



## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2024.

(preliminary set to be approved at next AGM)

The Group's ninth AGM was held at 7.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at the Guildhall, Faversham.

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Trevor Payne (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, although the attendance was lower this year.

### 2. ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Attendees** There were eleven members present (nine from the EC plus two Group members) and a speaker

**Executive Committee (EC) members** were : Trevor Payne (TP). Ashley Sayewell (ACMS), Anne Salmon (AS) Andrew Osborne (AHO), Julian Saunders (JS), Linda Harrison (LH), Chris Oswald Jones (CoJ), Adrian Oliver (AO), Robin Sayewell (RS).

**Group members** were : Ann Ashton and Anne Osborne (plus Hayley Taylor although not being a member was the Guest Speaker).

**Apologies** were received from Laurence Young, Jan Scott, Mike Cosgrove, Brian Caffarey, Jackie Westlake and David Osborne.

### 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), Andrew Osborne (Member), Anne Salmon (Member), Cllr Julian Saunders (Member), Linda Harrison (Member), Chris Oswald Jones (non-voting Member), Adrian Oliver (non-voting Member).

## 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

Owing to the timing of the Financial Year in relation to the date of the Treasurer's Report for the normal date in November for the AGM, the EC have looked into the AGM being earlier in the year. Under the Group's Constitution and Rules (see end of Minutes) this will be needed to be put for vote to Members today, where the months of 1st April and 30<sup>th</sup> May from 2025 were put forward by (TP). This was proposed by Ann Ashton and seconded by (CoJ) which was passed by those in attendance unanimously.

## 10. Guest Speaker

The speaker for this year's AGM was Hayley Taylor [hayley.taylor@medway.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.taylor@medway.gov.uk) who is the Project Manager for Bird Wise in North Kent, an initiative that brings together local authorities, conservation organizations and developers to protect the wildlife of the Thames, Medway and Swale Estuaries. See also <https://northkent.birdwise.org.uk/>

## 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 2023 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](http://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 (and delivered to 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. They have confirmed they are in the process of appointing engineers to work on the ramps and slipway parts of ZF43. These are the only parts of the route to remain closed, all existing parts of the route are now open to the public. The KCC, with the Countryside Code Organisation and Natural England, are producing signage to identify areas that are open to the public as 'Coastal Margin Access Land', for example the parts of Waterside Close and Faversham Reach that give access to the open parts of ZF43. We would encourage members to take advantage of these developments.

## KING CHARLES III ENGLAND COAST PATH (ECP)

4. The FFG continues to pressurise the various agencies involved to link the path on Abbey Wharf (former Oil Depot) with the ECP at Provender Walk. Ideally including that section in the ECP.

## WALKS

5. 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.

6. This year the FFG also organised some walks as part of Faversham Town Council's Active Travel month. We have been asked to take part in the same event in 2025 and it is hoped that having early involvement in this will result in better publicity and take up of these walks in particular.

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

- Designation of local footpaths – The FFG has continued, with the support of Faversham Town Council, applying for Definitive Map Modifications Orders (DMMO) for the Tram Road between Ham Road and Oare Creek, and Creekside routes through the site of the Home Bargains site. In connection with the latter we have also engaged with the Faversham Creek Trust who are supporting this work.
- East Kent Recycling Ltd road at Oare Creek & ZF1 – The proposed rerouting of ZF1 to the lagoon side of the road remains a work in progress, somewhat tied up in discussions between Bretts and the SBC Planning Department. However, Bretts have confirmed that they are keen to bring this to a successful conclusion.



- Faversham Neighbourhood Plan (FNP) – This has now moved to its final stage, with a referendum to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024. One of the seven core aims is to promote active travel including walking. The FFG feels that most of the points we raised in the process, especially in connection with Creekside paths, have improved the FNP and the EC would recommend members to vote in its favour in the referendum.
- Walking and cycling provision in Faversham – KCC are now carrying out the construction work on the East-West walking route across town. The FFG was invited by Faversham Town Council to be involved in generating ideas for a North-South walking route as part of a KCC funded development project. Members of the EC have also had discussions with the Town Council's LCWIP consultant, Adrian Berendt, as part of the revision of the town's LCWIP.
- Proposal for a permissive path from corner of Vicarage Lane/Eastling Road to corner of Lorenden Park. We have continued discussions with the KCC PROW department, KCC Active Travel and the Lorenden Trust, aimed at making progress with this.
- Flood Lane and the Home Bargains Store  
The Group continues to monitor the situation over the general state and condition of the Southern end of Flood Lane, where this has been regularly reported to the Estates Team at SBC, but unfortunately with little response.  
The new Home Bargains Group store should be open by the time of the AGM. The gate and drainage arrangement at Flood Lane has now been completed. However, security arrangements for these gates with the Store Management still need to be negotiated.  
The EC met with the Chair of Faversham Creek Trust (FTC) and discussed the Creek Path here, where the trust and its members will support the PROW application from Flood Lane through to North Lane. They have recently jointly with FTC attended a meeting with the CEO of Shepherd Neame (SN) over the section at the rear of their Transport Compound and Bottling Building, pathway from North Lane to the Creek Bridge. This to discuss the feasibility of what would be two projects with SN, where it is understood from the CEO that they allow rights for once a year usage of the relatively unknown pathway to the Creek Edge (at Hogg's Island) here.

**Trevor Payne**  
Chair

**1<sup>st</sup> November 2024**



## Financial and Membership Report as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

### Introduction

Membership of the Faversham Footpaths Group (FFG) becomes due on 1 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 2024. I foresee no reasons why the financial position should alter materially before the time of the AGM.

### Accounts and membership 2024

During 2024 the group's income totaled £425.00. This came from subscriptions with the remainder coming from donations and fees in advance. Our expenditure totaled £382.20, giving us a surplus of £42.80. Faversham Designs who host our website have maintained their costs at £120. There were small increases to insurance, and the group subscription to the Ramblers Association costs.

We had some sad news this year as two of our members passed away, one of them being John Coulter, a founder member of the group he also gave sound advice as a member of the Executive Committee. He is much missed. Membership was reduced by five due to resignations/non-renewal of premium. However, I am pleased to report that ten new members joined the group and we, currently, have a total of 76 members.

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

This is my second year in the Treasurer's Role. Generally, things have ticked over during the year. I am pleased to report another surplus; also an increase in Membership. 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](mailto:ashley.granvia@outlook.com)

**Ashley Sayewell**  
Treasurer

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**



## Financial and Membership Report as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

### 2024 Income

Subscriptions (inc. dec'd)	380
Fees in advance	5
Late 2023 fees	10
Donations	40
Late 2023 m/ship. Gratis	- 10

**TOTAL** **£425**

### 2024 Expenditure

Bank Charges	66.20
Insurance	122.50
Ramblers M/ship	73.50
IT/Services Website	120.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£382.20</b>

**Surplus/(Deficit)** **£42.80**

Opening balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.2023 1019.40

Closing balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2024 1062.20

**Net Assets** **£1062.20**

### Membership

Members @ 31/10/2023	73
Deceased	-2
Resigned/nonpaid 2024	-5
Adjustment re joint mem. Issue	-1
Renewed 2024	66
New members	10
Late 2023	1

Membership as at 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2024 76

Paid by bank transfer 52

31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

## Faversham Footpaths Group

### Constitution and Rules

1. The objects of the Group are:
  - a. To assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of footpaths, bridleways and byways in Faversham and the surrounding area.
  - b. To prevent, by making representations to the appropriate public authorities or by any other lawful means, the obstruction of public paths.
  - c. To ensure that public rights of way are adequately signposted and way marked and are satisfactorily maintained.
  - d. To resist proposals for the extinguishment or diversion of rights of way whenever, in the opinion of the Group, they would be contrary to the public interest.
  - e. To press for the creation of new public rights of way.
  - f. To encourage the designation of existing public paths by the deadline of 1 January 2026.
  - g. To organise walks and to encourage the use of public paths in Faversham and the surrounding area.
  - h. To support, and where appropriate affiliate to, other organisations which share the objects of the Group.
2. All persons who satisfy the Executive Committee that they support its objects are eligible to become Members. The annual subscription of members shall be as determined initially at the inaugural meeting and as subsequently agreed at Annual General Meetings. Notice of any proposed changes shall be sent to Members to arrive not less than one week before the Annual General Meeting.
3. All Members are entitled to attend and to vote at General Meetings of the Group. At least ten Members must be present at a General Meeting to constitute a quorum. **The Annual General Meeting must be held each year between April 1st and May 31st.** Its Agenda must include the election of Officers and of the other Members of the Executive Committee. Other General Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or on the requisition of at least fifteen Members of the Group. The Agenda of a General Meeting must be sent to all Members not less than one week in advance.
4. Officers of the Group are the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The Executive Committee consists of all the Officers and four other Members elected at the Annual General Meeting. Faversham Town Council will be invited to nominate a representative to attend meetings. Any vacancy occurring between the Annual General Meetings may be filled by the Executive Committee itself. The Executive Committee is empowered to co-opt not more than three additional, non-voting, Members. The Executive Committee must meet at least twice in the period between Annual General Meetings and at least three voting Members must be present to constitute a quorum.
5. The Chairman is empowered with the majority agreement of the Executive Committee to form a sub-committee, or sub-committees, to facilitate the

activities of the Executive Committee. At least one member of the Executive Committee must serve on any sub-committee so formed.

6. The Executive Committee may submit Standing Orders to any General Meeting for approval by a simple majority of the Members attending.
7. The Constitution and Rules may be amended at any General Meeting with the approval of not less than two-thirds of the Members attending. Written notice, which is required to include the proposed amendment or amendments, must be sent to all Members, to arrive not less than one week in advance of the General Meeting concerned.
8. The Committee has the sole authority on the admittance or refusal to Membership. Should the Committee decide that any person is unacceptable for Membership or, in the case of an existing Member, has become unacceptable (due to anti-social behaviour, etc.) the Committee is authorised to refuse or terminate that person's Membership. The existing Member must be given seven days' written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee and must be informed of the complaints made against him or her. The Membership of an existing Member may not be terminated unless he or she has first had the opportunity to appear before the Committee and answer complaints made against him or her, and at least two-thirds of the Committee then present vote in favour of his or her Membership being terminated.
9. The Group may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of Members voting at an Annual General Meeting or special General Meeting of the Group confirmed by a simple majority of Members voting at a further special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Group is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a special General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given. In the event of the dissolution of the Group its available funds, its records and other assets shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the meeting of the Group at which the decision to dissolve the Group is confirmed.

### **Amendment History:**

Approved at the inaugural meeting of the Group on 2 June 2015.

Amended at AGM 14 November 2024 – item 3 date of AGM