

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 17th May 2017 at Friends Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (chair)
Mandy Bannon
Dave Brookes
Ken Capewell
Jane Parker
Ian Procter
Mick Short
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The following amendments were made:

FOTT: The FA has 27 years to run on the lease.

Treasurers Report: There were 7 invoices processed on behalf of the Triangle.

4. Matters Arising

Hilary confirmed that the £100 allowance received from the Council could be used to rectify problems highlighted on the Inspection Report, groundworks, or equipment.

The footpath bid has been submitted to Andy Rowett who is to meet Hilary on Friday.

Hilary has a meeting with Julia and Loura on Friday, to discuss the future administration of the website.

It was agreed that the exhibition at St. Nic's had been very successful, with several people coming forward to offer their services to the Association. 400 leaflets had been taken.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Bank account balance is £62,198
- Significant income of £446 from Easter Egg Hunt and £65.88 from a sale of books by Gleeson children.
- Significant expenditure on insurance £1768 and Dinsdale's £1620

Jane explained that she rarely uses BACS as a method of payment, as the system currently requires only one signature, and could make the organisation vulnerable. It was agreed to explore online banking as a way round this problem

6. Membership Report

There have been no new members since the last meeting.

7. Additional Items for Discussion

Mandy advised that final copy for the newsletter is required by 19th May. A leaflet/map will be included in the newsletter drop. An order for a further 2,000 leaflets is to be placed.

Publicity is to be arranged for the Open Garden event on 1-2 July. Ian to set up the café furniture and organise a team to help him. Hilary has contacted Helen Easton about the crockery. Mandy will include a request for volunteers, in the newsletter. Elaine will organise the tea and cake stall and Ruth will set up a call for cakes. Notelets and recipe books will be available to buy on the day. A float of £40 was agreed.

Mandy will publicise the AGM in the newsletter. It was agreed that refreshments will be served at the AGM and Hilary will ask Ruth to organise this.

Hilary agreed to progress the organization's request for LNR status.

Geoff Oliver has written new text for the membership section of the web. Fairfield Friends' and Members. There was a discussion, after which it was agreed that the text could be further simplified. Mandy agreed to review it prior to publication on the website.

8. Education

In Tony's temporary absence, school visits have continued. There will be a talk on lichens at the Storey on 20th June.

9. FOTT

- The FOTT spring fair will take place on 27th May
- Dave has been encouraged to apply for further grants from Tesco's Bags of Help fund, following inspection of the current project. Grants of £1k, £2k and £4k are available.

10. FFOG

A review of rush control methods was presented. The meeting decided that for one year we would only use scything. This has proved a successful way of opening up the denser patches of rush and is free. We have 5 scythers and 5 more will be trained in June. We discussed the problem of moving the cut rush and it was felt that there are volunteers who are prepared to help with heavy and unskilled work. The rushes will continue to be monitored for regrowth and effectiveness as a habitat, especially for over-wintering snipe.

Graham Skelcher will offer a Forest Craft activity session for accompanied children in the Orchard, date to be arranged.

The arable field has been sown with wheat, with wild bird mix in the margin around pony Wood and by the Long Pads Path. Decoy lapwing have been put into the field and already 2 pairs of live ones are displaying. Unfortunately a manhole cover has been damaged by the plough. United Utilities have been informed.

North Lancashire Wildlife Group have arranged a meeting for 9th June starting at 7pm to focus on mosses, lichens and invertebrates. This will be an open meeting.

Graeme Skelcher carried out the flora surveys of Pony Wood and the Hay Meadow on 20th April. Report awaited, but it is believed that the surveys were slightly too early so little was visible. Dan Haywood was excited by the findings of the first of his three visits to survey breeding birds on 29th April. He noted a Whinchat and 4 Wheatears in passage. Breeding interest included a singing Treecreeper and a pair of Grey Partridges. In the 'possible breeder' category were 3 singing Willow Warblers and a singing Sedge Warbler.

A report from Sue is to follow. A temporary derogation has been granted while grazing matters are clarified; FOGG are benefitting from advice from Ben Hibbens. The farmer expressed his satisfaction with last year's oat crop.

11. Playground

Items that need no attention currently are: the balance beam, the flat swings, the benches, the bins, the junior multi- unit, the cradle swings, the spring mobile, the spring seesaw, the gate, the fence, the sign and the safety surface.

The Spinner is showing signs of wear. Two of the internal screw threads are worn and the outer casing is split from the top retaining hole.

There is movement in the tower slide bottom leg.

Worn tape on the multi-unit net will be replaced.

The posts on the junior and senior multi- units have been fitted with decking screws to try and stop the splits in the posts from widening. The next stage is to fill the splits with wood filler.

A screw has been tightened on one of the roundabout gates and the hydraulic brake pump and chain have been inspected.

A new rope has been ordered for the junior multi-unit.

12. Correspondence

13. Website and Facebook

15. Any Other Business

16. Date of next meeting

- AGM at 7.30 on 20th June at the Friends Meeting House.