

**Minutes of Faversham Town Council's Creek Working Group
held on virtually on Thursday 11th November 2021**

Present:

Cllrs A Hook (Chair), K Barker, M Henderson, T Martin, and J Rowlands

In attendance: Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs H Perkin and A Reynolds</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of 9th September</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Front Brents Jetty and Belvedere Road Moorings Update</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the Moorings.</p> <p>An application to moor form had been sent to everyone on the waiting list for the Front Brents Jetty. At the time of the meeting ten completed forms had been received. Toby Lester had agreed to assist in allocating the berths.</p> <p>The Facilities Manger had provided a written report confirming that two water taps would be fitted on the Front Brents Jetty week commencing 15th November.</p> <p>A fire inspection had been arranged for the beginning of December to determine the requirements for fire extinguishers on the Front Brents Jetty and possibly at Belvedere Road Moorings .</p> <p>The Facilities Manger had asked Toby Lester for guidance on how many Lifebuoys were required on the Front Brents Jetty and at the Belvedere Road Moorings. He was waiting for a response.</p> <p>S&A Steel had been asked to quote on extending the ladders on the Front Brents Jetty to the mud.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Mooring Agreement</u></p> <p>The meeting received the draft Mooring Agreement for the Front Brents Jetty.</p>	

	<p>The Deputy Town Clerk commented that she was unsure if there were sound reasons for the maximum length and beam listed on the agreement, and that there may be a case of a maximum weight instead. External advice would be sought.</p> <p>It was proposed by Trevor Martin, seconded by Mike Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was RECOMMENDED the external advice should be shared with the Working Group by email and the amended (if appropriate) Mooring Agreement approved.</p>	
	<p><u>Private Session</u></p> <p>The meeting moved into Private Session to resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Creek Bridge</u></p> <p>A meeting between the Chair and The Town Clerk had been scheduled to discuss the legal advice previously sort. ACTION: Chair to provide Working Group with an update</p> <p>It was noted that Members of the Working Group were having a meeting with interested parties later in the month.</p>	AH
7.	<p><u>Creek Bed Ownership and Mooring Rights</u></p> <p>The Deputy Clerk reported that holding responses had been received from SBC and BRRA. ACTION: Further letter to be sent to BRRA now. SBC to be prompted on 24th November if response not received at that juncture.</p>	AB

Public Questions

Mrs S Akhurst:

1. Is FTC taking any action with Southern Water regarding sewage discharges into the Creek, and is there any way that FCT or any members of the public can help? For example, Faversham Rowing Club and other boat users could report it if they see sewage or discharges.
2. Please would FTC take action with Southern Water regarding the malfunctioning so-called one-way valve flaps between the various roadways and the Creek, given the terrible flooding that we experienced last weekend? This issue came up repeatedly around 2013-14 when we had the especially severe flood, and for several years after. As part of the EA construction of the Brents Bund, the flaps were fixed on the Brents side, which has stopped the flooding in Church Road and on Crab Island at the back of the Front Brents houses (although I didn't check whether the problem recurred last weekend). However I don't think the then Council was able to achieve anything regarding the valves on the Town side. Since then we have had many days of floods in Quay Lane, Conduit Street and North Lane. This time it was especially severe. The very high tide caused flooding around TS Hazard directly from the Creek, but the malfunctioning one-way valves made the situation so very much worse.