

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 15th May 2019 at the Friends' Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Many Bannon, Andrew Brennand, 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 Sue Pope.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The reference to Camilla Elliott should have read 'Kamilla'.

3. Matters Arising

Local Nature Reserve – Hilary has signed the Deed of Adherence and Letter of Assurance documents required by Natural England if the FA is to progress its bid to become a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The next step will involve signing an agreement with the City Council and Lancaster Girls Grammar School. Our solicitor's fees for the work will be £750 + VAT.

Hilary has emailed the Tree Protection Officer about the felling of trees in Pony Wood and awaits a response.

The student placement will probably begin in October 2019.

Our MP, Cat Smith, has visited. Her assistant agreed publicise our volunteer programme.

Ian said that the Woodland Trust are aware that plastic tree guards are no longer appropriate, and are trialing new products. FA may be used as a test site.

Tony advised that the Woodcraft Folk are using the Reserve as part of their summer project. Tony and Trish are unable to attend their Monday meetings but are happy to loan them resources.

The farmer has sown wheat in the arable field.

4. Treasurer's Report to 17.4.19

Co-op account 17.4.19 £27,891

Co-op account 30.4.19 £46,034

Significant Income – Educational visits	£300
LEF Grant	£14,748
Furness BS (loppers)	£150
Easter Egg Hunt	£529
Swimathon	£180

Jane reported that RPA receipts totaling £9991 have been received; 2018, and part of 2019 were still owing.

Hilary advised that of the £2634 of the Beyond the Castle Fund, there is £1k still £1000 to spend on an exhibition. She has recently been in contact with Tom Brown at the City Council who has expressed an interest in both the remaining money and agreed to chase up David Redmore about the Meadows exhibition project .

5. Membership

One new member signed up at the Easter Egg Hunt.

6. Playground Report

- Ken has carried out repairs to the large climbing net, and the slide tower. The roundabout's safety surface required small repairs. Seven security screws require replacement.
- Youths have vandalized the safety surface beneath the swing; Andrew agreed to negotiate with Playdale about repairs to the surface. Ken suggested that some of the damage might be attributable to wear and tear, as he had spotted a similar problem beneath the roundabout.
- Fundraising for the goalposts continues. There was a discussion about the best place to site them, with regard to the electricity substation, and the local residents. Mick agreed to respond to Kathy Parr, a Wingate Saul Rd. resident who has expressed concern about the plan. MS
- Bollards to be placed adjacent to the substation to prevent vehicles from parking on the playing field.

7. Items for Discussion

Nothing to report.

8. Education Report

Dallas Rd. and Willow Lane schools have visited. Visits are expected from the Steiner school and Ryelands in the next few days.

9. Events

- AGM 19 June.
- Dave reported that a plant sale would take place in the Triangle, by an independent group.
- Open Garden 22/23 June. Volunteers required; Elaine Weedy will provide resources but is not able to attend. Andrew agreed to trawl the membership to find those who signed up to help on stalls. AB
- FOGG moth trapping event 28/29 June.
- NW Lancs. Naturalists visit 31 July.
- Green Forum visit 1 August.
- Apple Day 21 September.

10. FOTT

Canal and Rivers Trust centenary event may take place on 23 June.

11. FFOG

Sue has contacted LGGS to advise them that Ian's team will trim the hedges prior to their Fun Run. She thought that the Council, who had trimmed it last year, had cut the wildflower hedgerow too short.

Ash Dieback has been detected on the Reserve.

The new footpath will have standard 'No Cycling' signs, rather than the advisory signs sited around the rest of the Reserve.

12. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

13. Any Other Business

Hilary asked Tony to raise his suggestion, regarding the re-enactment of a book, at July's meeting.

14. Date of Next Meetings

AGM 19TH June 2019 in the Meeting Room, Friends' Meeting House.

7.30 pm on Wednesday, 17th July 2019 at the Friends Meeting House.