

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on 25 July 2023 at the Tite & Locke

Present: Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Geoff Oliver, Hilary Short (Chair), Ian Procter, Ian Diffenthal, Jane Parker, Michael Sheppard, Mick Short, Mike Stevens, Sharon Diffenthal, Sue Nieduszynska, Sue Pope, Tim Dant

1. Apologies

Oliver Fulton, Tony Finn

2. Minutes from the last meeting

- These were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- Wall at the back of the Orchard needs to be replaced – new quote of £1970. The cost will be shared equally with the neighbour – builder has been appointed
- E-news is now available
- Volunteer email list to be sent to Anne Greenwood and Sue P – Ian to pursue
- LGGS re LNR – Sue and Geoff recently met the headteacher and he was very positive – Geoff will follow up. Add LGGS to the newsletter circulation list
- Work on the Pony Wood gates has been completed and the bill has been paid
- The legs of the benches under the trees in the play area are starting to rot – need to repair – Ian Diffenthal and Mick Short will have a look

4. Treasurer's Report

Bank balance	13.06.23	73,043	
	25.07.23	72,773	
Restricted funds	Lancaster University	72	
	Triangle	830	
	Play area	5101	
	LCC	3000	
	Fundraising	262	
	Play area	-6933	
			2 333
General Funds			70,440
			<hr/> 72,773

Significant income: £3000 from LCC (young people's champion) for play area
Payments: Insurance £1711, Myerscough chain saw training course £380, Huddleston's for Pony Wood gates £1509

5. Membership and Friends

- No change, 405 members in total

6. Playground

- Regular monthly inspections by a local engineer (John) – this is now established
- Work will start in September, all equipment has now been purchased
- Bin has been repaired and there is a new bin inner basket
- EV charging station and cycle hangar consultation – 25 respondents – this will be of benefit to local residents. Co-wheels may also be interested in the third space. County Council may have funds that can be applied for purchasing and installing a cycle hangar. We may need planning permission. Meeting agreed we should pursue the cycle hangar – Mike Stevens will action.

7. Education

- No update

8. Events

- 23 July – North Lancashire Wildlife Group 1030-1600 was cancelled due to the weather, hope it will be reorganised.
- 29 July – volunteers' picnic – 1200-1500 bring your own food, drink and music will be provided. Emma and Rebekah are organising
- 23 September – Apple Day – Veronica Dunn will organise tea stall, Closing Loops will do something on pickling and preserving as part of their Share the Harvest initiative. Pavlos Pavli will organise children's games. Hilary to pursue wood carving. Jay from Egg Cups will do a children's craft stall. Volunteers to put up and take down.
- Tuesday 17 October, AGM will be in the Social Room at the Meeting House (booked from 7pm)
- 18 November – Green Fair – table booked

9. FOGG report

- Application for stewardship funding from 2028 won't be at the higher tier (we are currently higher level, but there are fewer funds available and higher tier in Lancashire is now only for SSSIs). RSPB's Calum Booth is advising us on a future application and is currently being funded by the RSPB. We may be able to apply to other external funders as well and request consultancy costs.
- Planting project for the autumn – far side of West Field – old hedge, primarily blackthorn and hawthorn, no low growth. Plant a new hedge in front of it – diversify the species – seek funding from Woodland Trust – traditional mix. Ian and Steve Bullen have made enquiries to the council about whether funds might be available to support planting saplings. Total costs likely to be £2000, with Woodland Trust paying up to 75%

10. FOTT report

- Nothing to report

11. General Updates

- Discussion about objects, there was some debate about mention of physical environment in (a)
The proposed objects are:
a) to promote the conservation and protection of the natural and physical environment, for the benefit of the public.

b) to preserve, enhance and maintain public areas and amenities in the city of Lancaster, in particular the Fairfield area.

c) areas and amenities referred to in (b) include but are not limited to Fairfield Green and Playground, The Fairfield Millennium Green and Community Orchard, Fairfield Fauna and Flora Nature Reserves, and the Aldcliffe Road Triangle.

The trustees will discuss at their next meeting and, if necessary, it will come back to the September meeting.

- Newsletter distribution – Veronica Dunne and Wendy Nakanishi volunteered to help Katherine Woodfine
- Cromwell Road gate is open all the time giving cyclists and electric scooters easy access – are there ways of closing the gate quietly?

12. Website and Facebook

- Need to streamline messages on the website – they will go to Sue P in the first instance

13. AOB

- No meeting in August.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19 September at the Tite & Locke.