



MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 30th October 2024.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 30th October 2024 at the Guildhall in Faversham. Eight EC Members were present, Trevor Payne (TP), Ashley Sayewell (ACMS), Anne Salmon (AS), Andrew Osborne (AHO), 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 and also Adrian Oliver (AO) who had been previously invited by (RS) to discuss possible Funding Procedures for future Footpath Projects (see also Item 5).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 10th September 2024

These were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks Both Linda Harrison (LH) and Ann Ashton have continued jointly organising and running the walks programme, the last one being on 20th October 2024. There will now be the final two walks alongside the Creek on weekends in the Spring of 2025 for the Town Council's Active Travel month as arranged previously by (JS) that have been postponed from this year. The dates have not been confirmed yet.

(ii) Website There are no items about the website to be mentioned at the meeting, apart from this year's invoice from Faversham Designs having been received, which (ACMS) will cover in the Treasurer's Report.

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

- Walking and cycling provision in Faversham – SBC were now looking into specific areas of the scheme notably, Bramble Hill and the North Lane Pedestrian Crossing for the Faversham North to South Walk scheme by way of funding proposals. It is now understood that the September 2024 LCWIP Plan is now available, but the Group has not had official sighting of the document yet. In the mean-time the East to West route works are still underway in Lower Road through to South Road.*

a) Faversham Neighbourhood Plan - There was an Exhibition of the Plan by FTC at Davington Church on Saturday, 19th October 2024, and a date for a referendum has now been set for 21st November 2024. (TP) is asking for support of the plan from Group Members



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 Home Bargains Group have completed the Gate and Drainage arrangement at Flood Lane and the new store opens on 2nd November 2024. However, security arrangements with the Store Management still need to be negotiated.

The previous meeting with Philippa Dickinson Chair of Faversham Creek Trust discussed the Creek Path here, and that the trust and its members will support the PROW application (see also Item 9.), plus together with us they are keen to liaise with Shepherd Neame (SN) over the section at the rear of their Bottling Building. (RS) will be writing to (SN) over the matter. (AHO) mentioned the relatively unknown pathway from North Lane to the Creek edge linking to what is known locally as Hog's Island here, which also could be brought into any discussions / negotiations with (SN)

(vi) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road (RS) after discussions with (AO) of KCC Active Travel is to liaise with Kate Beswick of KCC PROW as ZF 357 that passes through Lorenden Estate could be used as the means of having the entrance moved to our preferred position.

(vii) Rail Crossings and other Footpath Issues

(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.

(CoJ) has recently raised an issue with Network Rail over the Gate at Union Rail Crossing (ZF 9) behind the head of St Nicholas Road.

(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. We await news if the new Government is planning to shelve this scheme or not where it is unofficially understood the scheme is only likely if the Lower Thames Crossing is constructed. There is a possibility the scheme could be enhanced if the Duchy Commercial Development is taken forward.

(ix) SBC liaison with FFG issues (RS) now receives regular updates from SBC Planning over all schemes covering Faversham. (RS) would also like to give thanks to (CoJ) over the assistance he gives the Group of the latest Planning Applications.

(x) Augustine Camino Footpath Route Nothing further to report



(xi) Ham Road East Side Housing Development This Development has currently been refused Planning Permission by SBC, but an Appeal Application has subsequently been submitted by the Developers. (AHO) previously suggested that (RS) should write to SBC to ask them to include a request for a Section 106 for funding for the ZF43 links, when they write to the Inspector who is running the public enquiry outlining conditions SBC would like the Inspector to impose if they approve the application. This would be especially beneficial in funding this attractive route from the site via the section of the path at Waterside Close and Faversham Reach alongside the Creek, promoting that this will eventually become the King Charles III England Coast Path.

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

(xiii) Winterbourne Fields near Dunkirk (RS) has responded to the Groups concerns over the matter.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

(ACMS) reported the following :

Balance of Accounts

Two statements have been received since the last meeting, the agreed closing balance being £1062.20 as at 5th October 2024.

Transactions

Expenditure : *Faversham Designs have submitted their invoice for the coming year. Their fee remains unchanged at £120.00. The EC Officers have agreed these costs and the invoice will be paid shortly*

Income : *Cash totalling £20.00 has been paid into the account relating to four new member's subscription fees.*

Bank Charges : *These came to £10.00 (2 x £5.00 monthly standard fee).*

2024 Members

The number of members remains unchanged at 76 members.

Members Fees

3 members pre-paid
52 members paid by bank transfer
21 members £20 cash in hand

HSBC Bank

Nothing to report at present.

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



Adrian Oliver (AO) who had been previously invited by (RS) to discuss possible Funding proposals was asked to speak at this stage of the meeting, where he suggested that he may be able to look into the likely funding necessary for any necessary Engineering Design Involvement to assist KCC over the scheme. (JS) As previous will be leading walks now in the Spring of 2025 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 (RS) to continue pushing the necessary agencies over the opening up this section directly with Provender Walk.

7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION

(RS) has been in direct contact with David Greenaway of Bretts at Canterbury over the repositioning of ZF1, who have advised they are keen to commence and complete the project which is currently being looked into by them with the SBC Planning Department.

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 (LH) met with Philippa Dickinson the Chair of Faversham Creek Trust at the Home Bargains site recently. The Chair has agreed to pursue its members to complete the necessary forms over a PROW incorporation for the Flood Lane and North Lane link alongside the Creek here. They have all the necessary forms

'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 7.30pm. 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.

(LH) presently a Non-Voting Member was elected at the last meeting to become a voting member from the unfortunate recent vacancy due to the demise of John Coulter and this will be tabled at the AGM for sanctioning by Group Members.

It should be noted that during the EC Meeting, the EC approved the report that will be presented in the Agenda for the AGM on 14th November 2024.



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 14th January 2025 at 16.30hrs in the Guildhall.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(AHO) discussed his recent meeting with FTC plus SBC's CEO over the potential naming of the Footpath between Abbey Place and Gordon Square.

(RS) made a proposal that Adrian Oliver (AO) be invited to become a member of the Group, with subsequent immediately becoming a Non-Voting Member of the EC as Funding Consultant for the Group. This was unanimously accepted by the EC.