

FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 11th October 2022 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Four EC Members were present at the meeting, Trevor Payne (TP), Anne Salmon (AS), John Coulter (JC) and Robin Sayewell (RS).

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

TP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Ann Ashton (AA), Andrew Osborne (AO) and Julian Saunders (JS)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 26th July 2022

These were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks

There was an FFG Sunday walks programme's previous walk on 25th September 2022 (details and photos are on show within the FFG Website www.favershamfootpathsgroup.org). Both Linda Harrison and Ann Ashton have continued jointly organising and running the walks programme where one is now booked for 16th October 2022, and another which will hopefully be the postponed Teynham to Faversham route on 13th November 2022 is provisionally arranged, be it being Remembrance Sunday.

(ii) Website

Stephen Caffarey is still putting new entries on to the website in way of meeting minutes and the walks programme as directed.

(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, which it is now understood could be approved.

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

JS had 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. It appears that KCC Councillor Antony Hook is now leading the proposals to provide a lifting 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 write another e-mail 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 Helen Whately 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. The Summer reintroduction of Operation BROCK by National Highways on the M20 did make matters worse where Helen recently did inform RS that this was of concern to her.

(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 had previously indicated 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 sometimes through here when West Street is closed, makes the matter even worse. This JS in his recent e'mail agreed to take up with SBC.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

The current balance is hovering around the £1,000 mark and the membership due to recent new arrivals is currently sixty-five people.

Unfortunately, AA our treasurer has indicated she intends to step down due to family commitments after the next AGM. We wish to give Ann our thanks for her service and offer her our best wishes for the future.

PL Insurance – this will be discussed later in any other business.

5. CREEKSIDE PATH ALONGSIDE FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE.

As previously reported AO had heard 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 which they have formally advised us very recently they are pursuing.

6. ENGLAND COAST PATH

- a) The new access provided by the wall at Provender Walk being now 'down' appears to have been popular with walkers. The new houses on the former Oil Depot are complete and the quayside path from Standard Quay although still not yet open is really ready for future ECP incorporation. JS did write 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. RS has also been pursuing SBC, KCC and NE over potential safety and disabled issues over the Flood Defence Step-over within the Belvedere Road Link Pathway. He also reported that KCC were aware of Signage that has recently been installed by them was reported by TP, AS and JC as incorrect.

- b) *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 still remains as previous.*

7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION

Kent PROW have confirmed as previously 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')

TP received an email on 30th September 2022 from Jill Peet (SBC Planning Policy Manager) which said that SBC intended to 'pause' the Local Plan process because of uncertainty over the government's 'direction of travel' for the planning process. A final decision will be taken by SBC's Policy & Resources committee on 19th November 2022. The FFG/EC would continue to monitor the situation for any footpath implications.

9. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS / NATIONAL LOST WAYS INITIATIVE

'Local Paths'. AO now with RS to continue his work on the maps where a way forward could be to identify just one footpath in particular and complete that application as a pilot scheme. AO to arrange a meeting with Adrienne Begent with RS to put a plan into place.

'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 10th January 2023 at 4.30pm.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) *As AA was not present, TP reported that the new PL Insurance scheme being pursued had now been withdrawn by the company concerned.*
- b) *The EC will raise at the next AGM that the Group is looking for a replacement Volunteer Treasurer*
- c) *JS had a letter published within the Faversham News recently where he mentioned two road junctions within the town were 'earmarked' to be modified. This it is presumed is for Pedestrian Safety, perhaps JS could advise the EC what these modifications are likely to be and which junctions are affected.*