

# FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Six EC Members were present at the meeting, Trevor Payne (TP), Ann Ashton (AA), Andrew Osborne (AO), John Coulter (JC), Julian Saunders (JS), Robin Sayewell (RS).

#### 1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*TP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Anne Salmon (AS). The Group are aware Anne is unwell at the moment, and we all gave Trevor our best wishes.*

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

*These were approved*

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

##### (i) Walks

*The FFG Sunday walks programme had its last walk on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022, with another planned for 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Linda Harrison has thankfully returned to walking with the Group. A mid-week walk may shortly be proposed also.*

##### (ii) Website

*Stephen Caffarey is still putting new entries on to the website in way of meeting minutes and the walks programme as directed. We have recently invested in making the Website secure, but unfortunately Stephen at present has expended his current allowance for working for us, and the future is up for review. RS mentioned that the website's main function is covering the FFG's input over the finer details regarding the statutory approvals of the England Coast Path etc. See also Treasurer's report.*

##### (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. TP wrote to SBC Planning 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 restating the FFG's objections because of the missing footpath link. 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 Whitstable Road traffic entry at the gates, will continue to be investigated further.*

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

*It is still expected that a Public Exhibition will be arranged within the next few months at the Town Hall.*

(v) Faversham Creek Bridge

*AO will still pursue 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*

(vi) Creek Basin

*The Group continue to monitor the situation over any future developments regarding footpaths to the Creek Basin as a matter of course.*

(vii) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road

*TP will continue to pursue David Simmons over this who agrees that the road is dangerous and, while he had concerns about costs, would talk to his land agent about the situation.*

(viii) Rail Crossings and other Footpath Issues

*(Rail Crossings)*

- 1) *Steps for ZR328 have been installed to the embankment for this particular rail crossing*
- 2) *Richard Filipczak, the Graveney and Goodnestone footpath warden previously advised at the AGM of trying to get stiles near the railway line replaced with kissing-gates. KCC promote removal of stiles, but Network Rail are not keen on access. RS had been in contact with Richard and Kent PROW over this.*

*(Footpath Issues)*

- 1) *Homestall Lane (ZR496) KCC PROW have confirmed that the path will be kept cleared of crops to a minimum width of 1 meter by the land owner.*
- 2) *Vicarage Lane and Water Lane, Ospringe alongside the M2. Improvements to the path alongside the M2 are complete.*

*(ix) Brenley Corner*

*A proposal has been put forward to our MP that an M2/A2 diversion from the roundabout in itself would improve Cycling, walking and bridleway facilities at this location. The current P&O issue and HGV checking on the A2, has caused considerable traffic build up here over the last week or so.*

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP**

*AA advised that the maintaining of our website currently exceeds membership subscriptions, in addition to Public Liability Insurance, Rambler's Association Membership and more recently HSBC's Bank Charges. The position over costs and funding will be reviewed at the next EC meeting.*

#### **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 still investigating a more simplified detailed design to enable construction to commence.*

#### **6. ENGLAND COAST PATH**

*We are still waiting for Natural England to commence works on the East side of the creek where planning permission has recently been renewed for the partial demolition of the wall at the Southern end of Provender Walk. It is envisaged completion between Spring to early Summer.*

*The new houses on the former Oil Depot are nearing completion and the quayside path from Standard Quay although not yet open is also now in place ready for future incorporation.*

*The path 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 but the situation remains as previous.*

#### **7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION**

*RS again 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')**

*SBC, it is believed were now receiving feedback from the latest consultation before coming forward with fresh documents.*

#### **9. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS / NATIONAL LOST WAYS INITIATIVE**

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

*'Lost Ways'. No real contact from Kent Ramblers Association, but it is believed that the government have said that they are going to remove the 2026 deadline for*

*including footpaths on the definitive map and we await definite action. The FFG however will continue to review all of the district's Public Rights of Way as previous.*

**10. AGM 2022**

*A date for the next AGM will advised after the next EC Meeting.*

**11. LOG OF ISSUES RAISED**

*RS continues to monitor current developments and update the Log as required.*

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

*To be held at the Guildhall at 4.30pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022*

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*JS advised of his concerns with SBC over a certain lack of liaison with FFG over the town's footpath matters especially with regards to new housing and is intending to write to SBC Planning Department about this.*