



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Guildhall in Faversham. All Nine EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP) Ashley Sayewell (ACMS), 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.*

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023

*These were approved.*

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

##### (i) Walks

*Previously, there was an FFG Sunday walks programme's walk on 18<sup>th</sup> June 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, where a further walk is planned for July 2023.*

##### (iii) Website

*Nothing further to be reported at this meeting.*

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

*Walking and cycling provision in Faversham – (JS) fully explained to the Meeting, the details of the latest developments as poorly reported in the Faversham News on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023, in that this latest scheme named the 'Cross Town Walking Route' from Waller's Row through to the Longbridge at the Rec (via Cross and Gatefield Lanes) was a walking route to be designed in making road crossing walks safer and encouraging people to walk into town rather than using road vehicles. Funding for the scheme had been organised by KCC via the National Active Traffic Fund'.*

*Faversham Neighbourhood Plan the key priority for the FTC is to progress the plan and have it adopted as soon as possible, to protect sites from speculative planning*

applications. The FFG/EC will need to review the revised version when it is available to see if our comments have been adopted.

#### (v) Faversham Creek Bridge

*It appears that KCC Councillor Antony Hook is now leading the proposals to provide a replacement navigable 'moveable' bridge. (RS) had previously 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.*

#### (vi) 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 (iv). In the meantime a new Planning Application has been noted for the development at Ordnance Wharf, where it will be checked if this includes the Creekside Walk.*

#### (vii) 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. (RS) suggested he would write to KCC PROW to obtain interest and support from them over a possible resolution and scheme.*

#### (viii) Rail Crossings and other Footpath Issues

*After Richard Filipczak mentioned at the AGM that he was experiencing communication difficulties with KCC over the Rail Crossing near Goodnestone ((ZR492) (RS) had written to KCC again over this. They replied saying they will contact Network Rail again.*

*As also 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.*

*Unfortunately, the Group has had no further updates from KCC over these two queries, which will be followed up.*

#### (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. This is a National Highways issue, which is being monitored.*

#### (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 still intended to write to SBC Planning Department about this.*

#### (xi) Flood Lane

(RS) previously contacted Graeme Tuff 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) has pursued 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. KCC in their replies refused to implement a new sign as Finance is now their main issue, also saying accident statistics in the West Street vicinity are low to not warrant any action. (RS) has since written to the leader of KCC Highways to seek resolution

#### (xii) 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 Item 10 regarding the AGM.

#### (xiii) Ham Road 'further' Housing Development

(LH) reported she had attended a Resident's Public Meeting at the Guildhall on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023, and (TP), (AS) plus (RS) attended an FTC Planning Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023. After much discussion it was agreed (LH) with support from the EC would assist the residents over the Objections to the scheme over Footpath, Environmental and Wild Life concerns.

(RS) did suggest that as he did attend the Planning Meeting where it was unanimously objected to, he did feel the approach may need to be reviewed as these were more or less the same objections that had failed over all other Developments the Town had recently suffered.

In the meantime, KCC PROW will be seeking compensation over Footpath issues if the scheme is approved.

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

(ACMS) provided her report on Finance and Membership for the meeting.

#### Balance of Accounts

Three statements have been received since the last meeting in April, the agreed closing balance being £1024.40 as at 5th June 2023.

#### Payments

- Out : There are no outstanding payments at this time.
- In : There were six bank transfer fees received totalling £30.00.
- Bank Charges : These came to £15.00 (3 x £5.00 standard fee).

#### 2023 Members

We now have 72 FFG members.

#### HSBC Bank

The Secretary has been in contact with HSBC in order to begin the process of updating and changing Treasurer and address details.

## **5. WEST CREEKSIDE PATH ALONGSIDE FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE.**

*As updated by (AO) and as reported by the KCC PROW team, progress over the Design has been made regarding the Ramps and Slipway Diversion, plus they have also met with some of the Residents of the Estate outlining the work involved. In the meantime, KCC have undertaken a Civil Survey of the Slipway Slab, as part of the Design preparations.*

## **6. ENGLAND COAST PATH**

*Provender Walk through to the Former Oil Depot Site 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 previously advised that this would be officially open by the end April, when SBC said the gate as recently installed will be removed by the developers. However, in mid-June 2023, the gate although open is still in place. (JS) advised he would seek support from FTC to have the gate removed and a direct connection to Provender Walk provided.*

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

*(RS) advised that since receiving the proposed Bretts Scheme via KCC PROW and attending the recent FTC Planning Meeting where it was approved [see also item 3. (viii)], the EC will fully support the Diversion Proposal by Bretts.*

## **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**

*'Designation of Local Paths' (RS) and (AO) reported on recent developments in that the KCC forms for the Tram Road and Abbeyfields Footpaths had been made available to the whole Group, with not too much support back at the present time which was disappointing. (JS) suggested as FTC supported the proposal, he would request that as part of their next Newsletter, these two schemes would be promoted to the Public and indicating how advice would be provided to complete the forms.*

*'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. It was agreed at the previous EC Meeting that Andrew Kelly, the Administrator of the Augustine Camino route would make an ideal speaker at the next AGM and he has been contacted.*

**11. LOG OF ISSUES RAISED**

*(RS) continues to monitor current developments and update the Log as required.*

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

*The next EC Meeting will be held in the Guildhall at 4.30PM on 24th August 2023.*

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*No any other Business Items were brought up or discussed.*