

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

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Andrew Brennand, Tony Finn, Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker (Treasurer), Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Sue Pope, Mandy Bannon and Dave Brookes.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The spelling of Mandy Bannon's name was corrected.

The preamble to the Treasurer's report should read: 'Jane reported that RPA receipts of £2019 have been received to year-end 30th April 2019. The revenue grant for 2018 and part of 2019 is still ongoing.'

3. Matters Arising

The new path through Pony Wood is now open. The FA still awaits final planning approval. The new fingerpost on Aldcliffe Rd. has been damaged, and repaired by Woodscape at no cost. Mick agreed to respond to Kathy Parr, who had raised a query about the siting of the goalposts in the playground.

£1,291 was taken at the Open Garden in June, including £69 from the sale of notelets and recipe books.

4. Treasurer's Report from 1st May to 17th July 2019

Co-op account £53,449

Significant Income	RPA	£5693
	Marsh Community Fund	500 (goalpost)
		550 (toolbox)
	Lancaster community Fund	500 (mower)

Expenses	Loppers	150
	Toolbox	550
	Playdale	398
	Education	499
	Peacock Design	195
	Andy Lee	1200
	Nature Reserve	2,000

Hilary advised that 'Making Spaces' had made £100k available for projects in Lancaster. She was considering applying for a contribution to benefit the playground.

The plan to erect an orientation table on the nature reserve has been dropped as impractical. Hilary extended thanks to Suzee Tylee who organized fund-raising for this project.

5. Membership

There have been no new members since May 2019.

6. Playground Report

- Thanks were extended to Ken Capewell, who has stepped down from his volunteer role maintaining the playground. Ken repaired the play equipment for many years and the FA is very lucky to have benefitted from his engineering skills and from the many hours he dedicated to the task.
- It was reported that Peter Tilley has volunteered to take over, with the proviso that the City Council retains responsibility for safety inspections.
- There was a discussion about the siting of the goalpost which the City Council has agreed to install.
- Andrew reported that he has some spare granule mix stored in his back yard, for future repair jobs.
- Playground users have complained that the new bollard is unsightly, and it was agreed that a replacement would be purchased from Woodscape.

7. Items for Discussion

Towneley Close Ginnel

It was agreed that we should ask for donations towards the cost of the installation of a handrail along the Towneley Close access footpath. It was agreed that Fairfield Association would not fund this project in its entirety but would contribute to the £1500 cost.

Lancaster University Student Placement

Hilary advised that Lancaster University will fund students to undertake an oral history project during the 2019/20 academic year. It was hoped that the project would culminate in a presentation to members. Ruth Haigh to be advised. HS

8. Education Report

Tony reported that there had been four days of school visits, making eleven visits this term.

9. Events

- NW Lancs. Naturalists visit 31 July.
- Green Forum visit 1 August.
- Mick will give a talk in the Library during September.
- Apple Day will take place on 21 September. Tony advised that the event would follow established arrangements.
- The Walk and Talk for Lancaster University Linguistic students will take place on 14 November.
- Forthcoming ceremony to open Pony Wood path – date tbc.

10. FOTT

There will be an art exhibition at the Triangle during August Bank Holiday weekend.

11. FFOG

Sue reported that a herbicide had been used in the arable field, and that haymaking will take place very soon.

Six calves have been born this year.

Following a visit by Forestry Commission, it was reported that Ash Dieback is more prevalent than it was first thought. Thanks were extended to Ian for arranging the visit.

Moth trapping and a flower survey were underway. Sue reported that the meadow was well on its way to Lowland Meadow status.

A small amount of ragwort will be left for ecological reasons, but most ragwort will be removed.

12. Website and Facebook

Andrew to update.

13. Any Other Business

Mick advised that residents of Laurel Bank Nursing Home may visit, following his recent presentation there.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 18 September 2019 at Friends' meeting House.