

# FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> May 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). As previous, 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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

*These were approved*

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

##### (i) Walks

*The FFG Sunday walks programme had its last walk on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022, with another planned for 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Linda Harrison has thankfully returned to walking with the Group. There have been two mid-week walks arranged and undertaken since the last meeting also. The next walk is arranged for Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022, with one to follow in early July, but August and September's are not fully planned at the moment.*

##### (ii) Website

*Stephen Caffarey is still putting new entries on to the website in way of meeting minutes and the walks programme as directed. Unfortunately, since the last meeting, our website provider (TSO Host) have increased their charges quite significantly, and for this year the costs have been borne (this is further mentioned under Treasurer's report).*

*Although the EC last year approved funding the utilising of Stephen's services, they generally would prefer for a Group Member (who is IT comfortable and confident) to take over the control of running the background aspects of our secure website.*

(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

*JS reported there would not be an exhibition about the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan in the next few months, but that there would be an LCWIP one on cycling aspects.*

(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. The EC all agreed that there was generally no real impetus being put into the future of the bridge.*

(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 **again** 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 month, now made worse by M2 week-end closures through to the end of June 2022. RS is continuing to keep in contact with Helen Whately our MP over this.

(x) SBC liaison with FFG issues

JS will continue to progress his concerns with SBC over a certain lack of liaison with FFG over the town's footpath matters especially with regards to new housing where he intended to write to SBC Planning Department about this.

(xi) Flood Lane

At a previous meeting AO did ask JS to query with SBC, the condition of the road surface near Morrison's Car Park in connection with the excessive puddle sizes and the poor impression this gives to this attractive area of the town. AO and RS did advise the group that the Morrison gate and rat run traffic from West Street, makes the matter even worse.

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

The treasurer reported that FFG had £1157.61 in the bank. Website costs have increased recently. This may be a reflection of the current financial situation with inflation increasing. Nonetheless we are continuing to monitor the situation. Website costs, in addition to the newly imposed bank charges, public liability insurance and our Ramblers subscription mean that now our expenses exceed our income from membership.

Membership - Many thanks are due to Linda Harrison who has introduced some new members to the group and hopefully we will welcome more over the coming months. Sadly, however there are still a few members who have not yet paid their fees for 2022.

#### **5. CREEKSIDE PATH ALONGSIDE FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE.**

AO reported he had heard yesterday 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. RS has recently been in contact with NE over this. It was also suggested by the EC and RS agreed to contact Helen Whately our MP and ask her to put some pressure on to NE and KCC to make some progress over the Creekside path and remind her to remind them that this was all approved by DEFRA on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.*

*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. NE are in consultation with the developers over this.*

*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 to continue his work on the maps, as previous.*

*'Lost Ways'. No real contact from Kent Ramblers Association, The FFG however will continue to review all of the district's Public Rights of Way and the 2026 deadline as previous.*

## **10. AGM 2022**

*The next AGM will be held in the Guildhall at 7.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.*

## **11. LOG OF ISSUES RAISED**

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

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

*The next EC Meeting will be held in the Guildhall at 4.30pm on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.*

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*No other business was discussed.*