Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 16 JUNE 2015

Present: Trevor Payne (Chairman)

Roy Campbell (Treasurer)

Brian Caffarey (Secretary)

John Coulter

Anne Salmon

Brian Turner

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Osborne, who was on holiday.

MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING ON 2 JUNE 2015

2. The minutes had been circulated to everyone present at the meeting and no comments had been received.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Arranging walks

3. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to arrange walks from time to time, partly to illustrate the issues which arose such as obstruction and waymarking. Non-members would be welcome to attend, at least for a few walks, before deciding whether to join the Group. Brian Caffarey offered to organise a walk, probably in late July or in August. Action would be taken to publicise the walk. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

SECRETARY’S REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE INAUGURAL MEETING

4. The meeting considered a note setting out the steps taken since the inaugural meeting to publicise the setting-up of the Group and to attract members.

5. The letter to parish councils had attracted considerable interest from members of Selling Parish Council. The meeting confirmed that, as the constitution made clear, the Group wished to concern itself with rights of way issues in the areas surrounding Faversham as well as in Faversham itself. The question had also been raised about whether organisations, as well as individuals, could join the Group but the meeting confirmed the intention that membership should be confined to individuals. One or more members of Selling Parish Council would be very welcome to join the Group and to report back to the Council on matters affecting its interests. The Secretary was asked to respond accordingly. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

6. It was noted that the number of paid-up members had increased to 25, with several other people indicating that they intended to join.

7. It was agreed that it would be helpful to contact walking groups and to use social media to publicise the Group. It was also suggested that notices should be placed in e.g. the library. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

TREASURER’S REPORT

8. Roy Campbell reported that he had set up a spread sheet to manage the Group’s finances, which would enable him to issue a report to subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee. Action was in hand to open a bank account.

KCC’S INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON FOOTPATH ZF5

9. The meeting welcomed KCC’s proposal to create a Creek-side public footpath along the front of Faversham Reach and Waterside Close, with ramps at either end. This was precisely the proposal which Andrew Osborne and others had been advocating following the report of the public inquiry.

10. The scope of KCC’s informal consultation was a little puzzling and it was not entirely clear what they hoped to achieve by it, but the meeting agreed that it was important that the Group should make clear its support. It was also agreed that members of the Group should be urged to send individual letters of support. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY/TREVOR PAYNE**

11. It was noted that John Trevelyan had raised a few technical points on KCC’s proposal, which had been passed on to KCC. It would be important, too, to keep in touch with Tom Gates.

ENGLISH COAST PATH

12. The meeting noted that Natural England had begun consulting on the route of the English coast path between Whitstable and Iwade. While the route would no doubt mostly follow that of the Saxon Shore Way, there were a number of issues regarding the route through Faversham. Natural England had invited representatives of the Group to a meeting in August: it was planned that Trevor Payne, Andrew Osborne and Brian Caffarey would attend. A discussion would be held at the Executive Committee’s next meeting of proposals which Andrew had drawn up for a suggested route.

13. An important issue to bear in mind was the concept of ‘coastal margin’, under which land which falls on the seaward side of the coast path becomes subject to public access rights except in certain categories. This might influence the view taken by residents of housing developments of the desired route since they might not wish areas of their estate to become accessible to the public.

14. It was noted that Natural England would be making a presentation to Faversham Town Council on 29 June 2015, which the public could attend and at which they could ask questions.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO APPLY FOR CHARITABLE STATUS

15. It was noted that the inaugural meeting had expressed support in principle for a proposal that the Group should apply for charitable status subject to further consideration by the Executive Committee. In discussion the Committee agreed that it would be advantageous to apply for charitable status in order to attract gift aid and as further evidence of its probity. These considerations were felt to outweigh the work involved in applying and in complying. Roy Campbell and Brian Caffarey were asked to start the process and to report back if difficulties arose. **ACTION: ROY CAMPBELL/BRIAN CAFFAREY**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. Brian Caffarey reported that Clive Foreman, Vice-Chairman of the Faversham Society, had asked whether the Group would be interested in mounting an exhibition about footpaths in the space in the museum entrance. In discussion it was felt that this proposal should be welcomed in principle but that more information was needed about such issues as scope, timing, resources and cost. A meeting should be sought with Clive to take this forward. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

17. Anne Salmon noted that it might be appropriate for the Group to contribute to the hearing to examine the draft Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18. Further meetings were arranged for Tuesday 4 August 2015 and Tuesday 1 September 2015, both at 7pm at 130 Athelstan Road. It would be important to check that Andrew Osborne would be able to attend the August meeting, which, as previously noted, would focus on the English coast path.

18 June 2015