

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 21st February 2018 at Friends' Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short, Chair
Ken Capewell
Tony Finn
Sue Nieduszynska
Geoff Oliver
Jane Parker
Ian Procter
Mick Short
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Andrew Brennand, Mandy Bannon, Dave Brooks and Sue Pope.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

These were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

A grant of £1300 has been received from E&R Turner, which will be used to replace the playground spinner. As a consequence, a further £100 has been received from the Council. Hilary advised that Helen Ryan (Public Realm Development Manager) has agreed to order the equipment on our behalf and it was decided to replace the scramble net and the cradle seat crutch straps. With the wetpour and delivery and labour costs included, the cost of the repairs will be £2600. Hilary will check with Andrew whether the poles need replacing. HS

5. Treasurer's Report

- Current balance is £55,219 including £6691 restricted funds. Restricted funds includes a bequest of £185; Hilary to contact the family before spending it.
- An invoice for £360 has been paid for fencing materials and a harness.
- Jane agreed to check the cost of the marquee when last hired and inform Hilary. JP

6. Membership Report

Membership has been reduced by one.

7. Playground Report

Ken has sealed the gaps on the wooden beams on the Multi-Unit and repaired the damaged poles on the swings. He will carry a service on the roundabout on Monday or Tuesday (26/27 February). An inspection revealed no major problems other than a few missing caps and two screws missing from the top hinge of the disabled gate on the roundabout.

8. Education

Nothing to report.

Additional item: discussion of the cycling policy on the long pads footpath

Tony raised concerns that when the footpath was widened, there would be a problem with cyclists who use the Long Pads footpath. Cycling is currently prohibited but cyclists do use this path. He was reassured that the footpath will only be widened by six inches at either side and will therefore not be significantly wider. However, Ian believed that a wider footpath with a better surface would nevertheless result in cyclists coming down the path at greater speed. It was agreed to review the issue after the footpath has been upgraded. September was suggested as a possible date.

9. Forthcoming events

Volunteers social – 22nd February; £10 per head at Storey Institute.

Planting Day – 3rd March; volunteers to plant 600 saplings.

Easter Egg Hunt – 2nd April; arrangements as last year.

Triangle art show – 5th -7th May

Triangle Spring Fair 2nd June

Fun Day, 7th July; the arrangements for music are in hand.

10. FOTT

Some progress has been made on the replacement doors for the workshop.

11. Pony Wood Footpath

Two of the three tenders have been received. Hilary advised that work includes paths, fencing, trees, gates and tarmac. The noticeboard, artwork and some of the benches have already been paid for. It was noted that the boggy area on the approach to planned entrance could be avoided if the corner was cut and the entrance moved approximately 6.5 metres towards the Bridge 95. The proposed new exit will require permission from the Highways Department and also additional planning permission. Dave Brooks will be asked to contact Highways Agency to ask for approval (HS). Hilary has applied the University Community Fund for funding for further seats. There was a discussion about the timing of the work; Hilary advised that if it couldn't be undertaken before mid-April, the work would be deferred until Autumn to avoid problems with the ploughing and sowing of the surrounding field.

Ian confirmed that there would be a volunteers' planting day on 3rd March, where 600 saplings, including some donated by Loyne Rotary Club, would be planted. A further 600 will be stored for later use. More saplings will be requested from Woodland Trust.

12. Dementia Friendly Status

Mick has filled eight of his training spaces.

13. FFOG report

Sue advised that there had not been a winter bird walk, partly due to Jon Carter's role change. The winter bird survey will take place on Friday; so far, two skylarks have been seen in the field. Snipe numbers have remained the same as last year, despite the rising water levels. A kingfisher has been heard in Upper Sowerholme.

The RSPB are to release a barn owl into the reserve; there was a discussion about the potential for friction between the three owl species that inhabit the area.

14. LNR status

The submission is almost ready to send off to Natural England. It was noted that the signage should reflect the new status.

15. Website and Facebook

As a result of the website, there has been a promise of a donation of power tools.

16. Any Other Business

- 'Charge our Street' questionnaire needs further revision.
- Hilary has completed the Charity Commission report.
- Hilary has sourced two grants of up to £30 k, and asked for ideas on how to spend it if successful.
- We have a team swimming on our behalf in the Lancaster Loyne Rotary Club swimathon. It is hoped that this event will be a good fundraiser.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st March at Friends Meeting House.