

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 21st October 2020 on Zoom

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Mandy Bannon, Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, David Dawson, Sue, Amanda Novis, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker, Paul Pavli, Ian Procter, Mick Short, Elaine Weedy, John Weedy, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Sue Nieduszynska, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Brenda Rockall and Sue Pope.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the committee had been unable to meet since February 2020.

3. Matters Arising

- LNR still awaiting signatures.
- Towneley Close handrail had been installed.
- Volunteers required to monitor safety of the playground equipment.
- Grant of £500 received from Lancs Community network.
- Promotional video was complete.
- Bee boxes and Easter Egg hunt had been cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

4. Treasurer's Report

Finance Report 1.5.20 – 21.10.20

Bank

Co-op Bank	30.4.20	£63,392.15
	21.10.20	£62,051.31

Funds

General	£58,117
Restricted	£3,934 (BTC £1596, Triangle £2338)

Total Funds £62,051

Significant Income/Expenses

Income

Refund of water abstraction licence fee	£1500
Community Foundation Fund	£500
Donations	£1,150

Expenses

Zurich Insurance	£1498
Hoyles rushes management	£720
Cheviot Trees – saplings	£321
Graham Skelcher reports	£650
Fencing	£815
Wards – hay	£820

Funds: Fundraising activities curtailed during lockdown, however there had been a steady stream of donations from people who had appreciated the Reserve during the pandemic.

5. Membership

Nothing to report.

6. Playground

Andrew's recent inspection had revealed that the timber in the swings had failed, and he had sought quotes to replace them. Council will pay for installation. Total cost of replacement may reach £10k. The grant for the repairs to the climbing net needs to be signed off as a matter of urgency.

David Dawson agreed to carry out monthly inspections of the equipment, assisted by Paul Pavli.

A recycling bin has been proposed for the play area. There was a discussion about a possible site for the new bin, and a meeting with council was proposed. It was agreed that aesthetics demanded a Woodscape bin holder to harmonise with existing installations.

FA had received a request to install a zip wire. This was unanimously rejected on the grounds of space, appearance, safety, and maintenance costs.

Action: Andrew to respond to the zip-wire correspondent.

Action: Hilary to obtain sign-off for the climbing net grant.

7. Education Report

Enquiries received from HFE and University about using the Reserve.

8. Events

A pop-up shop, selling calendars and cards, to be set up in the shed on 28th November.

9. FFOG

- FA to be part of a wildflower seed collection scheme.
- Volunteers have continued to work through the pandemic, observing Covid safety rules.
- Use of the Reserve had increased dramatically during the lockdown.

10. FOTT

Nothing to report.

12. Website and Facebook

A proposal had been received from a commercial webmaster. The committee agreed that there was no reason to pay for improvements. Hilary agreed to tell the enquirer that Fairfield exists in the spirit of volunteering.

Action: Hilary to contact Alex re website offer.

13. Any Other Business

There was a discussion about decorating the orchard for Halloween. Amanda to forward some Christmas window-dressing ideas to Hilary.

14. Date of next meeting

Meetings to be reduced to alternate months during restrictions. Next meeting, using Zoom, will take place at 19.30 on 20th January 2021.