

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

## FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 3 AUGUST 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 18 MAY 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 21 May (from Teynham station), 11 June (including the solar farm) and 16 July (from Boughton Village Hall). The walk on 6 August would follow The Two Creeks Walk.

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

4. In the previous 30 days 87 users had used the website for 114 sessions, looking at 277 pages in total: significantly higher figures than 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.

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

6. John Coulter said that new consultants were looking at the plans for the Rec and that, contrary to what had been assumed at the last meeting, the possibility of pedestrian access had not been ruled out.

(v) The bund on the Front Brents (para 8)

7. Andrew Osborne said that he had had an unsatisfactory response from the Environment Agency to complaints which he had made. He also reported that he understood that the wooden gates, which had been found to be too heavy and had warped, were to be replaced by aluminium gates which would be stored off site. He emphasised that the intention ought to be to use them only when it was clear, from an on-site evaluation on the day, that it was really necessary.

(vi) Organising a work party (para 10)

8. Brian Caffarey said that he had been in touch with Swale Borough Council about the proposal to organise a work party to tidy up a stretch of footpath. Their response had been helpful but it had been difficult to identify a suitable date in his diary, taking account of the many other activities occurring locally in the summer months. He would look to arrange a date in the autumn.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

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

9. Anne Salmon said that she understood that revised plans were going to be submitted shortly for the planned houses at the former Oil Depot. The Group would want to look closely at the implications for pedestrian access to the Creekside and other paths. She also said that she understood that agreement had been reached on the separate application concerning repairs to the wharfage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

10. Julian Saunders circulated a note setting out the position in respect of finances and membership. This showed that the Group had £521.44 in its account, including £290 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. Julian said that he would look at the position on gift aid before the next meeting.

**ACTION: JULIAN SAUNDERS**

11. The Group currently had 63 members, including 11 new members who had joined since the start of the year. Nearly all of the Group's members lived in the town itself.

FOOTPATH ZF5 AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

12. The EC noted that information had been received earlier in the day that the public inquiry concerning KCC's Orders for a Creekside path would begin on 16 January 2018 at the Alexander Centre, with four days set aside. It was agreed that Brian Caffarey would represent the Group at the inquiry. The meeting discussed various detailed points re preparations for the inquiry, noting that the Group's statement of case would need to be submitted by 14 November. It was agreed that it would be important to encourage members and others to express their support for the Orders.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

## ENGLAND COAST PATH

13. It was noted that Natural England's report on the proposed route between Whitstable and Iwade had been published on 21 June, with a deadline for objections/representations of 16 August. As expected, the report had recommended that the route should follow the existing Saxon Shore Way route at Faversham Reach/Brents Industrial Estate/Waterside Close but with a firm undertaking to make a variation order to match the route in KCC's Orders if and when the latter were implemented. NE had also recommended that the route should go along the Creekside at Provender Walk, with the removal of part of the wall which blocked access through to the Italian restaurant. NE was also proposing to improve the path near the Oyster Bay Warehouse.

14. The Group had indicated its support for all these recommendations but had made representations against a proposal – which NE had failed to mention to them – to exempt part of the Iron Wharf Boatyard from the 'coastal access' provisions. The Group's main objections were that this was pointless since a right of public access would remain by virtue of public footpath ZF43 and that such a prohibition would simply lead to confusion and perhaps encourage obstruction of the footpath. It was noted that the Group's representations would not be passed in full to the Inspector but would be summarised by NE. This was felt to be very unsatisfactory and thought would be given to steps to ensure that the Inspector saw the Group's document. Members of the Group had also been encouraged to make representations.

## DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

15. 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. John Coulter mentioned an alleyway which had been missed in the Group's survey. Brian Caffarey said that he would draw this to KCC's attention when sending them a further reminder.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

16. There had been no further news of the meeting which Ramblers were due to organise to discuss a wider Kent initiative. Brian Caffarey would check on the position.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

17. Andrew Osborne provided an update on consideration of two possible applications for additions to the Definitive Map of Footpaths.

## REPLACEMENT SWING BRIDGE

18. The Group had been unsuccessful in seeking a meeting with KCC engineers to discuss its concerns about the width of the footpath and about ensuring that the design of the bridge and its surrounds did not prevent subsequent additions to the Creekside path. The Group had been told that the matter would be raised, however, at a meeting of the Bridge Steering Group, which had recently taken place. Feedback had been promised but had not yet been received. If necessary, KCC would be approached for an update.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

19. Andrew Osborne mentioned that he had made an FOI request to KCC about public consultation, which he said had been promised previously.

## REDEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD HOUSE

20. As agreed in correspondence, Brian Caffarey had written to the owners of Standard Quay to request that the redevelopment of Standard House should include improvements to footpath ZF43 leading from Standard Quay.

## 2017 AGM

21. It was noted that preparations for the AGM on 9 November would need to be made before the next EC meeting. Brian Turner had indicated that he would not seek re-election: those present recorded their thanks to Brian for his support. The other members of the EC indicated that they would all be willing to stand for re-election.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

## LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

22. 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

23. The following matter was raised:

The expansion of East Kent Recycling Ltd at Oare – the Committee noted the concerns which had been expressed about the added danger to pedestrians which would result from the increased lorry movements on the access road if East Kent Recycling Ltd doubled in capacity as proposed. This had highlighted that the official line of public footpath ZF1 ran across the lagoons rather than along the access road. Andrew Osborne said that a landmine had badly damaged the original footpath route along another embankment and that subsequently only the access road had been used. It was agreed that, given that the access road was due to become part of the England Coast Path, it was not worth seeking, at least at present, a change to the Definitive Map of Footpaths but the Group should add its voice to those expressing concerns to Natural England. NE had proposed adding 'refuges' but it was noted that space was very limited.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24. The next meeting will be on Thursday 19 October 2017 at 7pm at 130 Athelstan Road.

7 August 2017

