



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2024.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 9th January 2024 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Eight 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) and Robin Sayewell (RS).

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(TP) welcomed 'everyone' to the Meeting and all EC Members were present. Following an invite from (AO), Chris Oswald Jones was to be a guest at the meeting but reported on the day of feeling unwell and offered his apologies for being unable to attend (see Any Other Business).

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

These were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks Previously, there was an FFG Sunday walk on 10th December 2023. Both Linda Harrison and Ann Ashton have continued jointly organising and running the walks programme, where a further walk is likely on a Sunday in late January or early February 2024.

(iii) Website The annual fee for this service has not changed for this coming year and there were no further items about the website to be reported at the meeting.

iv) Walking and Cycling provision in Faversham linked with future proposals for the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan and the Faversham Town Conservation Area Review

- a) Walking and cycling provision in Faversham – (JS) had previously advised there was an opportunity for funding for design to improve the junction of Priory Road with Priory Row, in contacting (now ex Councillor) Eddie Thomas. The EC at the time agreed to this proposal where (RS) had subsequently written to the then Councillor mentioning these two junctions. At today's meeting (JS) advised that since approval of the Cross-Town Walk, the SBC were looking into a further Faversham North to South Walk scheme in way of funding proposals and it was likely that the Davington and Brent Hill modifications would be incorporated in that. (RS) agreed to writing to Adrian Oliver the SBC Officer who is dealing with the proposed Project.*



b) Faversham Neighbourhood Plan - As previous the FFG's comments to the plan were submitted to SBC which asked that policy FAV15 (Faversham Creek Policy Area) be strengthened to include:

- A requirement that Creekside paths created by developing a site must be linked to corresponding paths on adjacent sites.*
- State that the requirement for a Creekside path applies to any site with a Creekside frontage that comes up for development in the life of the plan.*

(JS) advised that the Town Council hoped that a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan would be held in the first half of 2024.'

c) Faversham Town Conservation Area Review – This had recently been issued by SBC in August 2023 to which the EC had made comments over its lack of accurate detail to the West Creekside Path and the current condition of Flood Lane

(v) Faversham Creek Bridge No further developments and there was nothing further to report since the previous meeting

.(vi) Creek Basin The Group continues to monitor the situation over the Morrisons Store closure and the pending reopening by Home Bargains Group that now has put in a Planning Application. (RS) has written to SBC Planning and the SBC Freedom of Information Department (FOI) over the concerns over the 'future' of the 'thirty-year old' Creek Path Link from Flood Lane to North Lane together with narrowing of the gate at Flood Lane to prevent undesirable vehicle access or vehicles using it as a through route to North Lane. (FOI) have since replied, and (RS) has written again enquiring how SBC are managing the Flood Lane situation.

(vii) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road (RS) has written to Ted Wilcox and Derek Macey of Lorenden Parkland Trust to obtain interest and support from them over a possible resolution and scheme, they have replied and did wish initially to have a meeting with the EC.

(RS) will also continue to liaise with KCC and (TP) also to continue contact with David Simmons over the matter. It is understood by (RS) through a Golf contact, that the village of Painters Forstal have an interest in our proposals. He has also written to the KCC Councillor, Rich Lehmann who covers Painters Forstal about the matter. (RS) was asked to contact the Chair of the Parish Council (Ospringe) to advise of the FFG's work to date on the scheme.

(viii) Rail Crossings and other Footpath Issues (ZR492) Both (RS) and Richard Filipczak had written to Network Rail in November 2023, they have replied, visited site and agreed to some remedial repairs. ZR500 and its closure near the Thanet Way due to an illegal rubbish tip since 2017. KCC PROW have since replied advising with photos they have been to site and intend to take this further.



(ix) Brenley Corner (RS) continues to monitor over providing a M2 / A2 diversion from the roundabout in way of a more suitable Interchange (similar to those at Swanley and Dartford for the M25 route to the Thames Crossing). This is a National Highways issue that he is keeping in contact with Helen Whately MP over.

(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 The 'No Through Road' sign from West Street is now in place. This situation is being monitored as mentioned in (vi) in regards to the new Home Bargains Group's site where the Flood Lane Gate had been locked closed .. A Reporter from KM Group's 'Faversham News' after meeting with members of the EC, ran an article on the matter, where in the meantime It has subsequently been noted that the gate although unlocked is unfortunately wide open to vehicle traffic again. However, in the meantime the Company has submitted a revised Planning Application, that incorporates welcome modifications to the Gate in way of both a vehicle and separate pedestrian facility, plus hopefully rectifying the large puddling to the paving in this area.

(RS) was asked by the EC to comment on the new application, advising that we support the Gate Modifications, but are concerned that the Vehicle side of the Gate needs to be kept locked by the store management (and only occasionally opened under their jurisdiction) as vehicles could continue to make the footpath condition worse in the unmade section of Flood Lane.

(xii) Augustine Camino Footpath Route Nothing further to report although the presentation by Andrew Kelly at the last AGM was well received.

(xiii) Ham Road Housing Development(s) (LH) with support from the EC will continue to assist the residents over the Objections to the scheme over Footpath, Environmental and Wild Life concerns. In the meantime, with regards to Faversham Lakes Country Park, (LH) has heard from Councillor Peter Cook (Priory Ward Town Councillor) he is in discussions with the Developer over a North West future link from the Park footpath to ZF1 at Oare Creek. (RS) has written to the Councillor but has had no reply.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

Balance of Accounts

One statement has been received since the last meeting (AGM), the agreed closing balance being £1014.40 as at 5th Dec 2023.

Payments

- *Outgoings (pending) : Cheque for £120 re Faversham Designs not yet cashed.
Access Insurance – renewal quote of £122.50 has been agreed by TP/RS and myself. A cheque will be issued this week.
Ramblers Association - currently awaiting a new invoice.*



- *Income :* A bank transfer of £5 was received from a new member in late November.
- *Bank Charges :* These came to £5 (1 x £5 standard fee).

2023 Members

- We had 74 FFG members @ 31/12/2023.
- We now have 1 new member @ 01/01/2024 bringing the total number to 75.
- *Members Fees, I currently have £40 in cash waiting to be banked; £30 in current members fees, plus £10 in donations.*
- *HSBC Bank : The Secretary and I will endeavour to resolve the 'signatories' situation this year.*

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

(AO) reported the KCC PROW team are continuing to make progress over the design of the ramps and slipway link.

The extended closure notice as advised by KCC PROW came into place on 21st September 2023 explaining that the creek-side footpath here is now open except for three short lengths where work has to be carried out to make them walkable (and to fully open the whole path). Members should note that this area is legally fully accessible via the entrance from the Upper Brents. See also, Item 9.

(RS) was asked to write to Graham Rusling head of KCC PROW to ask if the Private Signage could be removed.

6. ENGLAND COAST PATH

Provender Walk through to the Former Oil Depot Site As suggested by KCC PROW, (RS) has written to SBC Planning over the status of official incorporation of this path as a footpath, details of which was passed to FTC for them to also investigate. Unfortunately, SBC have not responded. FTC are after receiving a complaint now also monitoring the Posillipo Restaurant's incursions onto the Creekside, which has we understand involved an Enforcement Order Notice to be raised.

7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION

(RS) was previously advised by KCC PROW that the Bretts Scheme for diversion of ZF1 is now passing through the necessary procedures to allow this company to commence construction where it is subject to consultation prior to the consideration of KCC making a diversion order.

8. SWALE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION - Reg19

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) nothing further to report apart from the new Home Bargains site Creekside Path from Flood Lane to North Lane has been added to the two previous items (Tram Road and Abbeyfields). (AO) has suggested that he and (RS) meet up with Adrienne Begent to go over the evidence statements received so far from the general public.

'Lost Ways'. No real contact from Kent Ramblers Association, The FFG will continue to review all of the district's Public Rights of Way where the cut off deadline is now 2031.

However, the Ramblers Association made contact over offering funds in way of maintaining 'suitable' PROW's in our area, (RS) responded by submitting the Westside Creek Path as a 'suitable' recipient for such funding.

10. AGM 2024

The EC is to look into the possibility of having the AGM earlier in the year and at also an earlier time. The Group's Constitution and Rules will be checked over and further discussed at the next EC Meeting

11. LOG OF ISSUES RAISED

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

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will take place at the Guildhall on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 16.30hrs

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. A new member, Neil Andrews has noticed that the group doesn't have a Twitter / X account and wonders if that's something worth exploring to help both increase the visibility of local campaigns and generate wider awareness of the group's work / bring in new members. He would be happy to offer support if that's something the group is considering ... The EC upon reflection advised they will not be taking this further following the likelihood of derogatory comments being received, similar to those recently seen on Facebook.*
- 2. Chris Oswald-Jones was to attend the meeting as a guest of (AO), but as previously reported he unfortunately advised he was feeling unwell on the day. (AO) however recommended that he be put forward as a prospective EC Member of the Group, where he explained that Chris's knowledge of the locality and on footpath matters would be of great assistance and would further enliven the Group.
This was put to the EC for vote where it was agreed that they would welcome him to become a Non-Voting EC Member if he accepts the offer.*