

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 11th January 2022.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 11th January 2022 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Five Members were present at the meeting, Ann Ashton (AA), Andrew Osborne (AO), John Coulter (JC), Julian Saunders (JS), Robin Sayewell (RS).

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

JS who was nominated as chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was the fourth EC Face to Face meeting since restrictions had been reduced. Apologies were received from Trevor Payne (TP) and Anne Salmon (AS). The Group are aware Anne is unwell at the moment, and we send them both our best wishes.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 26th October 2021

These were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks

The FFG Sunday walks programme had its last walk on 12th September 2021, and the next organised walk is programmed for Sunday 23rd January 2022. It is now planned for a further walk on Sunday 13th February 2022.

(ii) Website

Stephen Caffarey is still putting new entries on to the website in way of meeting minutes and the walks programme as directed. The costs for his services are being kept under review.

(iii) Path from Jubilee Way to the Rec and proposed Faversham Rail Yard Application

JS reported a third new application had been received by SBC that now involved both housing and industrial units but still no footpath link to Jubilee Way. We will ask TP to follow up.

AO mentioned there should be a proposal to link the new area by road to the Recreation Ground to provide for delivery access possibly to the Lodge, and to prevent road traffic entry at the gates, this he will investigate further.

(iv) Front Brents/Town Green

As the discussions are usually going over covered ground and not necessarily regarding the Footpath, it was decided to remove this from the agenda.

(v) Lost Ways Initiative

To date still no real further contact has been received from Kent Ramblers Association.

(vi) Walking and Cycling provision in Faversham linked with future proposals for the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan

JS advised a further Public Exhibition will be arranged for within the next few months at the Town Hall.

(vii) Faversham Creek Bridge

AO is still pursuing KCC to comment specifically on the point he had raised about the need to ensure that the plans for the bridge did not preclude subsequently creating a Creekside path on both the Shepherd Neame car park side and the Inner Basin. It was noted that canvassing over the lack of progress of the bridge was taking place around the Town centre at the end of last year.

(viii) Creek Basin

The Group were monitoring the situation over any future developments regarding footpaths to the Creek Basin as a matter of course.

(ix) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road

TP as previous has had a response from David Simmons who agrees that the road is dangerous and, while he had concerns about costs, would talk to his land agent about the situation. TP will be asked to continue to follow this up with David.

(x) Rail Crossing for footpath ZR328 and other Footpath Issues

(ZR328) TP has subsequently advised steps have been installed to the embankment for this particular rail crossing

(Footpath Issues) Both TP and RS indicated two other footpaths with similar access issues, the first from Homestall Lane where KCC PROW have confirmed that the path (ZR496) will be cleared of crops to a minimum width of 1 meter by the land owner in the near future. The other, between Vicarage Lane and Water Lane, Ospringe alongside the M2 where JS advised that improvements to the path alongside the M2 are complete.

It was also mentioned that Richard Filipczak, the Graveney and Goodnestone footpath warden advised at the AGM of trying to get styles near the railway line replaced with kissing-gates. KCC wanted removal of styles, but Network Rail was not keen on access. RS had been in contact with Richard and Kent PROW over this.

(xi) Brenley Corner

RS advised that he had been monitoring this matter for over four years and was keeping a close eye over developments with Helen Whately MP, who has had regular meetings with Highways England and the Secretary of State over Brenley. He suggested that a M2/A2 diversion from the roundabout in itself would improve Cycling, walking and bridleway facilities at this location.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

AA advised at the date of the executive committee meeting FFG had £1059.84 in the bank. This was after paying the fees for Ramblers and public liability insurance. AA reported that HSBC have now started charging a monthly fee of £5.00, and also fees for processing cheques as well as cash. As a result, if people are unable to do electronic bank transfers it would now be preferable for us to receive cash rather than cheques. The reason is because cheques cost the Group more to pay in.

It was agreed to have a discussion at the next meeting about increasing membership and income from subscriptions possibly.

5. CREEKSIDE PATH ALONGSIDE FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE

AO reported from KCC's East Kent's Public Rights of Way & Access Service division that they have received the review of the work to date from the newly appointed civil / structural engineers, and they are currently working on a more simplified detailed design to enable construction to commence.

6. ENGLAND COAST PATH

We are still awaiting Natural England to commence works on the East side of the creek where the wall at Provender Walk which they now awaiting planning approval from SBC, following rejection of their latest application (that was identical to the previous expired version that had been approved). It is envisaged completion between Spring to early Summer.

RS advised the issue between Hollowshore and the Oare Creek Road where a smallholder has moved his boundary onto the route of the England Coast Path was still with Kent PROW who have confirmed that they and Swale Planning were investigating further.

7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION

RS reported since construction of the seven number refuges, Kent PROW have confirmed they are still pursuing Bretts over providing a dedicated footpath to be formed on the Lagoon side of the road.

8. SWALE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION - Reg19 (previously minuted as 'Proposals for Garden Villages / New Housing')

JS reported that SBC were now receiving feedback from the latest consultation before coming forward with fresh documents

9. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS

AO will continue to modify and issue the maps, but reported there had been limited progress in preparing for the future exhibition at the Town Hall..

10. AGM 2021

This was held at the Guildhall on 18th November 2021 and Adrian Berendt of Berendt Consulting who is leading the LCWIP scheme for FTC made a presentation at the meeting.

11. LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

RS after the last meeting has submitted the latest Word Version to TP for comment. RS also reports that conversion of this document to excel format, was carried out, but was more unmanageable to work upon than the word version

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This to be arranged for 4.30pm at the Guildhall on Tuesday, 29th March 2022

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.