

Note: Subject to approval at next meeting

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 22 MARCH 2018

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

MINUTES OF EC MEETING ON 11 JANUARY 2018

1. The minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

(i) Forthcoming walks (para 3)

2. Walks had taken place on 14 January (Nagden and Sandbanks), 18 February (Lorenden Park) and 18 March (Ham Marshes, in lieu of planned Eastling walk). The EC thanked Linda Harrison for her efforts in organising and leading these walks. The next walks would take place on Sunday 15 April, starting from Bunting Close at 10 o'clock, and on Sunday 20 May.

(ii) Website hits (para 4)

3. Brian Caffarey said that he had sought help in seeing if some simple metrics could be provided again.

(iii) Social media etc (para 5)

4. The website was fully up-to-date and several Facebook postings had been added.

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

5. As agreed at the previous meeting, Brian Caffarey had submitted comments on planning application (17/506469), welcoming the proposal for a stepped footpath from the car park in Jubilee Way down to the Rec but also suggesting 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. Andrew Osborne had submitted his own comments, arguing that vehicular access should be provided since this would be the only way, he felt, of stopping vehicles from driving up the main path at the Rec.

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

6. Andrew Osborne said that he thought that there had been a minor alteration to the footpath Order which allowed Swale BC to close the Front Brents path when there was a risk of flooding.

Brian Caffarey said that he would check the position. Andrew mentioned that he was continuing to pursue a complaint with the Ombudsman about various aspects relating to the bund.

ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY

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

7. Anne Salmon said that further documents had been submitted but these were not relevant to the proposed Creekside path.

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

8. It was not known whether Uproare and the Kent Law School had taken forward the suggested application for a Definitive Map Modification Order in respect of the existing track. Other matters being considered by the campaigners against the proposed expansion of the recycling site included a possible judicial review and a challenge on air quality matters. It was not known when KCC would consider the application. The EC continued to believe that the best solution in respect of the track would be to add a footway beside it.

(viii) Proposed diversion of public footpath ZF26 at Macknade's (para 10)

9. As agreed at the previous meeting, Brian Caffarey had written to KCC to say that the Group was content with the Orders subject to the minor changes which had been made at our suggestion.

(ix) Affiliation to Ramblers (para 11)

10. The Group had not received any formal response from Ramblers, although it was clear that the application to become an affiliated member had been accepted. Brian Caffarey had written to Ramblers to suggest that the Group might take over from Swale Footpaths Group the task of commenting on applications involving rights of way in the Faversham area. He had been advised that a meeting would be arranged to discuss this. Brian said that he would also see if affiliation would make it feasible for the Group to obtain public liability insurance. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

11. Andrew Osborne mentioned that he had been in touch with the Open Spaces Society, of which he was a member, about the arrangements for enlisting the Society's support for local issues. The present arrangements seemed to turn on whether there was a formal 'local correspondent' for the area, but he had suggested that a less formal arrangement, whereby an active local member could represent the Society, might be beneficial. The Society had said that they would consider his suggestion.

(x) Replacement Swing Bridge (para 16)

12. Recent developments concerning the estimated cost of a replacement bridge were noted. Andrew Osborne reiterated that the essential point was that there was a right of navigation and that the bridge therefore had to be capable of opening. The Group would continue to keep an eye on the issue – which they had raised at the outset – of the width of the footway.

(xi) Perry Court (para 19)

13. Anne Salmon mentioned that objections had been lodged by KCC Rights of Way section to the manner in which the proposed replacement footpath (ZF 18) linked with the Brogdale Road. These related to the place and angle of entry. It was agreed that it was important that the path should exit

opposite the bridleway (ZF 15) to make it safer for walkers crossing between the two. Brian Caffarey was asked to make comments on behalf of the Group. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

TREASURER'S REPORT

14. Julian Saunders said that the Group had ended 2017 with £470 in its account and it had so far collected £285 in 2018 subscriptions, including from seven new members. Only a handful of existing members had not renewed and some of those had probably made arrangements to pay which were in the pipeline. Once all the payments had been received, it seemed likely that the Group's membership would exceed the 'end of year' total of 67. Most of the new members were people who had made representations concerning the Creekside Path public inquiry and who had responded to an invitation to join the Group.

15. It was agreed to have a discussion at the next meeting about potential uses of the Group's funds. Julian added that he hoped to take action before then to reclaim gift aid – which would add to the Group's funds. **ACTION: JULIAN SAUNDERS**

16. Julian referred to the new legislation relating to data protection which would come into force at the end of May. This required bodies such as the Group to have clear systems in place for looking after and sharing data on members and to have members' consent. Julian said that there was no reason to think that the Group's present practices were deficient but it was agreed that he would be formally appointed as the Group's data protection manager and that he would review our systems and report to the next meeting. **ACTION: JULIAN SAUNDERS**

CREEKSIDE PATH AT FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

17. The EC noted with great satisfaction the outcome of the public inquiry in January. The Inspector's report could hardly have been more supportive of the Group's case. The Order to create the new path had now come into force, although the opportunity to challenge the decision in the High Court did not expire till 20 April. It seemed unlikely, however, that any such challenge would be made. An Order had been made to temporarily close the new route in order to allow the necessary work (ramps, removal of railings, footway at the slipway) to be undertaken to make the route walkable. The present obstructed footpath would not be formally extinguished till February next year. The Group would continue to liaise with KCC to monitor progress in creating the path.

18. The EC warmly thanked everyone who had made representations to the public inquiry or who had assisted in any way in what had been a long drawn-out campaign.

ENGLAND COAST PATH

19. An amicable meeting had been held earlier the same day with Helen Whately MP about the representations which she had made in support of the objections by Provender Walk residents against Natural England's proposal that the England Coast Path should run along the whole of the promenade there, requiring the breaching of the wall separating Provender Walk from the Quayside buildings. Mrs Whately said that she had not argued that the residents' objections should necessarily be accepted, although she had felt some sympathy with them when she had visited the site. She had merely wished them to be taken fully into account. We expressed surprise that she had not consulted others locally and that she had not made any counter-balancing reference to Government policy in support of the Coast Path or to the long-held objective, backed by all the locally-elected bodies, for a continuous Creekside path. We also pointed out that the original plans for the development clearly showed that it was intended that the promenade should be a public

right of way and that only an error had prevented this from being implemented. Mrs Whately said that it was difficult to know how widely to consult when people raised issues with her, but we argued that there was a difference between a purely personal case and representations, such as in this instance, which involved important national and local policies.

20. In discussion the EC noted that it seemed most unlikely that the residents' counter-proposal for limited access to the Creekside would be accepted by the Inspector who was considering objections to NE's proposals for the Whitstable to Iwade stretch since they ran counter to the Coastal Access Scheme and seemed to rely on a misinterpretation of the effect of the 'spreading room' provisions. The latest information from NE was that they were not expecting to hear from the Inspector before May.

DESIGNATION OF FOOTPATHS BY 1 JANUARY 2026/LOST WAYS INITIATIVE

21. Trevor Payne and Anne Salmon would be attending a workshop which Kent Ramblers had arranged on 21 April to take forward the 'Lost Ways' initiative.

22. Andrew Osborne said that he would follow up as soon as practicable the proposal to seek the designation as public rights of way of several local paths. **ACTION: ANDREW OSBORNE**

CLEVE HILL SOLAR COMPLEX

23. In a preliminary discussion the EC agreed that it would be right for the Group to take into account the visual impact of the proposed solar complex and the effect it would have on walkers' enjoyment when using the existing path through the proposed site and the coastal path. It was agreed to have a substantive discussion at the next meeting, by when the next consultation stage ought to be taking place. It was also agreed that members' views should be sought on the Group's proposed response. **ACTION: BRIAN CAFFAREY**

LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

24. 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

25. The following matter was raised:

- Standard House – some minor changes had been submitted to the planning application. Since the proposals did not cover the whole of the site, contrary to the intentions in the Neighbourhood Plan, the application did not bear on the footpath running alongside the Oyster Bay building.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND 2018 AGM

26. The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 130 Athelstan Road. The 2018 AGM will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 15 November 2018 in the Alexander Centre.

25 March 2018

