

**Minutes of Faversham Town Council's Creek Working Group
held virtually on Wednesday 7th December 2022**

Present:

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

In attendance: Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk, Daniel Purchase (Breakthrough Communications)

1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs H Perkin and M Henderson</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of 5th October 2022</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. (Proposed by AH, seconded by TM). The minutes had been presented at Full Council on 10th October.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Minute 9 (Sewage) – The Chair confirmed that the issue of Sewage and Water Quality in the creek had been discussed with the Chairman of the Environment Committee. It had been agreed that the issues would be best addressed by the Environment Committee.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Front Brents Jetty</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that four lifebuoys had been fitted on the Front Brents Jetty.</p> <p>One Tap had been fitted. [Office note: The water was not turned on, the Town Caretaker was waiting for a drill pump to syphon water out of meter hole].</p>	
6.	<p><u>Belvedere Road Moorings</u></p> <p>It was reported that all moorings at Belvedere Road were taken. Two boats have been asked to move across to the Front Brents Jetty.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Provender Walk Moorings</u></p> <p>The Chair reported that the Deputy Town Clerk and himself had met with three representatives of Creek Management Company (CMC) on 1st</p>	

	<p>December. It had been a positive meeting, and progress towards agreeing the split in mooring fees collected had been made. The Chair had indicated that the Town Council would be prepared to split 50/50, with the preference for a service agreement in place (not a contract).</p> <p>The CMC showed a safety report they had received which raised concerns that ladders were not provided. The letter indicated that four ladders were needed (£5400). It was agreed that it would be reasonable for the Town Council and the CMC to split the cost of ladders if the mooring fees were to be split.</p> <p>CMC had been asked to seek clarification on the number of ladders and would raise the issue with their wider membership before confirming.</p> <p>Provision of ladders at this site and the Belvedere Road Moorings would need to be budgeted for 2023-24.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Faversham Rowing Club</u></p> <p>James Rubenstein had confirmed that the Rowing Club was looking at other options to store the skiffs and would not be pursuing the positioning of a container with SBC for the time being.</p>	
9.	<p><u>TZ Hazard</u></p> <p>TM confirmed that the Town Council had held talks with SBC officers concerning the transfer of TZ Hazard, who had requested a business proposal. Proposed uses included the storage of the skiffs or maritime heritage exhibition.</p> <p>The priority was stabilising the building, an experts report received had reassured that there was nothing alarming.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Creek Bridge</u></p> <p>AH updated the meeting on developments concerning the creek bridge. The Town Council had still not received a reply to the letter sent in March 2022, with accompanying documents.</p> <p>The matter had been raised twice in the House of Lords by Lord Palmer (September and November). Maritime Minister Baroness Vere's response had said that they were waiting on documentation to determine responsibility. Confirmation had now been received that the documents are outstanding from Peel Ports, not the Town Council or KCC.</p> <p>AH informed the meeting that he had met with Ben Watts (KCC) to discuss alternative strategies.</p> <p>AH confirmed that work on the draft case study continued, he was amending the document, taking into consideration the comments made by stakeholders on the draft.</p> <p>DB (Breakthrough Communications) spoke on the communication strategy which should focus on sharing the message the bridge is</p>	

important for the town as a whole and everyone in it rather than a niche few. To gain evidence of support DB suggested a petition.

It was proposed by Cllr A Hook, seconded by Cllr A Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED the Town Council runs a online petition on the website with a soft launch on Facebook on 27th December.**

The meeting discussed the need for a leaflet to carry the message and advertise the petition. Breakthrough would design the leaflet. (Breakthrough had been paid a retainer for the creek campaign, so there would be no additional cost)

Park Communications Ltd had quoted this week to print 11, 533 leaflets and deliver to Royal Mail Rochester at a cost of £655.00 for the NHP. The mailout of the creek bridge leaflet will be identical. It was proposed by Cllr A Hook, seconded by Cllr A Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED the Town Council proceeds with placing an order.**

Cllr Kr Barker asked for the leaflet to have a carbon offset, which DP confirmed most printers do and he would make the necessary arrangements.

The cost of delivering the NHP the leaflet to 11,533 households with Royal Mail was £760+ VAT. This mailout would be identical. It was proposed by Cllr A Hook, seconded by Cllr A Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED the Town Council proceeds with booking the distribution with Royal Mail for Week Commencing 20th February 2023.**

The Deputy Town Clerk raised concerns that the CWG did not have sufficient funds left in the budget for the printing and distribution of the leaflet.

Cllr Josh Rowlands (Chair of the Community Committee) commented that he considered the bridge to be for the community and that there may be scope for the virement on funds from their budget to meet the costs.

Funds raised by the community for the bridge were being held by KCC. AH informed the meeting that there was a possibility that KCC would transfer the funds to the Town Council to hold.

TM commented that it may be perceived better by members of the public if the funds were held in town, but only if the Town Council is satisfied that they can be held safely and that the auditor is satisfied.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr A Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMEND that the possibility of the transfer of funds from Kent County Council to Faversham Town Council is referred to Policy and Finance.**

