

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 18 MAY 2017

Present: Trevor Payne (Chair)
Brian Caffarey (Secretary)
Julian Saunders (Treasurer)
John Coulter
Andrew Osborne
Anne Salmon

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Brian Turner sent his apologies for absence.

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017

2. The minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Recent and forthcoming walks (para 3)

3. Well-attended walks had taken place on 19 March and 30 April. Brian Caffarey would be leading a walk from Teynham Station on 21 May. Linda Harrison had kindly arranged further walks for 11 June and 16 July.

(ii) Website hits (para 4)

4. In the last 30 days 60 users had used the website for 76 sessions, looking at 228 pages in total: roughly the same usage as in the same period before the last meeting.

(iii) Social media etc (para 5)

5. The website was fully up-to-date and a number of Facebook postings had been added. Brian Caffarey said that he planned to give more publicity to the Facebook page.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

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

6. John Coulter said that Swale Borough Council had encountered a number of difficulties in trying to take forward the proposal for an access route from the Eurolink estate to the back of the rugby club. The principal objective had been to stop vehicles entering the Rec from the Whitstable Road. It now looked as though the most promising way forward would be to erect electronically-controlled gates there. A consequence of this would be that there would be no new pedestrian access from the

Jubilee Way to the Rec but, in discussion, it was agreed that this access would have been of relatively limited benefit given the awkwardness of the route which would have had to have been followed.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan (para 7)

7. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had been endorsed overwhelmingly in the referendum on 4 May. Given that the creation of a Creekside path was an important feature of the Plan, this was very welcome news from the Group's perspective and would further strengthen KCC's hand at the public inquiry which was expected to be ordered in respect of Faversham Reach and Waterside Close.

(vi) The bund on the Front Brents (para 10)

8. Andrew Osborne said that he had raised a number of complaints with the Environment Agency about the way in which the work on the bund had been carried out and about the manner in which the gates had been operated. He expected to take these complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman in due course.

(vii) Offer of assistance from Marion Shoard (para 11)

9. The EC was pleased to learn that Marion had kindly agreed to help the Group in its work on the designation of footpaths. She had decided to leave on the table for the time being the invitation to her to become a co-opted member of the EC.

(viii) Organising a work party (para 12)

10. Brian Caffarey said that he planned to take action shortly on the proposal to organise a work party to tidy up a stretch of footpath. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

(ix) Planning application in respect of former Oil Depot at Standard Quay

11. Andrew Osborne reported that KCC had submitted some helpful comments on this planning application, highlighting the footpath aspects to which the Group had already drawn attention. He understood that the owner of the site was sympathetic to the creation of a Creekside path but it was clear that further work needed to be done on the application. Swale Borough Council had indicated that they would consult again on the proposal in due course.

TREASURER'S REPORT

12. Julian Saunders circulated a note setting out the position in respect of finances and membership. This showed that the Group had £481.44 in its account, including £250 received for 2017 membership subscriptions. Expenditure, on website domain/hosting, hire of room for AGM and postage, had totalled £61.38 so far this year.

13. The Group currently had 55 members. 17 members from last year had not re-joined: six for various personal reasons, while 11 had not responded. The Committee thanked Julian for his work on finances and membership.

FOOTPATH ZF5 AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

14. The EC welcomed the news that KCC had submitted the relevant Orders to the S of S and noted that the Group's press release had led to coverage in both local papers. It was possible that the expected public inquiry might take place as early as this autumn. It was agreed that the Group should be a party to the inquiry, but without legal or professional representation, and that KCC should be consulted about how best the Group might lend support. The Group would also ask KCC to consult them about possible dates for the inquiry.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

ENGLAND COAST PATH

15. It was confirmed that NE planned to publish their report, setting out the recommended route between Whitstable and Iwade, after the General Election – by mid-June, it was said. Brian Caffarey had written to them to notify them of the Neighbourhood Plan referendum result and to ask them to reflect the outcome in their report. He had also asked to be informed of the precise wording of the undertaking to make a variation Order to change the route to match KCC's proposed route at Faversham Reach/Waterside Close, assuming the latter was approved and implemented. He had not so far received a reply.

DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

16. It was reported that a reply was still awaited from KCC to the queries raised with them on the status of various alleyways etc in Faversham. Now that the footpath Orders had been submitted it was hoped that KCC would be able to turn their attention to this matter.

17. Ramblers had confirmed that they intended to carry out work across Kent to identify footpaths which might be lost as a result of legislative changes. They had expressed the hope that they could work in co-operation with the Group. It was agreed that the best way of taking things forward seemed to be to have a meeting with whoever was leading on this matter for Ramblers. No reply had been received from Swale Footpaths Group.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

18. The Committee noted a revised version of the log of issues raised with, or pursued by, the Group. This would be updated as necessary following the meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19. The following matter was raised:

The replacement swing bridge – the Committee noted the correspondence which had taken place with KCC engineers about the width of the pavement and the need to ensure that the design did not make unduly difficult extending the Creekside path at Swan Quay and the Inner Basin at some future date. It was agreed that the request for a meeting with KCC engineers should be pursued again.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

20. Further meetings were arranged for Thursday 3 August 2017 and Thursday 19 October 2017, both starting at 7pm at 130 Athelstan Road. The Jubilee Room at the Alexander Centre had been booked for the AGM, starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 9 November 2017.

20 May 2017