

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 26th July 2022.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 26th July 2022 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Six EC Members were present at the meeting, Trevor Payne (TP), Ann Ashton (AA), Anne Salmon (AS), Andrew Osborne (AO), John Coulter (JC) and Robin Sayewell (RS).

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

TP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Julian Saunders (JS). The Group welcomed back Anne Salmon (AS) to the meeting after many months of being unwell.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 24th May 2022

These were approved

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks

The FFG Sunday walks programme's previous walk booked for 24th July 2022 was 'last minute' postponed due to the Hot Weather and will be reprogrammed for possibly October 2022. In the meantime, some midweek walks are planned for also possibly August and September 2022. Both Linda Harrison and Ann Ashton have continued jointly organising and running the walks programme.

(ii) Website

Stephen Caffarey is still putting new entries on to the website in way of meeting minutes and the walks programme as directed. However, his allocated hours have been exceeded this year due to extra work required on updates from TSO Host the website provider. This unfortunately will incur further additional costs.

A lengthy discussion then took place again over the purpose and benefits of the Website where RS explained that primarily its function demonstrated the Group's Transparency in allowing anyone to view all the legal aspects of the current two major projects along the Creekside that are now underway.

As previous, although the EC last year approved funding the utilising of Stephen's services, they still 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.

Post Meeting Note :The general consensus is that the running of the website will be kept under review, and will not be necessarily discussed in depth at every meeting.

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

JS previously 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.

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

JS previously 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. By e-mail he has advised there is a consultation on the Town Council's LCWIP running at the moment that members might want to take part in. He mentioned it should be fairly easy to find on the Town Council web site :-

<https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/lcwip-consultation/>

(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. AO advised he had recently attended a Town Council Meeting chaired by KCC Councillor Antony Hook that was about 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 wrote an e-mail on 26th May 2022 to pursue David Simmons over this who has previously agreed 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) 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 previously had been in contact with Richard and Kent PROW over this.

(Footpath Issues) Nothing further to report at present.

(ix) Brenley Corner

RS continues to pursue our MP over the proposal that an M2/A2 diversion from the roundabout in itself would improve Cycling, walking and bridleway facilities at this location.

(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 the rat run traffic from West Street, makes the matter even worse. This JS in his recent e-mail agreed to take up with SBC.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

AA confirmed that the bank balance currently is £1,084.51 and the membership number remains the same as at the previous meeting.

Post Meeting Note :The general consensus is that the membership numbers, income and outgoings be kept under review, and will not be necessarily discussed in depth at every meeting.

PL Insurance – this was discussed later in any other business.

5. CREEKSIDE PATH ALONGSIDE FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE.

AO reported he had heard very recently 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. However, globally they are currently investigating a more simplified detailed possibly steelwork design from a Design and Construct Contractor to enable more progress to be forthcoming.

RS has contacted Helen Whately our MP and asked her to put some pressure on to NE and KCC to make some progress generally over the Creekside path and reminded her to remind them that this is the England Coast Path that was all approved by DEFRA on 13th January 2021 He has subsequently had a reply that advised signposting was underway. He has since replied to her as there was no mention of the progress on the West Side of the Creek.

6. ENGLAND COAST PATH

The wall at Provender Walk is now 'down' with the walkway opened, and as previous also as in Item 5, RS mentioned the walk on the east side of the creek to Helen Whately at the same time.

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. Post last meeting note JS has written to SBC Planning advising of JC's and RS's concerns that new dwellers of the properties need to be advised of a PROW along the Creekside and that it will affect them, as we do not want a repeat of the Waterside Close issue.

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

Kent PROW have confirmed earlier they are still pursuing Bretts over providing a dedicated footpath to be formed on the Lagoon side of the road. RS will probably enquire further

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. TP suggested a way forward could be to identify just one footpath in particular and complete that application as a pilot scheme. Post Meeting Note : AO has provided the KCC PROW link to access the necessary guidelines and form.

'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 although the 2026 deadline has now removed.

10. AGM 2022

The next AGM will be held in the Guildhall at 7.30pm on 24th November 2022.

11. LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

RS continues to monitor current developments and update the Log as required. The Provender Walk Wall being the one item that has been completed.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Guildhall on Tuesday 4th October at 4.30pm.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Treasurer, AA presented an alternative PL Insurance scheme from HF Holidays Affiliated Walking Group, that offers an attractive deal, which after further investigation will be more actively discussed at later meetings, and then possibly proposed to the Membership at the forthcoming AGM.