



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2023.

(preliminary set to be approved at next AGM)

The Group's eighth AGM was held at 7.30pm on 23rd November 2023 at the Guildhall, Faversham. Eighteen Members were present.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Trevor Payne (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased again with the high attendance this year

2. ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Executive Committee Members All nine EC Members were present at the meeting, 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), Robin Sayewell (RS).

Group Members who were present of which there were nine in number, were : Richard Filipczak, Marion Ripley, Stuart Harrison, Ann Ashton, Claire Sullivan, Iris Neal, Mike Wilkins, Hazel Bird and Elizabeth Walsh (plus Andrew Kelly although not being a member was the Guest Speaker).

Apologies were received from Laurence Young, Brian Turner, Adrienne Begent, Jenny Davis, Mike Cosgrove, Bryan Caffarey, Jackie Westlake, Sue Taylor, Chris Oswald-Jones, Ann Osborne and Carol Kelly.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM ON 24th NOVEMBER 2022

The previous minutes were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

There were no matters arising that were not covered in the Executive Committee's report from the previous meeting. The meeting noted the report.

5. REPORT ON WORK FROM THE GROUP SINCE THE 2022 AGM

See report below :-

6. FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY TREASURER (Ashley Sayewell)

See report below :-



7. ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

The Group were advised as per the Agenda that the constitution specifies that the AGM must include the election of Officers and other Members of the Executive Committee. The EC shall comprise of three Officers (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) and four other Voting Members.

The EC can also co-opt not more than three additional, non-voting, Members.

In the absence of other nominations for Officer or Member positions, the meeting agreed that the following Officers and Members should be elected/re-elected: Trevor Payne (Chair), Ashley Sayewell (Treasurer), Robin Sayewell (Secretary), John Coulter (Member), Andrew Osborne (Member), Anne Salmon (Member), Cllr Julian Saunders (Member), Linda Harrison (non-voting Member), Willemien deKoning (non-voting Member).

Post Meeting note, the Secretary has since heard from Willemien deKoning who has confirmed she wishes to step down from the EC.

8. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2023

It was agreed that the subscription should remain as £5 per member, with the continuing proviso that anyone joining later than the end of September in a calendar year should be deemed to have paid their subscription for the following calendar year too.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO THE GROUP

- Richard Filipczak mentioned that he and the Secretary had now made contact with Network Rail, who had agreed to visit the Goodnestone Crossing which serves ZR 492, to investigate the access issues.
- The Secretary asked the Meeting if they were happy with the start time of 7.30pm for the AGM Meetings and did they consider an earlier time would be more suitable? A subsequent discussion suggested a summer date which would also assist the Treasurer over the Financial Report. The Chair agreed to including this as an Agenda item at the next the EC Meeting.

10. Guest Speaker

Andrew Kelly, the Founder of the Augustine Camino Footpath Campaign <https://augustinecamino.co.uk/> provided a most interesting and informal presentation about this route.

This Footpath follows the paths Pilgrims 'possibly' took from Rochester Cathedral through to St Augustine's Church in Ramsgate, and incorporates passing various churches on-route, along existing Public Rights of Way as ascertained by Andrew, who has walked the whole length many times. This Walk also incorporates Faversham as part of the route.



REPORT BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON WORK OF GROUP

This report summarises briefly the main activities of the Group since the similar report produced for the 2022 AGM. The EC would welcome questions or comments at the AGM or in advance of the meeting.

GENERAL

1. The Executive Committee (EC) has:

- continued to maintain and update www.favershamfootpathsgroup.org.uk
- maintained membership of Ramblers and continued the Group's public liability insurance.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2. The EC has met six times since the last AGM, all meetings were held in the Guildhall. Minutes of meetings have been posted on the website emailed to members (and delivered to those members without internet access) and updates on the main developments have been supplied regularly to Members. Between meetings EC members have liaised as necessary by email.

CREEKSIDE PATH AT FAVERSHAM REACH/WATERSIDE CLOSE (ZF43)

3. The EC has continued to liaise with the KCC PROW (Public Rights of Way) department. The recent notice from them on ZF43, which came into force 21 October 2023, confirmed that the only parts of the route to remain closed are the three small sections that have yet to be constructed, i.e. the ramps at either end and the section at the slip way. All existing parts of the route are now open to the public. This is a big step forward in increasing public access to the Creekside and follows many years of campaigning and three public enquiries! We would encourage members and the public generally to take advantage of these developments.

KING CHARLES III ENGLAND COAST PATH (KCIII SECP)

4. The section from Whitstable to Iwade has now been open for a year and is well used. The current route of the ECP around the Brents Industrial Estate creates a public right to access 'spreading room' areas between the path and the coastline of the all common areas in Faversham Reach and Waterside Close. This, together with the opening of existing sections of ZF43 confirms the public's right to access the waterside areas of all these estates.

5. The FFG has made contact with the organisation, South East Coast Path Trails Partnership (SECPTP) that will be responsible for the maintenance and any required diversions of the KCIII SECP, which covers Sussex, Kent and Medway. We have made them aware of the path around the former Oil Depot (now Abbey Wharf) and our ambition to see the KCIII SECP diverted onto this and other Creekside paths as sites are developed.

WALKS

7. There have been nine walks since the last AGM. We are very grateful to Linda Harrison and Ann Ashton for organising these. The walks are a very popular part of the group's activities and attract new members, but they do require considerable thought and planning to organise.



OTHER MATTERS

8. The EC has also acted in the following main matters:

- Designation of local footpaths – The FFG has continued to work on this project in conjunction with Faversham Town Council, for whose support we are very grateful. Work on applying for Definitive Map Modifications Orders (DMMO) for the Tram Road between Ham Road and Oare Creek, and paths near Abbeyfields are in progress. Recently a DMMO for routes through the site of the former Morrisons supermarket has been added to the list. All of these would benefit from more evidence statements from the public.
- East Kent Recycling Ltd road at Oare Creek & ZF1 – In May we had a meeting on site with KCC PROW and representatives from Bretts. This was to walk the route of a proposed diversion of ZF1 which would take it off the road, which is currently shared with traffic from the East Kent Recycling site, and place it on the lagoon side of that road. This followed extensive lobbying by the FFG on this issue. Our view is that this would be a great improvement on the current situation and, subject to final details, that we would support the KCC PROW's application for this change to be made.
- Faversham Neighbourhood Plan – The FFG submitted comments on the Regulation 14 consultation stage in January, These, together with similar comments from other groups and individuals, were successful in strengthening the need for a Creekside path to be provided on development sites with a Creek frontage. In the recent Regulation 16 (submission draft) consultation we have commented on the need for Creekside paths on development sites to be connected to existing paths on adjacent sites and for the requirement for a Creekside path to apply to any sites along the Creek that are developed in the life of the plan. We await the outcome of this stage of the consultation.
- Faversham Town Conservation Area Review. Swale BC have recently released a draft review of the Faversham Town Conservation Area document. We are considering this and will comment as necessary.
- Walking and cycling provision in Faversham – Members contributed to the Town Council's development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) back in 2021/22 and the EC has continued to make suggestions about additional infrastructure needed to make walking safer for pedestrians, most recently in relation to the Priory Row/Priory Road/ Brent Hill junctions.
Having an LCWIP has helped the town attract significant funding for pedestrian improvements and in the new year KCC are due to build out a number of interventions aimed at enhancing walking from east to west across the town. An exhibition on this project is taking place in the Town Hall 18-25 November.
- Proposal for a permissive path from corner of Vicarage Lane/Eastling Road to corner of Lorenden Park. We have now contacted the Lorenden Parkland Trust, who appear to be



interested in improving ways for people to access the park. We will continue to discuss options with them and with David Simmons (landowner).

- Flood Lane. The group have pursued SBC over the general condition of the unmade road surface, and massive puddles, in Flood Lane without any real success to date. We have also contacted KCC over installing a No Through Road sign from West Street and have since heard from the lead Officer of KCC Highways (Simon Jones Corporate Director of Growth Environment and Transport, KCC) who has agreed to provide signage. The complete situation of this attractive area is being monitored in regards to the new Home Bargains site's future where we have commented footpath-wise on the Planning Application. It was subsequently noted that when Morrisons vacated the site, the clothing recycling bins in front of the Flood Lane gate in the carpark have been removed and the gate was unfortunately wide open temporarily to road traffic again. However, in the meantime, both Gates to the site from Flood Lane and West Street are now padlocked closed.
- Ham Road Housing Development. We wrote to SBC opposing the most recent application for housing. We are also offering help and advice on footpath related issues to the residents' group opposing the development.

Trevor Payne
Chair

1st November 2023



Financial and Membership Report as at 31st October 2023

Introduction

Membership of the Faversham Footpaths Group (FFG) becomes due on 1st January each year and as a result, financial records are kept using the calendar year as the financial year. For logistical reasons this report has been drawn up as at 31st October 2023. I foresee no reasons why the financial position should alter materially before the time of the AGM.

Accounts and membership 2023

During 2023 the group had an income of £415.00, most of which came from subscriptions with the remainder coming from donations and fees in advance. Our expenditure totaled £380.23; a huge improvement on 2022. Faversham Designs were recommended for our web site hosting; their costs being £120. Insurance, bank charges and a group subscription to the Ramblers Association made up the balance of expenditure. I am pleased to say that we made a small profit of £34.77.

There was an increase in Membership this year. We lost 3 members at the end of 2022; 1 through ill health and 2 for reasons unknown. 6 new members joined the group and, in a very encouraging sign, 6 members re-joined whose membership had lapsed in previous years. We have had one recent resignation due to ill health. We wish him well. Our current membership is 73.

52 members paid their subscription electronically which is very helpful to the Group.

Other actions

A Data Protection Policy and Privacy Statement have been in place since April 2019 in order to ensure that the Group is acting in line with the new Data Protection regulations.

Conclusion

As I have yet to complete my first year as Treasurer, I was pleasantly surprised; a small profit and an increase in membership. I hope I can repeat it again next year. Thank you to everyone for their support.

If any member would like further information on our finances or a copy of our annual financial and membership report please contact me on ashley.granvia@outlook.com

Ashley Sayewell
Treasurer

31st October 2023



Financial and Membership Report as at 31st October 2023

2023 Income

Subscriptions	370.00
Fees in advance	10.00
Late 2022 fee	5.00
Donations	30.00
Cash in hand	15.00
Late 2022 M/ship. Gratis	-5.00
TOTAL	<u>415.00</u>

MEMBERSHIP

Members at end of 2022	65
Resigned/nonpaid 2022	-3
Reenewed 2023	62
New Members	6
Re-joined Members	6
Resigned late 2023	-1
Current 2023 membership	<u>73</u>

2023 EXPENDITURE

Bank charges	71.64
Insurance	119.59
Ramblers Memberships	69.00
IT services/website	120.00
TOTAL	<u>380.23</u>

Paying by Bank Transfer 52

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year 34.77

Opening Bal at 1/11/2022 984.63

Closing Total at Bank 1,004.40

(and in hand 31.10.23) 15.00

Net assets 1,019.40

Ashley Sayewell
Treasurer

31st October 2023