



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2023.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 10th January 2023 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Six EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP), Anne Salmon (AS) Andrew Osborne (AO), John Coulter (JC), Julian Saunders (JS) and Robin Sayewell (RS) together with three Group Members, Ashley Sayewell (ACMS), Willemien de-Koning (WdK) and Linda Harrison (LH) who were also in attendance.

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

TP welcomed 'everyone' to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 11th October 2022

These were approved

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Election of New Officers to the EC

The Group had been informed previously that three members had expressed interest in joining the EC :-

- *At the recent AGM on 24th November 2022, Mrs ACM Sayewell (ACMS) indicated she would be prepared to take on the Treasurer's Role due to the resignation of Ann Ashton (AA).*
- *Also, at the AGM Ms Willemien de Koning (WdK) after discussions with (RS) had volunteered as a nominee to become a Non-Voting EC Member where she primarily has great interests in the Augustine Camino Route that passes the Town.*
- *Subsequent to this, (RS) had heard from Linda Harrison (LH) on, 4th January 2023 where upon previously being asked, had also volunteered as a nominee to become a Non-Voting EC Member mainly due to her dedication in organising our regular organised walking programme*

The present six EC members attending the meeting and by means of a show of hands accepted these three new proposed EC Members, and welcomed them to the committee. The Group's EC offered thanks to AA for her work over the last two years and her continuing involvement in organisation of the Walks Programme.

(ii) Walks

Previously, there was a short FFG Sunday walks programme's walk on 4th December 2022 (details and photos are on show within the FFG Website). Both Linda Harrison and Ann Ashton have continued jointly organising and running the walks programme where on Sunday 15th January 2023 there will be a local walk leaving from Stonebridge Pond, taking in the Oare Gunpowder Works through to Luddenham and then return via Uplees.

(iii) Website

The website is now under the control of a local company, namely Faversham Designs who both provide and administer all facilities as required by the Group since mid-November 2022. The Group would like to offer thanks to Stephen Caffarey for his assistance over the past couple of years. We would also like to thank (AO) who suggested this company to (RS) as Bensted Charity were in discussions with them at the time.

(iv) 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 has been approved. We will monitor the situation over the footpath links to the Recreation Ground and the Station.

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

Walking and cycling provision in Faversham – The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which FFG members contributed to the development of, was agreed at the Swale Joint Transportation Board February 2022 and should now be recognised by KCC and SBC in developing highways plans and strategies. A public consultation on the plan took place in the summer, which was largely supportive of the plan.

The key short-term priority of the Town Council in implementing the plan are to make it safer and more attractive to walk in the town by widening pavements at a number of key locations where traffic needs to be slowed– the recent work at Stonebridge Pond is the start. Progress at other locations is dependent on obtaining agreement from KCC as the Highways Authority and KCC's success is obtaining funding through Active Travel bidding rounds.

It should be noted that (RS) previously on, 3rd January 2023 had received an e'mail from FTC announcing the launching of the formal pre-submission consultation of the draft neighbourhood development plan for Faversham (regulation 14).

(TP) has Reviewed this regulation document and has a series of detailed concerns especially regarding access to the East and West sides of the Creek, south of Posillipo's Restaurant, and the EC agreed he would document these to allow (RS) to submit formally to the Town Council (also to be copy issued to the Group).

For reference, a copy of this correspondence is attached as an appendix at the end of these Minutes, where it is understood that every Household in the Town will be posted

a 'physical paper' copy. The EC encourages that all our individual Group Members become involved in responding to the Town Council over the documents content.

(vi) 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, where Peel Ports are the responsible party over the Maintaining and Upkeep of this facility plus the Lock Gates.

(vii) Creek Basin

The Group continue to monitor the situation over any future developments regarding footpaths to the Creek Basin as a matter of course, which is also giving concern as previously mentioned within Item (v).

(viii) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road

(TP) will hopefully continue 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.

(ix) Rail Crossings and other Footpath Issues

(Rail Crossings) Richard Filipczak mentioned at the AGM that he was experiencing communication difficulties with KCC over the Rail Crossing near Goodnestone ((ZR492) In the meantime (RS) has written to KCC again over this.

(Footpath Issues) Nothing further to report at present.

(x) 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 of 2022's reintroduction of Operation BROCK by National Highways on the M20 did make matters worse where Helen at the time did inform RS that this was of concern to her.

(xi) 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. (JS) reported that it appears the Planning Team at SBC are still since COVID behind over workload.

(xii) 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. (NEW) TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

(ACMS) offered thanks to Ann Ashton for her help with the handover of the finance files and paperwork, and for her continued support and advice when needed.

Balance of Accounts

Unfortunately, the date of this meeting and the due date for the latest bank statement clash so the latest balance is from the 6/11/22 to 5/12/22 statement, the balance being a healthy £974.19.

Payments As follows:

- **Ramblers.** It was agreed to continue the subscription with The Ramblers and a cheque for £69 has been sent. This is compared with the 2022 fee which was £65.50.
- **PL Insurance.** The current insurer, Hiscox, quoted £246.34 for the coming year. It was agreed to find an alternative and a quote of £119.59 from Access Insurance has been accepted and a cheque sent. The change should be with effect from 23rd January 2023.
- **Members Fees.** ACMS will be in a much better position to comment on members fees status once the latest bank statement has been received.

HSBC Bank

(ACMS) plans to approach the bank regarding the change of signatory and address for statements in the coming weeks.

5. CREEKSIDE PATH ALONGSIDE FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE.

As previously reported by (AO) the KCC PROW team are progressing the work necessary to open footpath ZF43 along the Creek Bank in front of Faversham Reach and Waterside Close housing estates. It is appreciated and understood this is a long process, and hopefully will be completed during this coming year.

In the meantime, everybody should be reminded that now the England Coast Path has been opened to members of the public they are entitled to access all the common roads and paths within both estates and walk along the creek-side to enjoy the views of buildings and boats on the opposite East Bank. The 'private' and 'no access' notices are incorrect and may be ignored. The EC is seeking their removal. Group Members are encouraged to avail themselves of this right and to understand why the EC have sought so long and hard to get this creek-side path open and to be enjoyable for the public to walk along.

6. ENGLAND COAST PATH

- a) **Provender Walk** *The new access provided by the wall being now 'down' appears to have been popular with walkers. (RS) reported that KCC were aware of Signage that has recently been installed by them was incorrect although most of this with a few exceptions has now been rectified.*
- b) **Former Oil Depot** *The new development's houses are complete and the quayside path from Standard Quay although still not yet open is really ready for future ECP incorporation.
(JS) is still awaiting a response from SBC Planning following 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.
(RS) will also contact Natural England to encourage the incorporation of this section into the new England Coast Path.*
- c) **The path between Hollowshore and the Oare Creek Road** *A smallholder has moved his boundary onto this part of the route of the England Coast Path where this was still with Kent PROW who have contacted SBC Planning 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) has recently heard from KCC PROW that they are attempting to set up a meeting with Bretts for us also to attend.

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, The SBC Policy & Resources Committee meeting on the 19th November 2022 did actually 'pause' the Local Plan process and this was likely to be the situation until after the local elections in May 2023 As before, 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 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 2023

The date for the next AGM will be Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 7.30pm to be held in the Guildhall.

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 date for the next EC Meeting will be Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 4.30pm to be held in the Guildhall.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(LH) asked (RS) to contact KCC PROW over ZR500 and its closure near the Thanet Way due to an illegal rubbish tip since 2017 and has there been any further progress as there are New Owners at the site.

APPENDIX

Faversham Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14

From: NHP <nhp@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 January 2023 12:21
To: robin.granvia@outlook.com
Subject: Faversham Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14

Dear Robin

I'm writing to you today in your capacity as Secretary of Faversham Footpaths

Faversham Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 Faversham Town Council supported by the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are launching the formal pre-submission consultation of the draft neighbourhood development plan for Faversham.

From 3rd January 2023 (noon) to 14th February 2023 (noon), Faversham Town Council will be formally undertaking consultation in accordance with Regulation-14, Town and Country Planning, England Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012. This is a six-week statutory consultation period and we welcome comments on the draft plan.

To view the plan, hard copies together with consultation forms can be found at the following locations:

- Faversham Town Hall
- Faversham Library
- West Faversham Community Centre
- The Alexander Centre
- The Jubilee Centre
- St Mary of Charity Church
- An electronic copy of the plan and downloadable consultation form are available from: <https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/regulation14/>

Faversham Town Council supported by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will also be at the following community events where the plan can also be viewed:

- Saturday 7th January 2023, 10 – 12: The Town Hall, 12 Market Place
- Saturday 21st January 2023, 10 – 12: West Faversham Community Centre
- Saturday 4th February 2023, 10-12: The Jubilee Centre

Breakthrough Communications will be hosting a Zoom meeting where members of the Steering Group will be available to answer questions on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm (Zoom ID: 873 090 665 54)

We want to hear from you, please give your views on any of the policies in the draft plan and any other comments you would like to make.

Yours faithfully,

Adrienne Begent
Deputy Town Clerk



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