



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 12th MARCH 2024.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 12th March 2024 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Eight [*then nine*] EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP) Ashley Sayewell (ACMS), Anne Salmon (AS), Andrew Osborne (AO), Julian Saunders (JS) [*part*] John Coulter (JC), Linda Harrison (LH), Chris Oswald-Jones (CoJ) and Robin Sayewell (RS). One guest was present this being Julian Herrington (JH) [See also Any Other Business].

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*(TP) welcomed 'everyone' to the Meeting and he also welcomed the guest plus it was announced that (CoJ) was now a non-voting member of the EC. Apologies were received from Julian Saunders (JS) who due to a previous engagement couldn't attend the *start* of the meeting.*

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2024

(RS) reported that these have been adjusted to reflect that we did have a response from Graham Rusling of KCC before the last meeting and these have now been adjusted to reflect this, which covered two items. The amended Minutes were then approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks Previously, there was an FFG Sunday walk on 10th March 2024. 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 March 2024.

(iii) Website There were no further items about the website 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) advised that since approval of the Cross-Town Walk, 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) has since attended the first meeting of the newly formed Committee for this new scheme expressing our views. This committee is headed by Adrian Oliver - SBC's Active Travel Co-ordinator.



However, it was also understood via (CoJ) and (JS) that Adrian was shortly to leave SBC to take up a role involving cycling with KCC.

(JS) reported on the Town Council's Active Travel Month which is going to run throughout June 2024 and the idea is to run a range of events which will encourage residents to cycle, walk and use public transport more.

He met with (LH) recently and she would be happy to run a number of walks during the festival, probably one a week, reasonably short, starting within the town boundaries, aimed at people who aren't regular walkers. He would also be interested in organising a walk round the creek using those parts where there is currently creek-side access and linking it to the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan aspiration to promote a continuous walking route around the Creek.

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 and Flood Lane The Group continues to monitor the situation over the Morrisons Store closure and the pending reopening by Home Bargains Group who now have put in a revised Planning Application incorporating the Flood Lane Gate to the store carpark. This has welcome modifications for both a vehicle and separate pedestrian facility, plus hopefully rectifying the large puddling to the paving in this area.

(RS) has commented 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.

The 'No Through Road' sign from West Street into Flood Lane is now in place and in the mean-time (RS) has written to both SBC FOI division together with Adrian Oliver expressing concerns over SBC's lack of concern over the state of their part of the road where the greenspace frontages that they are responsible for are alongside the this unadopted dilapidated section of the Lane.



(vii) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road (RS) had 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.

(RS) and (LH) recently attended the February Ospringe PC (OPC) Meeting and presented the case to them where the Chair advised the Group to contact Adrian Oliver of SBC. This (RS) has done and Adrian has agreed in taking it further with the Chair of the PC. In the meantime, (CoJ) then mentioned that OPC were holding another meeting on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 that (RS), (LH) and (CoJ) will attend.

(viii) Rail Crossings and other Footpath Issues (ZR492) Both (RS) and Richard Filipczak (Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council footpaths warden) had written to Network Rail in November 2023, they have replied, visited site and agreed to some remedial repairs that provisionally are now complete.

(LH) previously raised (ZR500) and its closure near the Thanet Way due to an illegal rubbish tip since 2017. KCC PROW have since advised 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. (RS) has since in his personal role written to the present Transport Minister – Guy Opperman, who met with Helen at Brenley in February,

(x) SBC liaison with FFG issues (JS) announced that FTC have recently agreed to advise SBC that Footpath Related Issues related to the Faversham Area should also be directed to EC of our Group, In the meantime he will inform the Swale Footpaths Group.

(xi) Augustine Camino Footpath Route Nothing further to report although the Painters Forstal Community Association (PFCA) have confirmed their interest in the route that passes through their village. It is understood Andrew Kelly will be giving a presentation (similar to ours at the last AGM) to the PFCA at their hall.

(xii) 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



(ACMS) presented the following Treasurer's report at the meeting

Balance of Accounts

Three statements have been received since the last meeting, the agreed closing balance being £917.20 as at 5th March 2024.

Transactions

Expenditure

Faversham Designs – no increase in fee. Cheque for £120.00 issued & cleared.

Access Insurance – premium increase of £2.91 to £122.50. Cheque issued & cleared.

Ramblers Association – increase in subscription of £4.70 to £73.70. Cheque issued & cleared.

Income

Bank transfers - These totalled £230 having been paid into the account relating to 43 members subscription fees plus £20 in donations.

Bank Charges - These came to £16.20 (3 x £5 standard fee + £1.20 cheque clearance fees).

2024 Members

We had 74 FFG members at 31/12/2023. A new member joined on 01/01/2024.

Members Fees

3	<i>members pre-paid</i>
43	<i>members paid by bank transfer (+ £20 donations)</i>
12	<i>members paid cash (+ £15 donations)</i>
16	<i>subscription outstanding (reminders being sent)</i>

HSBC Bank

Nothing further to report at present.

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 and Members should note that this area is legally fully accessible via the entrance from the Upper Brents.

(RS) has written to Graham Rusling head of KCC PROW twice now to ask if the Private Signage could be removed and he has since responded saying he will look into it.

(RS) has since also written to Cleve Hill Solar Park enquiring if they could offer financial support or expertise to the scheme.



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. (RS) has also written to Graham Rusling of KCC PROW over the matter who has responded. (RS) has written to him again to see if the Provender Walk Creek-side North wall could now be removed, similar to that at the South end.

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

We understand that the pause has ended and the process restarted by SBC.(TP) will continue to monitor developments

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. (RS) has spoken with Adrienne over the matter and a meeting will be set up shortly.

'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.

10. AGM 2024

This will be on Thursday 14th November 2024 in the Guildhall at 7.00pm. The EC is still looking into the possibility of having the AGM earlier in the year and at also an earlier time. Under The Group's Constitution and Rules this needs to be put for vote to members at the AGM 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 be held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 in the Guildhall at 4.30pm

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julian Herrington (JH) of Porter's Lane who (RS) and (LH) met at the Ospringe PC Meeting had been invited as a guest by (RS) to discuss the many footpaths in London where he cycles a few days each month that are 'shared' pathways. He is a walker and Cyclist and a member of the LDWA, and he cycles along Brogdale Road that he considers as dangerous where in London the cycling is much safer because of the shared pathways.

He is thinking of green links to the rural parishes around Faversham which he feels that the developers can help with perhaps.

(JS) advised a report was produced by FTC last year, funded by SBC, looking at ways that active travel routes from neighbouring villages to the town centre can be improved, which included looking at active travel routes from Painters Forstal and he knows Ospringe Parish Council were consulted as part of the work. He agreed to meet up with (JH) separate from the meeting to discuss further.