

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 17th April 2019 at the Friends' Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Many Bannon, Dave Brookes, Ken Capewell, Tony Finn, Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker (Treasurer), Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Andrew Brennand.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The item on grass cutting in the Treasurers Report should have referred to McGaffigan's Mowing Services.

3. Matters Arising

- Natural England no longer require the the Community Orchard to have Village Green status. Hilary has received Deeds of Assurance and Deeds of Adherence, which she will sign. Our solicitor is in contact with the solicitor at Lancaster City Council and the next stage is for all the landowners involved (Lancaster City Council, LGGs and the FA) to sign a document agreeing to the declaration of an LNR on the land.
- There is no LNR logo.
- Pledges of £460 have been received in respect of the swimathon.
- The Tree Protection Officer has been asked for permission to fell two trees in Pony Wood for reasons of safety. Georgina still needs to include the logos of 2 more benefactors on the map which will be placed at the entrance. HLF and LEF signs need to be placed on the gates and we also need a sign to indicate that it is concessionary path. There was a suggestion that Jon Barry should be invited to perform an opening ceremony.
- Mick reported an idea from the Lancaster Loyne that local primary school could be invited to do a sponsored run along the new path.

4. Treasurer's Report to 17.4.19

Co-op account March 2019 £29,911
Co-op account April 2019 £27,891

Significant Income – Swimathon £210
Significant Expenses – Huddleston invoice £1,413
Bowland Tree Sevices - £400
McGaffigan Mowing - 450
Kings Wildflower Seeds – £265

Second LEF grant claim in £14,748. Total cost of path, including solicitors fees will be £60k. Jane to provide a breakdown of grants and costs for Hilary to circulate to the membership.

5. Membership

Nothing to report. There was a discussion about ways to attract new members. Suggestions included a Facebook campaign, flyers, publicity at Funday, and mentioning the Association to people who are new to the area.

6. Playground Report

Ken reported that someone had strimmed the nettles.

- Members had noticed that vehicles were being parked in the playground; Dave said that he would ask the City Council about fitting a lockable bollard to prevent vehicle access.
- Hilary reported that Jon Barry has a fund which will provide a £500 donation towards the goalposts.

7. Items for Discussion

- 1) **Student Placement** Hilary advised that James McDowell had offered to provide a student placement from FASS. This would probably happen during the next academic year and we would negotiate with James on what the student could do that would be mutually beneficial..
- 2) **Visits** Hilary advised that Cat Smith MP would visit in a couple of days. It was decided that this would be an opportunity for both her and FA to share in some joint publicity; Sue agreed to produce a rough schedule for the visit.
Ian suggested that Camilla Elliott, of Friends of Ryelands Park, should be invited, along with her members, to visit the Reserve. Sue made a similar request on behalf of the Lancashire Meadow Group.
- 3) **Environmental Awareness** Ian said that the plastic tree guards were difficult to fit, and were not recyclable. Dave advised that he had attended a University lecture about their future Forest project, where tree guards had been mentioned; no viable alternatives existed at the moment. Sue said that she doubted that they were needed on the Reserve, as there were no rabbits, and very few deer.
Tony had circulated arrangements for the Easter Egg Hunt.

8. Education Report

Two school groups are booked in May. Tony to follow up a request from Woodcraft folk.

9. Events

Easter Egg Hunt – 22nd April. Tony circulated details of the arrangements for this year. Ian advised that he was unable to organize Open Garden this year, but would ask one of the volunteers to stand in.

10. FOTT

Nothing to report about the Canal and Rivers Trust centenary event.

11. FFOG

There was a discussion about the planting of maize in the Arable Field, and the requirement to use herbicides. Sue will enquire about the wildflower seeds.

Ian requested details of the locksmith who fitted the shed, as it requires repair.

12. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

13. Any Other Business

AGM: Quaker Meeting Room booked 7-9.30pm on 19 June 2019.

14. Date of Next Meeting

7.30 pm on Wednesday, 15 May 2019 at the Friends Meeting House.