

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

## FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 19 OCTOBER 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 3 AUGUST 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 6 August (Two Creeks Walk), 17 September (Victory Wood) and 8 October (Nagden Marshes). The next walk had been arranged for 19 November. The Committee were very grateful to Linda Harrison for organising these very enjoyable walks.

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

4. Brian Caffarey explained that it was not possible to give updated figures at present because the website host had changed the way in which these metrics were collected and accessed.

##### (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 the current thinking was that there would be two pedestrian routes in from the Eurolink site but not vehicular access – principally, it seemed, on grounds of cost. The pedestrian access would involve gates and ‘rustic steps’: to provide disabled access would be difficult and costly because of the difference in height levels. Interestingly, the consultation with local residents had indicated that they did not attach great importance to pedestrian access from the Eurolink site but the new consultants to the project attached some weight to providing access

for Eurolink employees. As far as the objective of restricting vehicular access to the Rec was concerned, the present plan was to install lockable gates and a bollard and to see if additional parking could be provided on match days.

(v) The bund on the Front Brents (para 7)

7. Andrew Osborne said that he remained dissatisfied with the way in which the Environment Agency and Swale BC were dealing with supposed flood alerts. He said that the recent decision to install the barriers and block the footpath was clearly an over-reaction. This was the second time this year the barriers had been deployed in spite of the fact that there had been only four floods of this area in the last 100 years. He had also ascertained that it cost some £1750 every time the barriers were installed and taken down. That cost should reduce, however, when the wooden barriers were replaced by aluminium ones. He had also complained again about the excessive length of time which the barriers had remained in place, in contravention of the planning approval and the Environment Agency's operating protocol. Apologies had been proffered and an assurance that it would not happen again. He also feared that the exposed clay on the bund would deteriorate badly once wet weather set in.

(vi) Organising a work party (para 8)

8. It was agreed that, in view of the priority which needed to be given to preparing for the Faversham Reach/Waterside Close public inquiry, it would be sensible to defer organising a work party till the spring.

(vii) Planning application in respect of former Oil Depot at Standard Quay (para 9)

9. Anne Salmon said that the Planning Committee had approved plans for the repair of the wharfage at the former Oil Depot subject to some technical points. The Group had submitted comments on the separate application for ten houses on the site, drawing attention to the importance of ensuring public access along the Creekside and connections with Standard Quay and Provender Walk and avoiding a cul de sac. It was believed that the owner of the site was sympathetic to ensuring public access.

(viii) Redevelopment of Standard House (para 20)

10. It was agreed that the Group should submit comments on the planning application to draw attention to the need to make improvements to the footpath running from Standard Quay through to Iron Wharf. Anne Salmon noted that the plans proposed vehicle access from Standard Quay, contrary to the provisions in the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

(ix) Expansion of East Kent Recycling Ltd at Oare

11. Anne Salmon had circulated some draft comments on the planning application. It was agreed in discussion that the Group's concern was solely with the impact on the use of the public right of way and that the comments should make it clear that the Group's view was that any planning approval would be unacceptable unless it contained a requirement to construct a 1.5 metre path alongside

the roadway. Brian Caffarey would circulate a revised draft. It was also agreed that it might be a useful safeguard for the path if an application was made to add it to the Definitive Map. The application process was relatively simple. Brian Caffarey was asked to write to local representatives to suggest that they took this forward, with the proviso that we would be willing to offer advice if necessary. He would also liaise with Natural England to find out what steps they envisaged taking in connection with the proposal that this roadway should form part of the England Coast Path.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

12. Julian Saunders drew attention to the information included in the report which would shortly be circulated for the Group's AGM on 9 November. He noted that the Group now had 65 members, which was three more than at last year's AGM. This was a good achievement, given the inevitable difficulties in securing renewals of membership on the first occasion on which this had had to be done. The Group had an overall bank balance at present of just over £520.

13. Julian said that he had made some further enquiries about reclaiming gift aid and it looked as though the Group would be able to benefit. He would put in a claim.

**ACTION: JULIAN SAUNDERS**

#### FOOTPATH ZF5 AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

14. The EC noted the work which had been undertaken to prepare for the public inquiry beginning on 16 January 2018, in particular the drafting of the Group's Statement of Case, which had to be submitted by 14 November. Various other action points were discussed and agreed.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

#### ENGLAND COAST PATH

15. Brian Caffarey had written to Natural England to ask them what the timetable was for determining the various representations which had been made to them about the recommended route for the Whitstable to Iwade section.

#### DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026

16. John Coulter reported on a meeting which he had attended which had been convened by Kent Ramblers to discuss their planned 'Don't Lose Your Way' project, which was viewed as something of a trial run for the rest of the country. It was clear that this would focus on existing paths which did not appear on the Definitive Map or significant anomalies, not on trying to disinter lost paths. The intention was that detailed surveys of potential candidates would be given to various groups or individuals to complete. The responses would then be assessed to decide on which paths to concentrate. It was very helpful that KCC had agreed to employ someone to research archive material.

17. It was very welcome that Neville Machin, who was leading the project, had kindly agreed to speak at the Group's AGM on 9 November.

18. Although the impression had been given that survey work was some way off, and the Group had not agreed its input to the project, John had received a survey to complete in respect of a path in Tankerton. It was agreed that John should suggest that the survey appeared more appropriate for the Canterbury Ramblers group to complete.

**ACTION: JOHN COULTER**

19. Other priorities meant that there was no further progress to report on either the survey which the Group had completed of Faversham town centre paths or on the specific paths which it was hoped to add to the Definitive Map.

#### REPLACEMENT SWING BRIDGE

20. The Group had been unsuccessful to date in seeking a meeting with KCC engineers or in receiving a detailed explanation from them about why it was not apparently possible to provide a wider footway. Andrew Osborne had arranged an on-site meeting with Cllr Antony Hook to discuss the matter.

21. Andrew was also continuing to pursue the question of public consultation and various legal points.

#### 2017 AGM

22. The EC said that it was content with the draft agenda to be issued for the AGM on 9 November subject to adding a reference to the consideration of the East Kent Recycling Ltd planning application.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

#### LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

23. 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

24. The following matters were raised:

- Proposed Diversion of part of Public Footpath ZF26 at Macknade's – the Group had been invited to comment on this proposal. In discussion the general view was that this proposal was acceptable but a response would be delayed to allow EC members who wished to do so to refresh their memories of the route first.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

- Planning application in respect of 36 Woodside, Dunkirk (17/504664) – this application involved blocking a public footpath by building a garage over it and was clearly unacceptable. The Group would write to object to the application.

**ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25. The next meeting will be arranged following the election of a new EC at the AGM.

22 October 2017