

Minutes of the Fairfield Association Annual General Meeting held on 30th September 2020

Hilary Short, Chair, Andrew Brennand, Tony Finn, James McDowell, Sue Neiduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker, John Payne, Ian Procter, Michael Shepherd, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary.

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed members to the Zoom meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tony and Jaqui Finn, Ruth Haigh, Sue Pope.

3. Minutes of 2019 AGM

Jane advised that the correct amount of available funds should read '£46,037'.

4. Matters Arising

Chair reported that the Townley Close handrail had been installed earlier in the year

5. Chair's Annual Report

Hilary delivered the Chair's report, which had been circulated at an earlier date. In summary:

There had been no monthly meetings since February 2020, due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid19 pandemic.

No fundraising events had taken place.

The number of people using Fairfield spaces had increased; in particular, the Triangle had been used as a social space while there was a restriction on groups meeting indoors.

The swings had been disabled by Lancaster City Council because they required replacement.

The volunteers had continued with their programme of work.

Thanks were extended to Geoff Oliver and Jane Parker for the recent information leaflet, to James and Julia McDowell for the Fairfield video, and to Julia Salmon.

Mick reported that Lancaster University students had asked for a walk and talk about Fairfield, and hoped that the volunteers would lead on this. It was thought that the activity would be permissible within Covid guidelines for education.

Tony commented that the orchard had been an important asset to the community during the Covid restriction on meeting indoors.

See full report at Appendix A

6. Treasurer's Report

Jane explained the accounts and advised that examiner's report revealed no problems. She advised that the accounts continued to look healthy, with the bank balance standing at £63k at year-end. However, with no prospect of fundraising events for the foreseeable future, it would be wise to conserve funds. She explained that the cost of water abstraction licence had been refunded, and the Association had enjoyed a three month insurance payment holiday.

Hilary extended her thanks to Jane, and the accounts were adopted.

Full report is available at Appendix B.

7. Election of Trustees and Officers

Sue Nieduszynska continues to serve as a trustee. Hilary was re-elected as Chair, and Jane and Shirley were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

8. Standing Item for Notification of third parties of change to trustees.

Nothing to report.

9. Short Flora, Fauna and FA report

Sue reported that management of the reserve had continued despite the pandemic, and meetings had taken place on line.

- The volunteers co-ordinator, Ian, had adapted his working parties to the new Covid restrictions, and volunteers had been separated into individual teams of 6 people, as prescribed.
- Wildlife surveys had continued throughout the year.
- A decision had been taken to manage the arable field and scrapes to promote breeding lapwings.
- A bull had been put with the herd of White Park cattle, and calves are expected in Spring 2021.
- Ian expressed his concern about three ash trees which appeared to be suffering from dieback, and may require felling.
- Sue extended her thanks to Ian for his work with the volunteers.

10. Any Other Business

- Geoff advised that three new members and Friend had made donations, after being prompted by the leaflet drop.
- A donation towards the repair of the swings had been received.
- Sue said that FA had received positive comments on Trip Advisor.
- Andrew reported that membership stands at 384.
- It was agreed that future monthly FA meetings would take place on Zoom.