



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 7th March 2023.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 7th March 2023 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Eight EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP), Ashley Sayewell (ACMS), Anne Salmon (AS), John Coulter (JC), Julian Saunders (JS), Linda Harrison (LH), Willemien de-Koning (WdK) and Robin Sayewell (RS).

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

TP welcomed 'everyone' to the meeting. Apologies were received from Andrew Osborne (AO)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 10th January 2023

These were approved

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks

Previously, there was a FFG Sunday walks programme's walk on 4th February 2023 (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 and Sunday 12th March 2023 will be the next walk at Doddington as arranged.

(iii) Website

Just an amendment from the previous meeting, the Group would like to offer thanks to Stephen Caffarey for his total assistance over the website, which he initially set up with his Father, Brian who was the original Secretary of the FFG.

(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.

(TP) had Reviewed this regulation document and had 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 which he passed to (RS) who submitted formally to the Town Council (which was also to be copy issued to the Group).

(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.

(RS) has this week through a Newsletter received via our MP established she has raised this with the Transport Secretary's Team, who will be looking into Peel Ports involvement.

(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 and was brought up in the document mentioned within (v).

(viii) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road

(TP) will hopefully maintain communication with David Simmons who owns the land over this who has previously agreed that the road is very busy 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. They have replied saying they will contact Network Rail again.

(Footpath Issues) As requested by (LH), (RS) has contacted KCC PROW over ZR500 and its closure near the Thanet Way due to an illegal rubbish tip since 2017. They have replied advising it is still being looked into.

(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.

(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. This JS at the previous meeting agreed to take up with SBC. RS has since spoken and corresponded with Graeme Tuff about the situation, copied to all EC Members. JS had also been in contact with Graeme, and (RS) was asked to contact him again to establish that there is no legal road from the Lane to Morrison's property. In the mean-time Morrison have moved the Recycling Containers to cover half the gate to prevent Road traffic access.

(xiii) Augustine Camino Footpath Route

As per previous meeting (WdK) who has recently joined the EC has specific interests in this Pilgrims route from Rochester to Pegwell Bay near Ramsgate that passes through Faversham and has produced a report that forms an Appendix at the end of this agenda in encouraging the Group to support and promote this alternative Pilgrims Route.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

Balance of Accounts *Since the last meeting there have been two bank statements to agree; 5/12/22 – 5/1/23 and 5/1/23 – 4/2/23, the balance on the latter being £910.60. I have agreed this to the Cash Book figure of £915.60, the difference being due to a late 2022 £5 fee that needed to be banked. This has now taken place. The bank charges for the two months were £10 (£5 standard fee per month).*

Payments

- **Out.** *There are no outstanding payments at this time. All cheques (Ramblers/Faversham Designs/Access Insurance) have cleared through the account.*

- **In.** £255.00 has been paid into the account in the form of bank transfers/DD's etc. This relates to £230 2023 membership fees (46 members), £10 late 2022 fees (2 members) and £15 in donations.
- **Cash.** £95 was paid in cash to the Treasurer. £85 = 17 members 2023 fees plus £10 in donations.

2023 Members. We currently have a total of 63 paid up members of the group – 4 of these being new members and 5 who have re-joined the group. There are 11 members yet to pay; some of these usually pay by bank transfer so awaiting another bank statement before issuing a further reminder - so a potential 74 members.

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 worked 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

- 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.
- 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 contacted Natural England to encourage the incorporation of this section into the new England Coast Path. In their reply, a new group has been formed (South East Coast Path Trail Partnership) taking over from NE, who will be managing the EKP from Medway, through to Shoreham. RS has enquired with NE who we need to contact.

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 still 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

(RS) and (AO) have met Adrienne Begent to plan the approach to look at two specific Footpaths, which (JS) has now submitted officially to the FTC who resolved to apply for the Tram Road to Ham Wharf (Hollowshore) and the paths near Abbeyfields to become PROWs. (AO) to set up further meeting Adrienne to take the matter to the next stage.

'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 at 4.30PM on Thursday 13th April 2023 to be held at the Guildhall.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further Business was discussed



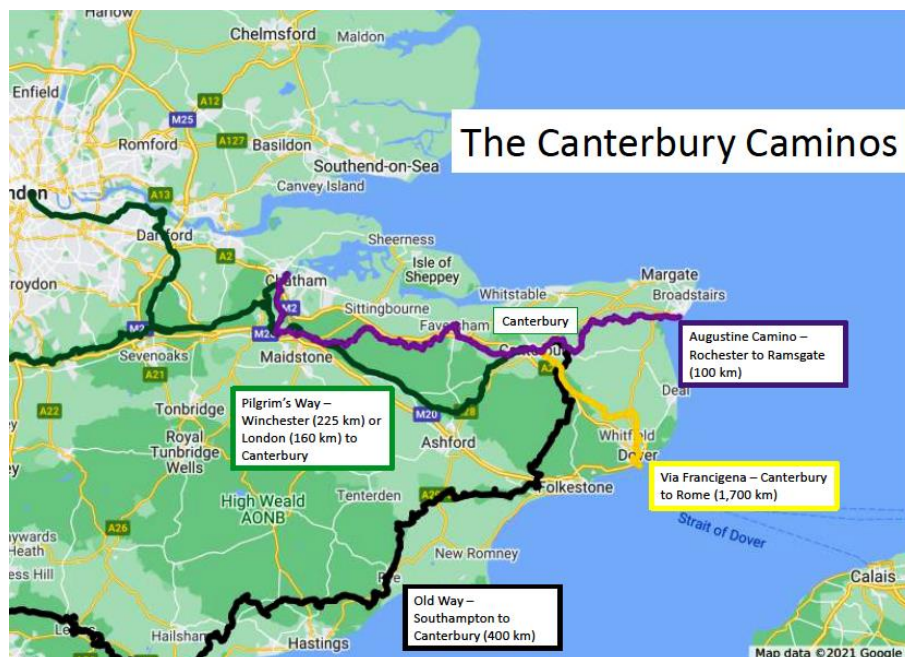
Augustine
Camino

<https://augustinecamino.co.uk/>

An 'Alternative' to the North Downs Pilgrim's Way Walk

In 597AD, a monk from Rome was about to embark on a vitally important journey to England arrived on the shores of the Kent coast to convert King Ethelbert and his kingdom to Christianity. Such was his success that by the seventh century, the Christianisation of Britain was complete. The Shrine of St Augustine's arrival position to this country is visited by many people throughout the world.

The Augustine Camino Route starts at Rochester Cathedral heading through the orchards, woods and vineyards of Kent for seventy miles via Aylesford Priory and Canterbury Cathedral, passing the Memorial Cross near Pegwell Bay and finishing at St Augustine's Church in Ramsgate.



The route linking Rochester to near Ramsgate is shown in purple above and our New EC Member, Willemien de-Koning met up with Andrew Kelly who is the chief instigator of establishing this relatively unknown route on Tuesday 17th January 2023, walking the section in our own Faversham area towards Canterbury, her report is outlined as follows :-

During the walk Andrew explained to her that the route follows part of the North Downs Way (which is the Pilgrim's Way, in fact). However, when he was initially discovering the actual footpaths, he

largely followed the North Downs Way. Actually, the Augustine Camino only meets the NDW in a few places, such as the unforgettable stretch from Chartham Hatch through to Canterbury. Most of the route has now only recently been discovered, notably including Faversham and the twenty-nine miles either side of it from Thurnham (near Detling) to Chartham Hatch. The guiding principals have been to visit most of the attractive religious and cultural heritage sites along the way and perhaps just as important that it should also be convenient to walk in terms of services.

Not only keen walkers and explorers but also Christians, Historians / Architectural Historians and nature worshippers will enjoy walking this newly rediscovered path. There is even a very tenuous link with Shakespeare to be found in the farm building of Colkins (near Brenley), a magnificent building with a Dutch gabled stable <https://medium.com/family-neame/colkins-6bd44cf6a776> Another of the examples as they approached Canterbury was where a detour was made which passed Lanfranc's leper church/hospital site at Harbledown where they saw a 'Deep Well' associated with the Black Prince and King John, the French King who had been captured at the battle of Poitiers..

The walk is varied and covers orchards and vineyards (one being just outside Brenley Farmhouse) and a good section of woodland. As it was winter they could look straight through the wood but had to negotiate the iced up puddles and hard clumpy soil. There were some truly amazing views where through the mist you could see Sheppey in the distance. They passed through 'No Man's' Orchard, a Nature Reserve near Chartham Hatch which is a local initiative to preserve ancient varieties of apple trees and encourage families to adopt a tree from which they can harvest a supplies of apples together with offering educational family outings. They skirted around Bigbury Camp in Howfield Wood, a major prehistoric earthwork that is believed to be the site of Julius Caesar's first major battle as he led his forces in the Roman invasion of Britain.

Willemien recommends visiting the Website that Andrew and his wife Paula have produced in putting together and instigating the Augustine Camino. It is hoped the Faversham Footpaths Group Walking Members would be happy in promoting the path as it is without doubt a gift to future generations. In addition, it could attract more visitors to Faversham.

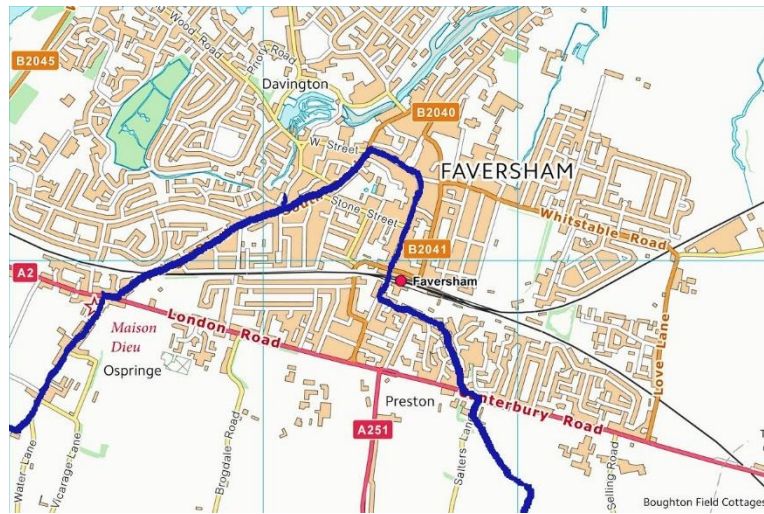
Andrew is hoping to arrange that the new Faversham Benefice may welcome future Camino Walking Visitors plus Pilgrims to St Mary's Church where a Rubber Stamp Marker he will provide can be located to enable Pilgrims to mark their Pilgrims Passport during their visit there and perhaps also after having a walk along Abbey Street.

The actual route of the Augustine Camino through from Doddington in the West through to just past Boughton in the East passing through Faversham are shown at the end of this text.

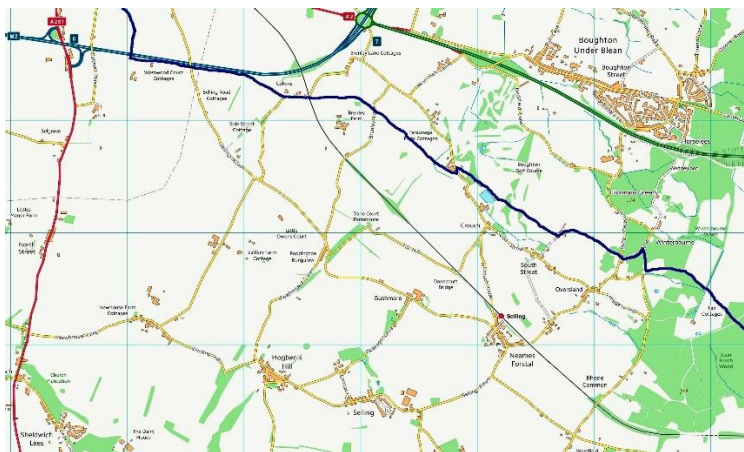
Section from Doddington to Faversham



Section through Faversham



Faversham to just past Boughton Section



Willemien de-Koning 19th January 2023