)

4. In a recent 30-day period 139 users had used the website for 145 sessions, looking at 219 pages in total. This represented a substantial increase in the number of users and sessions compared with the figure recorded in the previous minutes and probably reflected recent activity in respect of the Faversham Reach and Waterside Close footpath proposals.

(iii) Social media etc (para 5)

5. The website, Facebook page had recently been updated. Brian Caffarey said that computer problems during the last fortnight had led to some delay in updating action.

(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. Andrew Osborne wondered if there would be advantage in 'chasing' the Council, noting that the most important improvement from the Municipal Charities' standpoint would be to stop vehicles entering the Rec from the Whitstable Road.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan (para 19)

7. It was noted that an application had been lodged for permission to challenge, through judicial review, the Inspector's recommendations in respect of Swan Quay.

TREASURER'S REPORT

8. Brian Caffarey said that Roy Campbell had confirmed that the Group now had 58 members and £295 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

9. It was noted that the Chair had written to KCC on 13 July 2016 in response to the latter's formal consultation on their proposals. It was clear, too, that a number of members and others had also written in support. Andrew Osborne said that he understood that, as expected, a number of residents had written to oppose the plans on similar grounds to those raised at the Regulation Committee Panel hearing.

10. Given that the necessary funds for the works required had been pledged by various bodies, there seemed to be no reason why KCC should not now send the draft Orders forward to the S of S for confirmation. It was hoped that this would be done in September. The expectation then was that another public inquiry would be ordered. The Committee agreed that, while it would be important for the Group to have a strong independent voice at any public inquiry, it did not seem necessary to arrange separate legal representation, given that the Group's arguments would be unlikely to differ significantly from those which would be put forward by KCC's representative and in view of the costs involved.

THE FOOTPATH ROUND THE BACK OF FAVERSHAM REACH

11. The Order adding this footpath to the Definitive Map had come into force.

ENGLAND COAST PATH

12. Brian Caffarey said that he understood from Natural England that there had been some more slippage in their timetable for publishing their 'emerging proposals' for the route of the Coast Path from Whitstable to Iwade. This had been caused, they said, by having to focus on the formal opening of two other Kent stretches of the Path. They now planned to concentrate on the Whitstable to Iwade stretch and were having a meeting shortly with KCC about the Faversham aspects. The Committee hoped that this would provide sufficient reassurance for them to include the Faversham Reach/Waterside Close path in their proposals.

DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

13. Andrew Osborne, John Coulter and Brian Caffarey had held a further meeting at which they had completed the task of identifying 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 had been drawn up and now needed to be consolidated for submission to KCC. **ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE**

14. The meeting also touched on the proposal to make an application to KCC to add two paths to the Definitive Map. A new baseline map had been requested from Swale Borough Council for one of the paths and was still awaited. Action was also needed to check with KCC whether the maps which had been drawn up were satisfactory and enquiries ought also to be made to check the status of a relevant road. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

AGM – TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2016

15. It was agreed that there would be a detailed discussion at the next meeting of the arrangements for the AGM, but it was noted that Natural England had agreed to do a short presentation about the Coast Path.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. The following matters were mentioned:

- (i) David White – the meeting noted with sadness the recent death of David White, whose evidence to the 2014 public inquiry had been so persuasive
- (ii) Application to Bensteds Charity – an application had been made to Bensteds Charity for a small grant to offset future expenditure in connection with the work to safeguard footpaths by the 2026 deadline
- (iii) Footpath at the corner of the A2 and Western Link Road – it was agreed that the Secretary should write to SBC to express the Group's concern that this footpath should be safeguarded in the event of building taking place on this piece of land. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**
- (iv) Fence at Bob Amor Close – It was noted, with satisfaction, that the fence illegally enclosing land at the corner of Bob Amor Close had at last been taken down.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6 September at 7pm at 130 Athelstan Road.

30 July 2016