



MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD

ON 2nd July 2024.

(Preliminary and subject to approval at the next Meeting).

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 2nd July 2024 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Seven EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP), Anne Salmon (AS), Andrew Osborne (AO), Julian Saunders (JS), Linda Harrison (LH) Chris Oswald Jones (CoJ) and Robin Sayewell (RS).

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(TP) welcomed everyone to the Meeting where apologies had been recently received from Ashley Sayewell (ACMS). (TP) then said a few words in sympathy over the sad recent demise of EC Member John Coulter (JC), which was followed by a Minutes Silence (please see also Any Other Business).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 14th May 2024

These were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks Both Linda Harrison and Ann Ashton have continued jointly organising and running the walks programme. In the mean-time the FFG together with FTC have organised walks in June and now on two weekends in the Autumn of 2024 for the Town Council's Active Travel month. Members have been notified of these dates that for those involving the Town Council had to be amended due to the forthcoming General Election, and SBC by-election in Priory Ward. All of the current arrangements and the four walks undertaken in June can now 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 –.SBC were now looking into a further Faversham North to South Walk scheme by way of funding proposals. However, the Town Clerk has written to (RS) over the LCWP scheme inviting the Group to be involved in the proposals being put forward to KCC and they are shortly to have discussions with Adrian Berendt over the matter. In the mean-time the East to West route works are underway in Lower Road. Unfortunately, there appears to be a current issue with Kerb Heights to the ramps at the Wallers Road Junction.*
- b) Faversham Neighbourhood Plan - The Inspector's report has now been published by SBC on the Neighbourhood Plan. This is still 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.

- c) 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. However, this latest application advises the new store, when not open for business (ie closed), can lock the gates if it so wishes. (CoJ) has since written to SBC querying this. (RS) has also since written to SBC over what is hoped to be only temporary gates recently installed at Flood Lane, as they do not comply with those shown on the Planning Application.

(vi) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road (RS) together with (LH) had meetings with Ospringle Parish Council in both February and in April 2024, over a revised proposal. (RS) has subsequently spoken with Derek Macey, Chair of Lorenden Trust, who advised that the revised proposal would be considered by the Trust's Committee at their AGM which was to be held in late June 2024. Ted Wilcox of the Trust has since written to (RS) advising that they support the outline proposal suggested in principal, but will require KCC PROW to take full responsibility for the new entrance.

(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. (RS) will write again to KCC.

(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) advised that Brenley was mentioned within the Examiner's report on the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan.

(ix) SBC liaison with FFG issues (RS) now has access from SBC on behalf of FFG to receive regular Planning Application Updates relevant to the Town area. After



discussion (RS) was advised to contact SBC again referring to the Mayor's letter asking for FFG to become a consultee to the Planning Group.

(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 East Side Housing Development This Development has currently been refused Planning Permission by SBC

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

(xiii) Winterbourne Fields near Dunkirk (RS) has been asked to review the latest Planning Application, and comment upon the Footpath Aspects, underlying the Groups concerns over the matter.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

Although ACMS) did not attend, her Treasurer's report was available for the meeting which is 'summarised' as follows :-

Balance of Accounts : One statement has been received since the last meeting, the agreed closing balance being £1,022.20 as at 5th June 2024.

*Transactions Expenditure None.
Income - Bank transfers totalling £15.00 have been paid into the account relating three members subscription fees.*

Bank Charges : These came to £5.00 the monthly standard fee.

*2024 Members : We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of (JC), one of our original Committee members.
However, we have also welcomed 2 new members into the group.
As at 2nd July 2024 there are 70 FFG members, and applications have been received from five other people to join the Group*

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 all aspects including the design of the ramps and slipway link.

Members should note that both of these Estates open areas including the Creekside Paths are legally fully accessible via the entrance from the Upper Brents. The closed areas are purely the unconstructed North and South ramps plus the slipway links.

(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 now in the Autumn around the East and West sides of the Upper Creek Perimeter in conjunction with the FTC Active Travel Month that will involve these two estates.

6. KING CHARLES III 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.

(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.

SBC have now responded after receiving further complaints over Posillipo Restaurant's continuing incursions onto the Creekside walk, which involved another Enforcement Order Notice to be raised and the Restaurant have currently removed the obstacles. This will continue to be monitored.

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 hopefully 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.

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 on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 4.30pm within the Mayor's Parlour of the Guildhall.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Unfortunately, due to the recent sad news over (JC), this has now left a vacancy on the EC for a Full-Voting Member. This was put to the table at the meeting and by a unanimous show of hands it was decided to elect (LH) presently a Non-Voting Member to take up the vacant position. This will be tabled at the AGM for sanctioning by Group Members.