

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 28 JANUARY 2019

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

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 22 OCTOBER 2018

1. The minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Walks (para 3)

2. Since the last EC meeting walks had taken place on 28 October (Seasalter to Whitstable and return), 18 November (from Graveney Village Hall), 15 December (Oare Marshes) and 28 January (Uplees). The next walk would be on Sunday 10 February, taking in Lorenden Park.

(ii) Website (para 4)

3. In the last 30 days 110 users had accessed the site for a total of 118 sessions, looking at 201 pages: very similar usage to that recorded at the last meeting. The website continued to be updated regularly.

(iii) Social media etc (para 5)

4. Brian Caffarey apologised for the lack of recent Facebook postings.

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

5. Anne Salmon reported that there had been some amendments to the planning application (17/506469) which had been submitted in respect of the Lodge at the Recreation Ground, but it continued to emphasise the importance of pedestrian access from Jubilee Way to the Rec, in particular to facilitate reaching the train station.
6. John Coulter gave an update on the planning application (18/504627) which had been submitted to build business units at the former rail contractor's yard off Station Road, with a link through to the Jubilee Way Industrial Estate via Sidings Close. The Group had written to support a proposal that a spur might be provided off this route to enable deliveries to the rugby club to be made either by vehicles or by barrow. This would make it much easier to stop vehicles accessing the Rec from

Whitstable Road, to the benefit of pedestrians using the Rec. John said, however, that following a site visit by town councillors and others, it had been decided that it was not practicable to provide a spur and that the distance was too great to barrow items to the Lodge from the link road. Andrew Osborne in particular contested this conclusion, arguing that the alternative proposal to control access by locked or key-controlled gates would not be sustainable. He would pursue the matter.

ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE

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

7. Andrew Osborne said that he was awaiting the outcome of a decision concerning construction on town greens, raised in connection with Whitstable beach, before deciding whether, and how, to pursue matters further.

(vi) Planning application in respect of former Oil Depot at Standard Quay (para 8)

8. Although the decision had not yet been published, it was understood that Swale BC's Planning Committee had approved the revised application, including specific conditions – proposed by Andrew Osborne on behalf of the Group – which will require the Creekside path there to be a public right of way and to enable level access in due course through to Standard Quay and Provender Walk.

(vii) Expansion of East Kent Recycling Ltd at Oare (para 9)

9. Members had been encouraged to respond to an Environment Agency consultation exercise about EKR's application for a new licence.

10. An update from Uproare, the residents' group opposing expansion of the plant, had indicated that Bretts, at the behest of Anderson Developments (the firm who will be building houses nearby and who have a veto on leasing arrangements), had required EKR to vacate part of the site, including an area that forms part of the planning application. It was unclear whether EKR would be forced to withdraw the application.

(viii) Affiliation to Ramblers (para 11)

11. Further consultation was needed with Swale Footpaths Group and Ramblers about the arrangements for responding to proposed changes to rights of way in the Faversham area.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

12. As agreed at the previous meeting, the Group had renewed its affiliation to Ramblers.

(ix) Replacement Swing Bridge (para 13)

13. An update had been sent to members on 3 December, with a note of the 'Where's Our Bridge?' meeting held at St Mary's Church on 29 November. It was noted that Paul Carter, Leader of KCC, had said that he hoped to reach agreement with Peel Ports by the end of February on responsibility for meeting the costs of a new bridge. Paul Carter had helpfully rejected an attempt by a Waterside Close resident to link the cost of a new bridge with the cost of the Creekside path. It was also noted that Mark Dance had indicated that the pavement on the bridge would be 'twice as wide' as at present. If the intention was to have a path on one side of the bridge only, this would have implications for the bridge's hydraulics.

(x) Data Protection (para 15)

14. Brian Caffarey said that he had written recently to those non-members who had supported the Group's campaign for a Creekside path at Faversham Reach/Waterside Close. He had provided an update on the present position and had sought agreement, consistently with the GDPR provisions, to continue to hold personal details in order to provide subsequent updates. Most of those on email had replied positively but there had been few responses from others.

(xi) 'Lost Ways' initiative (para 16)

15. There had been no further requests from Kent Ramblers to carry out preliminary field surveys.

(xii) Cleve Hill Solar complex (para 18)

16. The Group had registered as an 'interested Party' for the forthcoming Examination Stage and members had also been encouraged to register individually. The developers had confirmed to Linda Harrison that they no longer intended to pursue the possibility of an additional, permissive, route through the site.

(xiii) KCC's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (para 21)

17. KCC had confirmed that their draft Plan had now been finalised. It did not appear to differ greatly from the draft on which the Group had commented.

(xiv) Application to join the Group (para 26)

18. Brian Caffarey had written to the applicant as agreed at the previous meeting but no reply had been received.

(xv) Walking and Cycling provision in Faversham (para 28)

19. Trevor Payne had sent a reminder to the Town Clerk about the Group's letter of 6 September but no reply had been received. Trevor was asked to send another reminder. (Note: reminder sent on 29 January).

(xvi) Reflections on the AGM on 15 November 2018 (paras 29-31)

20. It was agreed that the arrangements for the AGM had worked very satisfactorily.

(xvii) Footpath ZR408 at Selling (para 33(i))

21. The Group had supported Sheldwich and Selling parish councils in opposing a proposed diversion of this footpath.

(xviii) Champions Court, Newnham (para 33 (ii))

22. Andrew Osborne said that this issue had now been resolved.

(xix) Proposal to charge for disposal of certain types of non-household waste (para 33 (iii))

23. The Group had written to KCC to oppose this proposal, primarily on the ground that it would encourage even more fly-tipping. It appeared, however, from a report in the 'Faversham News' that KCC intended to proceed with the proposal in spite of numerous objections.

TREASURER'S REPORT

24. Julian Saunders circulated a note setting out the Group's financial position at the end of December 2018 and current membership. Income in 2018 had been £400, whilst expenditure, mainly on insurance and Ramblers affiliation, had been £311, leaving a surplus of £89. This resulted in a total at bank of nearly £560.

25. Membership at the end of 2018 was 78, compared with 67 a year earlier. Most members had now renewed their membership for 2019 or were expected to do so shortly.

26. Julian said that he had not been able to make any further progress so far with the plan to reclaim gift aid.

ACTION: JULIAN SAUNDERS

27. Andrew Osborne said that the original grant of £100 from Bensteds Charity had now been fully used, mainly for photocopying in connection with the work on alleyways etc in Faversham. The trustees were being asked, however, to approve a further grant of £100.

CREEKSIDE PATH AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

28. Andrew Osborne said that he understood KCC were considering an itemised claim from Faversham Reach and Waterside Close residents for compensation/mitigation. He would continue to liaise with KCC about progress.

ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE

ENGLAND COAST PATH

29. Natural England had reported that the Inspector's report of his consideration of objections and representations regarding the proposed Whitstable to Iwade route had been delayed, along with much else relating to work on the England Coast Path, by the need to consider an EU Court of Justice ruling relating to habitats regulation assessments.

PROPOSALS FOR 'GARDEN VILLAGES'

30. Anne Salmon said that there had been another presentation by Gladmans, the property company promoting a proposed 'garden village' at North Street. Swale BC had postponed a meeting which had been due to reach a decision in principle on whether to pursue one or more of the proposed 'garden villages'. Anne thought it likely that, even if the Duchy's proposal in respect of land south of the A2 was not taken forward in that context, it might still be pursued, given its proximity to the rest of Faversham.

DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS

31. Andrew Osborne circulated maps of alleyways etc in Faversham town centre which had been produced as a result of assessments which he, John Coulter and Brian Caffarey had carried out. The maps had been revised to exclude routes which were already on the Definitive Map of Public

Footpaths. The next step would be to send them to KCC again for comment and then to whittle the number down to those which, it was thought, needed to be claimed for addition to the Definitive Map. The list might also include the 'Tram Road' (the continuation of Ham Road leading to Ham Wharf and the section of road leading off Ham Road leading to the Shipwrights' Arms) and footpaths in Abbeyfields. Along the way it would be advantageous to secure the Town Council's support.

ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE, JOHN COULTER, BRIAN CAFFAREY

32. In discussion it was agreed that the Group should emphasise the need to ensure that the public should continue to be able to use the path leading from Flood Lane, past the Purifier Building and along the quayside at Morrison's. Brian Caffarey was asked to write accordingly.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

33. 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.

NEXT MEETING

34. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 130 Athelstan Road.

29 January 2019