

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Roy Campbell sent his apologies for absence.

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 28 JULY 2016

2. The minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Recent and forthcoming walks (para 3)

3. The walk on 7 August, starting at Selling, had been well attended and had followed a particularly scenic route. It was noted that this had been the first occasion that a walk had started other than from the Guildhall. Linda Harrison had just been able to confirm that the next walk would take place on Sunday 18 September. Brian Caffarey would send a note round to members with details. The Committee expressed its thanks to Linda for her efforts in preparing and leading the Group's walks.

(ii) Website hits (para 4)

4. In a recent 30-day period 112 users had used the website for 124 sessions, looking at 294 pages in total. This represented a slight decrease in the number of users and sessions compared with the figure recorded in the previous minutes but a small increase in the number of pages viewed.

(iii) Social media etc (para 5)

5. The website had been updated on a regular basis and several postings made on the Facebook page.

(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.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan (para 7)

7. It was noted that a decision was still awaited on the application which had been lodged for permission to challenge, through judicial review, the Inspector's recommendations in respect of Swan Quay. The Committee expressed the view that, regardless of the outcome of any judicial review and any subsequent reconsideration of the proposals for Swan Quay, the Group should support the provision of a public footpath along the Creekside there.

(vi) Application to Bensted's Charity (para 16 (ii))

8. The application which had been made for a grant of £100, which could be drawn on to meet photocopying and other minor expenses in connection with the designation of footpaths, had been approved.

(vii) Footpath at corner of A2/Western Link Road (para 16 (iii))

9. As agreed at the last meeting, Brian Caffarey had submitted comments on the Group's behalf in respect of this planning application, emphasising the importance of retaining the public footpath through this site. The application had not been supported by Faversham Town Council but was now with Swale Borough Council for decision.

TREASURER'S REPORT

10. Brian Caffarey reported, in Roy Campbell's absence, that the Group now had 60 members. He did not have precise details of the current position re the Group's accounts but said that the cost of hiring the Sydney Room for the AGM and for renewing the Group's domain name etc had now been reimbursed.

FOOTPATH ZF5 AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

11. Andrew Osborne said that he had not been able to speak to KCC to get an oral update prior to the meeting but he believed that the position remained that it was expected that the Council would submit the Orders to the S of S later in September, together with the various objections and expressions of support, and that this would then trigger a public inquiry. One or two Waterside Close residents had suggested that any path there should exit by the main gate rather than continue via the slipway round to Faversham Reach, arguing that this would be a less expensive option. The Committee noted that this would be a much less satisfactory route, given the desire to follow the Creekside wherever possible, and that Natural England (NE) had expressed its initial view that the England Coast Path should follow the route proposed by KCC for the public footpath (see immediately below).

ENGLAND COAST PATH

12. The Committee welcomed NE's initial view on the route of the Coast Path (see immediately above). It also noted the other main points which NE had made: that discussions were continuing with residents about any 'infrastructure and measures' which NE might also propose to accompany their proposal; that NE had not confirmed their thinking about much of the route on the other side of the Creek; and that they envisaged that their proposals for the Whitstable to Iwade stretch would not be published till early 2017.

13. Members of the Committee had accepted an invitation to meet NE, and that meeting would take place in early October.

14. It was noted that NE had received an FOI request for copies of all correspondence between NE and the Group. In order that the Group should not be at a disadvantage, a similar request had now been submitted by the Group in respect of comments made by the residents.

DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

15. Andrew Osborne reported that he had now consolidated the information which he, John Coulter and Brian Caffarey had gathered about paths, alleyways etc in the town centre which might require designation action in order to ensure that rights of way were not lost. The Committee agreed that these should now be submitted to KCC so that the Council could check whether the paths etc were public highways. It was also agreed that this action should be drawn to the attention of the Town Council and that publicity should be sought for what had been a significant undertaking.

ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE/BRIAN CAFFAREY

16. Andrew Osborne said that he was still awaiting a baseline map in respect of a proposed application to KCC to add two paths to the Definitive Map.

FOOTPATH AT FORMER OIL DEPOT

17. It was noted that the Chair had submitted comments on the Group's behalf on the planning application which had been made for 'works to reinstate dilapidated quay and form creek side footway'. The application had indicated that it was not intended that the footway should, at this stage, be for the use of the general public, although it referred to the possibility, in any future development of the Creek, of subsequently diverting the footpath at Standard Quay along the Creekside. The Group had expressed support for the application but had commented that it believed that the path should be made available for public use at the outset because of the significance of the views that would be afforded, noting that this would also be consistent with the various official policies for the Creek.

AGM – TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2016

18. The Committee discussed the arrangements for the AGM on Tuesday 8 November at 7.30pm in the Sydney Room at the Alexander Centre. It was agreed that:

- Written confirmation should be sought from NE that they would provide a speaker to give a short presentation on the Coast Path.
- As previously agreed, the Committee should propose that the annual subscription should remain at £5, with the membership period moving to a calendar year basis. The Committee would also propose that those who had recently joined the Group should be deemed to have paid their new subscription. Renewals would be sought by standing order wherever possible.
- While those EC members who were present had indicated that they would be prepared to stand again (Roy Campbell's views were not known), it would be welcome if others were to put their names forward.
- The Chair would circulate in advance a note summarising the Group's activities and achievements since its establishment in June 2015, and there would also be a note giving information about the accounts.

Brian Caffarey was asked to make arrangements accordingly. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. The following matters were mentioned:

- Parish Footpath Wardens – a note had been received from the Faversham Town Clerk, who had been contacted by a representative of Canterbury Ramblers, about the possible appointment of a Parish Footpath Warden, who would monitor the state of footpaths in the parish and report problems to KCC. It was agreed in discussion that this was a role which seemed to naturally fall to the Group and that the Chair should write to the Town Clerk to offer its services to the Town Council. **ACTION: TREVOR PAYNE**
- The planned bund on the Front Brents – concern was expressed that the operating arrangements for removing the proposed barriers once the flood risk had passed were not nearly clear enough. It was important that the barriers should not remain in place, blocking the footpath and access to the Town Green, any longer than was necessary. It was agreed that the Group should write to KCC to express its concerns. **ACTION: TREVOR PAYNE**
- Preston footbridge – the decision to close this bridge during the Hop Festival had drawn attention again to the need for work to repair and strengthen it. It was noted that the footbridge was not on the Definitive Map of Public Footpaths but it would be noted on the maps of alleyways etc being submitted to KCC (see paras 15-16 above) and that this should help to clarify its status in law and therefore the responsibility for maintaining it.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 26 October 2016 at 7pm at 130 Athelstan Road, when arrangements for the AGM would be finalised.

8 September 2016