



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Eight EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP), Anne Salmon (AS), Andrew Osborne (AO), 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 Ashley Sayewell (ACMS).*

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

*These were approved.*

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

##### (i) Walks

*Previously, there was an FFG Sunday walks programme's walk on 12<sup>th</sup> March 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 a date of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 is planned where the route is to be arranged.*

##### (iii) Website

*Nothing further was reported at this meeting.*

##### (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 replacement navigable 'moveable' bridge, where Peel Ports are the responsible party over the Maintaining and Upkeep of this facility plus the Lock Gates.*

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

#### (vii) Creek Basin

*The Group continues 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) (RS) has written to KCC again over this. They replied before the last meeting 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 previously 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.

(RS) contacted Graeme Tuff previously 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 the gate to prevent Road traffic access.

(RS) to pursue SBC and KCC over a No Through Road sign from West Street, and to continue to complain about the disgraceful state of the lane in this area.

(xiii) Augustine Camino Footpath Route

As per previous meeting (WdK) continues to promote this alternative Pilgrims route from Rochester to Ramsgate that passes through Faversham. See also Any Other Business.

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

(ACMS) had previously issued to the EC a full report over the FFG HSBC Account.

Balance of Accounts one statement from HSBC received since the last meeting, the closing balance being £1009.40 as of 5th March 2023. Latest Statement is still pending.

Members (2023) The total of paid up members now stands at sixty-seven, with a promise of two further bank transferred fees. On 18th March (ACMS) e'mailed a fee reminder to those we hadn't heard from. Presently, there are now only five members who have not been in contact.

#### **5. WEST 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.

(AO) will continue to monitor the situation with KCC PROW and offer support and suggestions as appropriate.

## **6. ENGLAND COAST PATH**

Provender Walk through to the Former Oil Depot Site Since the last meeting, it had been reported that a gate had been erected at the Belvedere Road part of the Connecting Alley to the new Development Site. However, although bringing this to the SBC Planning Division's attention in it not being compliant and in breach, the gate is now not lockable, as access is now available from Belvedere Road right through to Standard Quay.

Therefore, apart from the proposed Creekside link at Provender Walk to the new Development, the Creekside path is now fully accessible from Posillipo Restaurant's car park through to Standard Quay. SBC advise that this will be officially open by the end April, when the gate will be removed by the developers.

## **7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION**

Kent PROW have confirmed a meeting with Bretts for the FFG to attend is arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## **8. SWALE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION - Reg19 (previously minuted as 'Proposals for Garden Villages / New Housing')**

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 through (TP) would continue to monitor the situation for any footpath implications.

## **9. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS / NATIONAL LOST WAYS INITIATIVE**

(RS) and (AO) have previously met Adrienne Begent to plan the approach to look at two specific Footpaths, which following (JS's) submittal to the FTC the Tram Road to Ham Wharf (Hollowshore) and the paths near Abbeyfields schemes to become PROWs, these have now been approved to take forward. A further meeting with Adrienne to take the matter to the next stage is now arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

'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 where although the 2026 deadline was removed altogether it is likely now to be reintroduced as 2031.

## **10. AGM 2023**

The date for the next AGM will be Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm to be held in the Guildhall. See Any Other Business as below.

## **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 is arranged for 4.30PM on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Guildhall.*

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*It had been suggested by Ann Ashton (previous Treasurer and one of our Walks Organisers) that Andrew Kelly, the Administrator of the Augustine Camino route would make an ideal speaker at the next AGM. This was agreed by all at the meeting.*