

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

## FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 26 OCTOBER 2016

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

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. John Coulter sent his apologies for absence.

### MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 6 SEPTEMBER 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 18 September, which had been arranged at short notice, had attracted 13 people, while 10 people took part in the Bossenden Wood walk on 16 October. The weather had been poor prior to the latter walk and it started 'out of town': both factors probably contributed to the lower number taking part. The next walk will take place on 20 November and will be advertised in the normal way. The Committee expressed its thanks to Linda Harrison for her efforts in preparing and leading the Group's walks.

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

4. In a recent 30-day period 82 users had used the website for 82 sessions, looking at 250 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 was not necessarily significant.

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

5. Because of a recent absence on holiday, the website needed updating but this would be done shortly.

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

6. John Coulter had indicated in writing 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. Andrew Osborne reported that the hearing of the judicial review relating to the Swan Quay element of the Plan would take place on 12 January 2017. If the application succeeded there would need to be another public inquiry into that aspect of the Plan.

(vii) Footpath at corner of A2/Western Link Road (para 9)

8. The planning application to build on this site had been turned down but it seemed likely that there would be an appeal. If so, the Group would need to reiterate its concern that the public footpath running through the site should be retained.

(vi) Parish Footpath Wardens (para 19)

9. Trevor Payne reported that following the last meeting he had written to the Town Clerk to offer the Group's services in filling the role of Parish Footpath Warden. The Town Council had subsequently asked the Group to take on this task on its behalf and Brian Caffarey had reported this to the Ramblers representative who was coordinating appointments. He had sought more information about the role.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

10. It was agreed in discussion that the new Executive Committee ought to have a discussion about the part the Group might play in actively monitoring the state of footpaths and perhaps carrying out some remedial work where appropriate.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

(vii) The bund on the Front Brents (para 19)

11. The present state of work on the bund was noted. Trevor Payne said that, as agreed at the last meeting, he had written to KCC to express the Group's concerns that the barriers should not remain in place any longer than was strictly necessary. KCC had said that they shared this concern and were discussing the arrangements with the Environment Agency. Andrew Osborne said that he understood that the operating arrangements provided that in a flood risk situation the barriers should be in place two hours before and two hours after high water.

TREASURER'S REPORT

12. Roy Campbell reported the Group's financial position, details of which would be provided in the papers for the AGM. It was agreed that if, as expected, a new Treasurer was appointed at the AGM, the new Treasurer, Roy and Brian Caffarey would liaise to ensure a smooth handover and to set up a standing order arrangement for subscriptions.

**ACTION: ROY CAMPBELL/BRIAN CAFFAREY**

FOOTPATH ZF5 AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

13. Andrew Osborne said that he understood that KCC hoped to send the Orders to the S of S in late October or early November. He said that he would continue to liaise with KCC over progress.

**ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE**

ENGLAND COAST PATH

14. The meeting noted the main points from a meeting held with Natural England (NE) on 11 October 2016:

- NE expect to submit their report, recommending the route of the Path from Whitstable to Iwade, to the S of S in February 2017
- They had confirmed orally to Faversham Reach and Waterside Close residents that they planned to follow KCC's proposed route for the public footpath but they were continuing to talk to them about possible 'mitigation' measures such as signage, fences and railings
- NE were still talking to KCC about a financial contribution but it appeared that this might be confined to meeting the cost of those measures which were over and above those required for the public footpath
- NE proposed to follow the route of the public footpath along the Front Brents and over the seaward side of the bridge in spite of concerns about the width of the present footway
- Their current thinking was that that the route would go round into Belvedere Road and then go down to the Creekside by the present public access route and then along the promenade, with the removal of the present brick wall – but they had not completed discussions with residents
- Discussions were still taking place about the possibility of the route running along the front of Standard Quay rather than following the Saxon Shore Way (SSW) route between the buildings
- They would consider whether some funding could be provided to improve the footpath near the Oyster Bay Warehouse.
- They proposed to follow the present SSW route at Nagden
- Their current thinking was that the route should go along the beach at Seasalter.

15. It was considered that the state of the footpath near the Oyster Bay Warehouse should be raised now with KCC. Brian Caffarey was asked to write accordingly. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

16. Following the meeting NE had been sent a map of a stretch of saltings at Hollowshore which it was argued ought to be regarded as being accessible to the public.

17. It was noted that NE would give a presentation at the Group's AGM, which would provide an opportunity for members to ask questions.

#### DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

18. As agreed at the last meeting, KCC had been sent maps indicating those paths, alleyways etc which might be at risk of being lost in order that they could say which ones were accepted as being highways. KCC had helpfully commented on the status of each path, which should help to narrow down those on which the Group would need to concentrate.

19. Andrew Osborne said that he had now received a new baseline map for one of the paths in respect of which it was intended to seek designation and had prepared a revised drawing. It was agreed that Brian Caffarey should send this to KCC to check that the map was in an acceptable form before matters were taken further. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

#### AGM – TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2016

20. The Committee approved drafts of the various notes prepared for the AGM and agreed that these should be combined into a single document for ease of copying. Brian Caffarey would liaise with NE re their presentation.

## LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

21. The Committee noted, with one minor amendment, the revised version of the log of issues raised with, or pursued by, the Group.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. The following was mentioned:

- Funding forum on 18 November – the Group had received an invitation from Helen Whateley MP to attend a forum about making bids for Lottery funds. Although the Group had no plans to make such a bid, Brian Turner said that he would see if he would be able to attend. **ACTION: BRIAN TURNER**

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be arranged immediately following the election of the new Committee at the AGM.

28 October 2016