

**Minutes of Faversham Town Council’s Creek Working Group  
held virtually on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022**

Present:

Cllrs A Hook (Chair), K Barker, M Henderson, H Perkin, A Reynolds and J Rowlands

In attendance: Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

	<p>Mrs Anna Stoner (Secretary, Friends of Westbrook Stream) briefed members on Westbrook Steam and Stonebridge Ponds. The ponds are owned by SBC but located in the allotments which are owned by FTC. The ponds are silting up and without action will be lost. There are several possible actions. Do nothing, remove the silt or use the accumulated silt to make an island which potentially would be of benefit for nesting birds. If an island was to be built, intervention would be needed to stop the pond from silting up again, such as separating the pond from the stream</p> <p>The silt has been building up for a hundred years, at differing rates. The Gunpowder Industry would have managed the pond differently, as did the allotments before the sluices went in.</p> <p>To find a solution, SBC, FTC and the Rivers Trust need draw up a proposal and find a consultant to investigate. Funds would need to be raised to pay for the consultation. The proposal would need to demonstrate/design biodiversity net gain.</p>	
1.	<p><u>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</u></p> <p>Cllr A Hook was nominated to be Chair of the Creek Working Group by Cllr K Barker for the Civic Year 2022-23. This was seconded by Cllr A Reynolds and following a unanimous vote he was elected. Cllr K Barker was nominated to be Vice Chair of the Creek Working Group by Cllr A Hook for the Civic Year 2022 - 23. This was seconded by Cllr A Reynolds and following a unanimous vote he was elected.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Received from Cllr Trevor Martin</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Front Brents Jetty</u></p> <p>It was noted that the survey undertaken in 2018 stated that at the time two lifebuoys were mounted down stream of the access to the jetty which needed replacing and that two additional ones should be fitted upstream of the access point</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Henderson, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was <b>RECOMMENDED that four lifebuoys at approximately £300 (excluding delivery and fitting) be purchased and installed on the jetty.</b></p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Belvedere Road</u></p> <p>A draft letter to the Faversham Creek Management Company had been circulated to members.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Hook, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was <b>RECOMMENDED that the letter be sent with three insertions (below)</b>. It was agreed that the letter should be chased after 28 days.</p> <p>Insertions:</p> <p>(i) Faversham Town Council (FTC) requests that FCMC confirm in writing that the Town Council owns the bed of the creek at Provender Walk.</p> <p>(ii) FTC ask FCMC to confirm their preference for term of the lease, should it be for a fixed period of time or in perpetuity.</p> <p>(iii) Faversham Town Council requests that the Faversham Creek Management Company confirms they will continue to manage the moorings.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Faversham Rowing Club</u></p> <p>A request had been received from the rowing club that grass protection is installed from the gap in the bund to the creek to facilitate the launching of skiffs. MH confirmed that the gap was intend to enable boat launching.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Hook, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was <b>RECOMMENDED that the necessary permissions be sought and the grass protection be installed</b>. It was agreed that following the installation a sign should be fitted saying that the <i>launch area is used at your own risk</i>.</p> <p>The Rowing Club has enquired about mooring pontoons for the skiffs on or upstream of the jetty. Several options had been submitted. Members agreed they were supportive of the rowing club but further consideration was needed before approval could be given, including access, security, safety, insurance and cost.</p>	

	<p>MH confirmed he had spoken to the Chief Executive and Officers at SBC concerning the request to install a shipping container on their land. Permissions and a licence would be necessary but SBC would accept a proposal from the Town Council on behalf of the Rowing Club.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Graeme Tuff to be consulted.  <b>ACTION:</b> Proposal to be written and submitted to SBC Property Manager with the Chief Executive Copied in.  <b>ACTION:</b> Rowing Club to be asked to confirm if they require a 20ft or 40ft container.</p>	<p>MH  MH  AB</p>
8.	<p><u>Creek Bridge</u></p> <p>The Chair updated members on work surrounding the Creek Bridge. A meeting had been held with Breakthrough Communications (BC), which the Chair, Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk attended. BC had recommended that a 3 or 4 page document be drafted stating the case for the bridge.</p> <p>The Chair and Deputy Town Clerk had attended eight meetings with Stakeholders, gathering evidence on issues concerning the creek, the basin, the bridge and the future potential of all three.</p> <p>Faversham Creek Trust and the Faversham Society had been asked to draft their content for the case for the bridge. A further meeting would be convened at the end of June which all Stakeholders would be invited to.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Date to be found and venue booked for Stakeholder Meeting.  <b>ACTION:</b> Breakthrough Communications to be approached to undertake survey for additional stakeholders</p>	<p>AB  AH</p>
9.	<p><u>Sewage</u></p> <p>Members discussed the issue of sewage entering the creek from Southern Waters Wastewater Treatment Works and from boats moored on the creek. Consideration was given as to whether this issue should be pursued by this group of the Environment Committee.</p> <p>It was agreed that there were several members of the public in Faversham with significant knowledge in this area who could be co-opted to assist.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Agreement to be reached with Cllr C Williams on whether the issue should be pursued by the Environment Committee or the Creek Working Group.</p>	<p>AH</p>

