



## MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Seven EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP) Ashley Sayewell (ACMS), Anne Salmon (AS), Andrew Osborne (AO), Julian Saunders (JS), Linda Harrison (LH) and Robin Sayewell (RS).

### 1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*(TP) welcomed 'everyone' to the Meeting. Apologies were received from John Coulter (JC) and Chris Oswald-Jones (CoJ)*

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

*These were approved.*

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

*(i) Walks Both Linda Harrison and Ann Ashton have continued jointly organising and running the walks programme. There had been a FFG Sunday walk on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024; a further walk is likely on a Sunday in late May 2024. In the mean-time the FFG together with FTC have organised walks in June 2024 for the Town Council's Active Travel month. Members have been notified of the dates for these, which can also be viewed in the Walks Section of the FFG Website.*

*(ii) Website There were no items about the website to be reported at the meeting.*

*(iii) 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 –.(RS) previously advised he had attended a meeting covering the Cross-Town Walk. SBC were now looking into a further Faversham North to South Walk scheme by way of funding proposals; it was likely that the Davington/Brent Hill modifications would be incorporated into the scheme. (JS) reported that as the footpath on Davington Hill would need widening, necessitating a possible one-way system that was not popular, the Consultants are now looking into diverting this route over the creek Bridge into Bramble Hill. However, the Davington and Brent Hill improvements are still likely to be kept in the scheme.*
- Faversham Neighbourhood Plan - The Inspector's report has now been published by SBC on the Neighbourhood Plan. This is being scrutinised by the EC where the report mentions the Plan aspires to promote a continuous walking route around the Creek and also indicates that the Town Council should have a referendum on its acceptance. However, a date has yet to be published.*



*b) Faversham Town Conservation Area Review – The EC had previously made comments over the review’s lack of accurate detail to the West Creekside Path and the current condition of Flood Lane.*

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

*(v) Creek Basin and Flood Lane The Group continues to monitor the situation over the pending reopening of the Supermarket Store by Home Bargains Group who now have approval of their revised Planning Application incorporating the Flood Lane Gate to the store carpark where works are currently under way. This gate has welcome modifications for both a vehicle and separate pedestrian facility, plus hopefully rectifying the large puddling to the paving in this area. However, the application advises the new store, when not open for business (ie closed), can lock the gate if it so wishes.*

*(vi) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road (RS) together with (LH) had meetings with Ospringe Parish Council in both February and April 2024, and generally, although sympathetic, advise that we pursue the matter with the Landlords concerned. (RS) has again written to Ted Wilcox and Derek Macey of Lorenden Parkland Trust to obtain interest in an alternative proposal that would in the short term only involve themselves, and not David Simmons’s orchard.*

*(vii) 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 have completed some remedial repairs.*

*(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.*

*(viii) Brenley Corner (RS) continues to monitor and campaign 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). He has written to both National Highways in Bristol together with the Secretary of State, where now funds from HST 2 are available for the scheme and we await publishing by National Highways over what will be three possible schemes being proposed. (TP) mentioned that Brenley was included within the Examiner’s report on Faversham Neighbourhood Plan.*

*(ix) SBC liaison with FFG issues (JS) announced recently that the Mayor of FTC has recently advised the Group to make contact with Swale Footpaths Group, and for FFG to be included as a consultee on SBC planning applications in the Faversham area with footpath implications.*

*(x) 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.

(xi) 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, the Save Ham Farm Group have recently had meetings held at Davington Church over the matter, where in simplistic terms they believe they have several cases to prevent construction. As previous (LH) heard from Councillor Peter Cook (Priory Ward Town Councillor) that he is in discussions with the Developer over a North West future link from the Park footpath to ZF1 at Oare Creek. (RS) wrote a few months ago to the Councillor but has had no reply.

(xii) Duchy of Cornwall Development (RS) on behalf of the Group, has commented on the recent present two Planning Applications for this development.

## 4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

(ACMS) reported the following at the meeting:-

### **Balance of Accounts**

Two statements have been received since the last meeting, the agreed closing balance being £1,012.20 as at 5th May 2024.

### **Transactions**

Expenditure : None.

Income : Bank transfers totalling £30 have been paid into the account relating to 6 members subscription fees.

Cash of £75.00 was paid into the account relating to 12 members subscription fees plus £15.00 donations.

### **Bank Charges**

These came to £10.00 (2 x £5.00 monthly standard fee).

### **2024 Members**

Sadly, one member passed away in March this year. The Secretary passed on our condolences.

We had Seventy-four FFG members at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – one deceased, - two resigned, plus one new member in March which brings the current total to Seventy-Two members.

### **Members Fees**

Three members pre-paid

Forty-nine (inc.dec'd mem) members paid by bank transfer (+ £20.00 donations)

Twelve members paid cash (+ £15.00 donations)

Four members £20.00 cash in hand (£5.00 donation)

Five subscription fees outstanding (reminders have been sent)

### **HSBC Bank**

Nothing 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 legal aspects and 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.*

*(JS) will be leading walks in June around the Creek Perimeter in conjunction with the FTC Active Travel Month that will involve these two estates.*

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.*

*The speaker for this year's AGM will be Hayley Taylor, who is the Project Manager for Bird Wise in North Kent, an initiative that brings together local authorities, conservation organisations and developers to protect the wildlife of the Thames, Medway and Swale Estuaries.*

## **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 at the Guildhall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 at 16.30hrs.*

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*No other business was discussed.*