MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 30th June 2026.

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 30thJune 2026 at 1. Priory Row, Davington, Faversham. All nine 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), Adrian Oliver (AO) and Robin Sayewell (RS).

1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(TP) welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 14th April 2026

These were reviewed and approved

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3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Walks Linda Harrison (LH) has thankfully been organising and running the walks programme. The previous walk was in conjunction with Active Travel and took place on 10th May 2026 and a more recent walk to Oare Marshes was on 28th June 2026. The next walk in July 2026 is likely to be along the West side of Faversham Creek..

(ii) Website There were no items to discuss.

(iii) Walking and Cycling provision in Faversham (JS) previously reported on the North / South walking route that the KCC had indicated that they were likely to start some of the improvement works. The foot crossing of the A2 at the Abbey School (in preference to the present bridge) and improvements at Briton Road and Bramble Hill were mentioned as three of these. (JS) confirmed the North Lane Crossing is now likely to be added to the scheme.

(iv) Flood Lane As previously mentioned the potential closure of part of the lane from a Highways aspect were raised by (CoJ), (JS) and (AO) at the FTC Active Travel Meeting on 2nd October 2025. It had also previously been agreed that the FTC / SBC would be better placed to raise this matter with local residents and (JS) reported this is now be carried out by FTC shortly.

(v) Creek Basin Shepherd Neame (SN) will be contacted again probably during this year.

(vi) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road The kissing gate was being kept under review to see if the new entrance needed remedial work to prevent it becoming muddy. (RS) is looking into arranging this later in the year.

Ospringe Parish Council have contacted KCC over providing warning signage of pedestrians stepping out onto the road at this particular area. After discussion (RS) did write to KCC in support of the proposal and the reply from them indicated liaison with OPC is underway. (LH) mentioned that ZR357 had Bramble Growth issues, and (AO) at the meeting submitted a fault notice to KCC PROW whilst at the meeting. We are concerned that pathways across Lorenden seem to be not maintained recently and (RS) will write to the Trust mentioning it.

(vii) Rail Crossings and other Footpath Issues

1. *The rail crossing for the footpath between Goodnestone and Graveney has slope angles issues to the approaches, especially on the Graveney side and (RS) has approached KCC PROW about this through their 'Faults' Webform facility.*
2. *The obstacles along (ZR500) are being pursued by KCC PROW over Landlord issues to be cleared before these can be removed. See also (xii)*
3. *(ZF18) at Perry Court was reported by (CoJ) and (JS) as being extremely muddy. This is now probably a main walking route from the new Ashford Road and Brogdale Estate to the Abbey School and the town. Post Meeting note this has also been added to KCC 'Faults Website'.*

(viii) Brenley Corner It is generally accepted that this roundabout is a dangerous area for Pedestrians, Walkers and Cyclists and a M2 / A2 diversion from the roundabout in way of a more suitable Interchange would be beneficial. (AO) reported at this meeting that this project had been totally rejected now by National Highways, saying that the Traffic situation at the junction was not serious enough to take further. Needless to say there were numerous murmurings from some EC members over this decision.

(ix) Ham Road East Side Housing Development (AHO) advised that considerable funds may be available from the Section 106 clause for footpaths affected by the scheme, together with Z43 and possibly a new bridge over the Crab Island creek tidal inlet. The Judicial Review as requested by FTC over the approval of the scheme has taken place and the outcome is awaited.

(x) Duchy of Cornwall Development The overall scheme now has Outline Planning Permission and Phase 1 for this development now has Planning Permission. (RS) did previously write again to SBC about the presently poor Active Travel Routes from the development into the town as (JS) had advised it does not say enough about this subject in the view of the FTC.

(xi) Winterbourne Fields near Dunkirk (RS) has previously responded to SBC over the Group's concerns over the matter. The local press has recently published a Front Page Headline over the likely issues raised in item viii above. Post meeting (CoJ) has mentioned from the latest portal that there could be proposed Pedestrian / Cycle upgrades to Canterbury Road which he will report on later.

(xii) Fund Raising for Projects (AO) will be undertaking approaching various organisations for future funding raising for Projects. The organisations presently

under view are the Ramblers Association, Quintoc (the solar farm developers), Queenborough Ports and Tesco (who have an interest in the solar farm). (AHO) previously mentioned another source who (RS) has subsequently made contact with. In the meantime (LH) has seen a report that Quintoc are now offering funds for local to the site parish schemes, (AO) is to investigate if this can be utilised with the issues over ZR500.

(xiii) Shepherd Neame, Ospringe Development (RS) previously submitted FFG concerns over the affect on ZF10 to SBC Planning over the scheme. (JS) advised he had other issues over the Footpath affect by the scheme and would provide this to (RS) for FFG to include also into the Comments section for the scheme on the SBC Planning Portal. A more recent Application from SN is now with SBC.

(xiv) Membership and Donations to the Group Proposals The annual membership fee of £5.00 is being reviewed but a proposal was made that Members could be encouraged to offer a further donation to the Group to assist improving the Bank Balance.
The short flyer advertising the group as discussed at the previous meeting has now been produced, and the EC is to discuss today the placing of these at strategic locations, such as the Visitor Information Centre and the Library, as a means of attracting new members. A copy of the Flyer is attached at the end of the Minutes.
It was agreed that one of the Local Faversham Free Advertisement booklet publishers will be approached over an FFG monthly advert.

(xv) Future Membership of National Associations The Ramblers membership has been renewed but will be kept under review during the year, where (AHO) suggested the Open Spaces Society could also be approached. This will now be taken further at the next EC Meeting.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

(ACMS) reported as follows at the Meeting :-

Balance of Accounts

Two statements have been received since the last meeting the agreed closing balance being £1151.53 as at 5th June 2026.

Transactions

Expenditure:
A cheque for £40.00 is in the process of being issued. This covers the costs of 1,000 No promotional leaflets for the Footpath Group. These will be distributed at various outlets around the town.
Income:
All outstanding monies have been banked.
Bank Charges:
Nil.

2025 Membership

FFG membership at 31st December 2025 was 76.

2026 Membership

On 9th May we welcomed a second new member to the group this year, our current membership total is 73.

Since January changes to membership has been as follows : 1 resignation, 4 non-payment of subs plus 2 new members. 15 members paid cash/chq, 2 pre-paid.

HSBC Bank

Nothing to report.

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

(RS) and (AHO) mentioned that KCC PROW are continuing to formulate the proposal for constructing the infrastructure for ZF43 with their appointed engineers.

Although three small sections of ZF43 remain closed the rest of the path is open to the public and can be accessed under the spreading room provisions through the main gate to the old shipyard. It is well worth a walk to enjoy the views of the opposite bank, and eventually in due course this part of the creek-side path when fully opened will be incorporated into the King Charles III England Coast Path.

6. KING CHARLES III ENGLAND COAST PATH

(RS) and other members of the EC met with FTC Cllr Hannah Perkin for Abbey Ward in late April 2026 over the opening up of the new East Creek section directly between Standard Quay and Provender Walk. She has since written to the relevant Landlord and Management Company plus the residents of the two estates concerned for support of our proposals. Hannah was made aware that funding from a third party for its provision may be available and (RS) will continue to look into this. KCC have provided preliminary Budget costs.
(RS) had been in touch with KCC PROW again over land encroachment issues on ZF1 at the Hollow Shore section. No real progress to date.

7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION

David Greenaway of Bretts at Canterbury previously reported over the repositioning of ZF1, and are to appoint a Consultant to assist them with the Planning Application. KCC PROW did previously write to (RS) saying they cannot become involved in the Planning Process. No further progress to report.

8. SWALE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION - Reg19

As previous, we understand from (CoJ) that the situation has changed and SBC has now put this on hold pending the decision on the large Highsted Park development. with the next stage possibly involving Reg 19 being likely in late 2026. SBC are presently reviewing Regulation 18 for Public consultation.

9. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS / NATIONAL LOST WAYS INITIATIVE

a) *'Designation of Local Paths' As previously reported Graham Rusling (now former) Head of KCC PROW spoke at a Ramblers event in late 2025 about the purpose of Evidence Forms and the subsequent legal procedure. This applies to the Tramroad, Abbeyfields and Morrison (HomeBargains) schemes that (RS) passed to FTC some two years ago for subsequent issuing to KCC. KCC have now written to Councils and Groups about this, and (RS) has contacted FTC over what we have previously undertaken and the progress so far, but has had no response after his two eMails to date. (JS) will now look into this urgently.*

b) *'Lost Ways' As previous, the 'Ramblers' have reported the cut off deadline has now been removed.*

10. AGM 2026

Unfortunately, the AGM owing to the Guildhall refurbishment works was deferred from April 2026 but will still be at the Guildhall on 4th August 2026 at 4.30pm. It is understood the start date for the works is likely to be in September 2026.
We also now have a Guest Speaker arranged for the event and it will be Andy Hutchinson of KCC PROW.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be on Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 1 Priory Row, Davington at 4.30pm.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. *The FFG (EC) were originally going to staff the FTC stall at the Eco Fair on 21st June 2026 but unfortunately the event was recently cancelled by SBC. We await to hear from FTC if there are plans to hold the event later in the year.*

2. *The hub of Open Faversham this year will be an exhibition in St Mary of Charity parish church on 16th to 19th September 2026.*
(JS) agreed to contact FTC about a Sign Board for the Group to use for this event. See also item 3 (xiv).

3. *It is now understood that Colin Finch has taken over Graham Rusling's role as Head of KCC PROW, and (RS) with (TP) will hopefully soon be able arrange a meeting with Colin.*