Campaigning for Better Cycling

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

held on 31 July 2019 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: John Letherland (Chairman), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Jean Baker (Founder), Paul Rees, Colin Hart, Steve Burton (Deputy Chairman), Miranda Palmer, Tony Gilbert and Cllr Stuart Peall.

Apologies for Absence: Alan Joyce (Treasurer) and Alex Sansom.

1. **Minutes of the meetings on 10 January and 4 April 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January and 4 April 2019 were approved, subject to amendment of Item 9 on 10 January - the reference to the £5 donation should read: ' Following the open day stand held by CySy and Sustrans in Sandgate Road, some years ago, visitors were invited to sign up as members and suggested an annual donation of £5. A few donated cash and some completed standing orders. After the 2nd year the donations started to drop off until currently we have 1 x£25 ,1 x £10 and 3 X £5 paid by standing orders. At the meeting £60 in cash was donated by Committee members and a 2 further agreed to pay by BACS. AJ asked should we seek to go back to members and seek further donations, although this has General Data Protection Regulation implications. '

1. **Matters arising from the minutes**

**Minute 3 (Meeting on 4 April 2019):** Jean Baker (JB) reported that progress on development at Princes Parade was uncertain following a Council vote against the project and a large volume of formal objections to the proposed road diversion. Stuart Peall (SP) pointed out that consultation on the proposed Otterpool Town continued online, and that the phased nature of the development would provide ample opportunities for comment. **Agreed** John Letherland (JL) to assert CySy’s interest in the plans for Otterpool, in particular the proposed cycle links to other parts of the district.

**Minute 4:** Members suggested that Click2cycle had taken over the area previously providing customers for Folkestone Harbour Bicycle Hire.

1. **Cinque Ports Cycleway and other KCC matters**

Miranda Palmer (MP) said that it was still uncertain whether Phase 3 would be completed with a surplus of funds; Phase 5 had been costed at £200k, and would probably be delayed until after 2020/21. It was not clear whether there was a mechanism for obtaining funds for Phase 3 from FHDC, although JB pointed out that the Council had agreed a Low Carbon Action Plan which might facilitate financial support for cycling/walking schemes. Colin Hart (CH) regretted that an opportunity had been missed for Community Infrastructure Levy funding when planning permission was granted for the Aldi superstore; JB pointed out that the scheme for a Cycle Hub at Folkestone West station had been partially funded by Community Infrastructure Levy. **Agreed** JL to approach Cllrs Martin and Lesley Whybrow for support in applying to Aldi for sponsorship of Phase 3.

Alan Joyce (AJ) had sent an update on his discussions with Hythe Town Clerk about the issue of Hythe Green, at which it had been agreed to postpone any further approach to the new Council until September.

**Agreed** that any funds underspent on Phase 3 should be assigned to Phase 4b – alongside the ranges and up on to the Sea Wall. MP said that the design work for 4b was complete. MP to convey CySy decision to KCC.

**Agreed** that the main item on the agenda for the next meeting should be the funding for Phase 4b and representatives from the MOD should be invited to attend.

1. **Kent and Medway Low Emissions Strategy**

MP said that the consultation period for online comment on this strategy continued until 23 September, and invited all members to submit comments.

1. **Kent Active Travel Campaign Group**

JB had sent feedback online after meeting this group. Adrian Oliver from Deal had received funding from Coastal Community Fund for his work in his local area and JB **agreed** to invite him to the meeting after next to share his ideas. She also suggested a visit by councillors to Waltham Forest where an excellent £45m development was attracting admiring comments. **Agreed** JB to contact Alex Sansom to discuss this suggestion.

Members discussed “quick wins”; SP suggested that impending major changes to Folkestone town centre might provide opportunities for altered infrastructure. The future use of the Harbour Arm rail line was still uncertain – JB suggested that a scheme on the lines of “Park and Pedal” at Wincheap in Canterbury might be considered. **Agreed** JB to investigate how the Wincheap scheme had been funded.

1. **Constitution and Charity Status**

AJ had researched the pros and cons of seeking Charity status and circulated a very clear explanation and recommendations to members. **Agreed** to continue to maintain CySy’s identity as a pressure group, and to take no further action to seek charitable status; however, AJ to be asked to review and update the Constitution to ensure it is fit for purpose.

1. **Website**

JL emphasised the need to recruit new supporters, not necessarily to attend meetings but to assist with establishing an online presence for the Group. **Agreed** MP to send Rhona Hodges (RH) a database of local organisations.

**8.**  **Members' Activities**

* CH had asked the Sprucer to work on clearing brambles etc from Smallpox Hill but he did not have the appropriate heavy equipment for this task. SP suggested that FHC’s Area Officer might be able to help.
* CH was concerned about the hazard created by the traffic controlling boulder installed by Folkestone Harbour Company. Again, this might be a problem for the Area Officer.
* Tony Gilbert (TG) had been working on paths between Hawkinge and Folkestone which had become very overgrown.

**9.**  **AOB**

* Paul Rees (PR) reported a temporary diversion on the Sustrans path at Abbotts Cliff; he had vacancies for Rangers in Dover and Deal.
* JB welcomed the proposed new Cycle Hub at Folkestone West station but regretted that similar facilities were not yet planned for the Cheriton side of the station, where cycle parking was still insecure.

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 26 September 2019 at 6pm**