

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 11 JANUARY 2018

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Nick Williams had expressed his apologies for absence.

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 22 NOVEMBER 2017

2. The minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Forthcoming walks (para 3)

3. The next walk would be on Sunday 14 January 2018.

(ii) Website hits (para 4)

4. Brian Caffarey said that he had not so far been able to access the new arrangements which the website host had introduced.

(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. The meeting discussed the planning application (17/506469) which had been submitted in respect of the Lodge at the Recreation Ground, which also included the provision of a stepped footpath from the car park in Jubilee Way down to the Rec. This was welcomed but it was felt that it would be better, if it was practicable, for the path to join the Rec at the existing curved path rather than near the skate park since this would discourage people from walking across the grass. Brian Caffarey was asked to submit comments accordingly.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

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

7. Andrew Osborne said that, in view of the priority which had had to be given for preparations for the Creekside Path public inquiry, he had not pursued this matter since the previous meeting.

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

8. Anne Salmon said that there were no new matters to report: the application remained with Swale BC for decision.

(vii) Expansion of East Kent Recycling Ltd at Oare (paras 10-12)

9. Andrew Osborne reported that he had attended a meeting at Kent Law School with Uproare, the group representing local objectors to the scheme. He had advised that the group should submit an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) in respect of the existing track, which he understood they intended to do. He had also encouraged them to support the Group's demand that a pre-condition of any approval should be the provision of an adequate footway.

(viii) Proposed diversion of public footpath ZF26 at Macknades (para 13)

10. KCC had just circulated the Orders which they had made to divert the footpath, which apparently included the minor modifications which the Group had sought. Comments had to be submitted by 12 February. Subject to checking that the modifications were satisfactory, Brian Caffarey was asked to write to KCC to welcome the changes and to say that the Group had no further comments.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

(ix) Becoming an affiliate member of Ramblers

11. Julian Saunders reported that the Group's application to become an affiliate member of Ramblers had apparently been accepted, although no formal response had yet been received. It was agreed that the Group should ask Ramblers to nominate the Group to take over from Swale Footpaths Group the task of commenting on applications involving rights of way in the Faversham area.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

TREASURER'S REPORT

12. Julian Saunders said that the Group had ended the calendar year with £474 in its account. Some £22 had been drawn down from the £100 grant which Bensted's Charity had made towards expenses. The Group had had 67 members at the end of 2017. 34 members had re-joined so far, with a number of others in the pipeline. Reminders would be sent to other people in due course.

CREEKSIDE PATH AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

13. Brian Caffarey had circulated a note beforehand updating EC members on preparations for the public inquiry which opened on 16 January 2018. The EC expressed its thanks to those members and others who had made representations in support of the Creekside Path. Brian said that, in addition to the Group's members, he would be representing over 70 other people at the inquiry.

ENGLAND COAST PATH

14. Brian Caffarey had submitted comments supporting the planning application which Natural England had made to demolish part of the wall between Provender Walk and the Quayside Buildings. He had learned that Helen Whately MP had met Provender Walk residents and had written to the S of S, apparently in support of the residents' objections. In subsequent correspondence Helen Whately had agreed to meet the Group, but no date had yet been fixed. Brian Caffarey would follow up as necessary.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026/LOST WAYS INITIATIVE

15. As agreed at the previous meeting, Brian Caffarey had written to Neville Machin of Kent Ramblers to say that the Group would be willing to undertake preliminary field surveys of footpath 'anomalies' in our area, but Neville had not responded to the request to provide details at this stage. Brian Caffarey would follow up as necessary.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

REPLACEMENT SWING BRIDGE

16. Andrew Osborne reported on a meeting which he had attended at KCC with Cllr Hook, at which Cllr Henderson and Sue Akhurst (Faversham Creek Trust) were also present. Although the meeting had ostensibly been arranged to discuss the Group's concerns about the width of the footway and future possible footpath developments, it turned out to be about the project to replace the swing bridge. Andrew said that it appeared from FOI requests he had made that the Bridge Steering Group had not been properly linked into KCC, but there was now reason to hope that the Council were getting a proper grip of the project. Andrew had also supplied KCC with various documents to support his contention that there was a right of navigation which could not be obstructed and that it was Peel Ports who were responsible for ensuring this and for the operation of the sluices.

CLEVE HILL SOLAR COMPLEX

17. Trevor Payne and Anne Salmon were among those who had attended the first public consultation meeting on 6 December 2017. There was relatively little by way of detailed information available, but they had registered the Group's interest in being consulted. The Group would comment at a later date.

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:

- Perry Court – there was a discussion of the Development Brief which had been submitted (17/506598). It was noted that footpath ZF18 would retain its present line through the site, with some upgrading to its surface and some landscaping. The proposals seemed satisfactory but the Group would comment formally when the Reserved Matters Application was submitted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND 2018 AGM

20. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 22 March 2018 at 130 Athelstan Road. The 2018 AGM was provisionally arranged for Thursday 15 November 2018.

14 January 2018