

Note: Subject to approval at next AGM

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF AGM ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017

The Group's second AGM was held at 7.30pm on 9 November 2017 in the Jubilee Room at the Alexander Centre. 27 Members were present.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1. Trevor Payne (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Neville Machin of Ramblers (Kent), who was to give a presentation after the official business was concluded.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. There were apologies for absence from Derek Carver, John Chadwick, Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cindy Davis, Clive Foreman, Marion Ripley, Sheena Roberts and Brian Turner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM ON 8 NOVEMBER 2016

3. The minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

4. There were no matters arising that were not covered in the Executive Committee's report for the present meeting.

REPORT ON WORK OF GROUP SINCE 2016 AGM

5. The meeting had before it a report by the EC, which had been circulated in advance, setting out the Group's activities since the previous AGM. Trevor Payne provided a brief update on the following matters:
 - Creekside Path at Faversham Reach/Waterside Close – he thanked those members and others who had written in support of the footpath Orders which were to be the subject of a public inquiry beginning on 16 January 2018. He also thanked Andrew Osborne in particular for his work in encouraging representations. Those representations which had been handed in to the Group would be posted to the Planning Inspectorate the following day, together with the Group's Statement of Case
 - England Coast Path – Natural England had said that they hoped that the Inspector would make decisions on their recommendations in December 2017
 - Walks – the Group's next walk would be on Sunday 19 November, meeting at The George Inn, Newnham, at 10.00am. Trevor repeated the Group's thanks to Linda Harrison for all her work in organising and leading these very enjoyable walks.

REPORT BY TREASURER

6. Julian Saunders briefly introduced his report on finances and membership, which had also been circulated in advance. He drew attention to the fact that the Group's paid-up membership of 66 people was four more than at the date of the last AGM. The Group's finances were healthy, with an overall balance in its account of over £520. But, for the reasons set out in his report, he recommended that the subscription should remain at £5.

ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7. Trevor Payne said that all the existing Officers and Members of the Executive Committee were content to stand again for election bar Brian Turner, whom the Group wished to thank for all his work since the setting-up of the Group. Nick Williams had indicated that he was willing to stand for election as a Member of the Executive Committee. There were no other nominations for Officer or Member positions. The meeting duly elected the following to serve on the Executive Committee: Trevor Payne (Chair), Julian Saunders (Treasurer), Brian Caffarey (Secretary), John Coulter (Member), Andrew Osborne (Member), Anne Salmon (Member) and Nick Williams (Member).

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2018

8. The meeting agreed that the subscription for 2018 should remain at £5.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO THE GROUP

9. Trevor drew attention to the plans, which had just been made public, for a huge solar array complex (890 acres) at Graveney. The first phase of public consultation would take place in the Assembly Rooms on Wednesday 6 December from 11.30am to 7.30pm and at other venues on other dates. The EC would wish to consider the plans and comment on footpath-related aspects.

Trevor Payne declared the meeting closed at 7.45pm. It was followed by a presentation by Neville Machin of Kent Ramblers about their 'Lost Ways' project, which is intended to ensure the preservation of paths in Kent which might otherwise be lost when legislative changes come into force on 1 January 2026. Details of the Ramblers' national 'Don't Lose Your Way' initiative can be found at <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/dont-lose-your-way.aspx> The EC will be considering how it can contribute to this initiative but Neville is keen to recruit individuals to carry out preliminary mapping of local routes which may be at risk. He can be contacted on nevillelostwayskentramblers@btinternet.com

14 November 2017

