

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 19th May 2021 on Zoom

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dave Brookes, Graham Brandwood and David Dawson.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- There had been repairs to the footpath, which included the creation of drainage channels.
- Carole had published a new look newsletter.
- New signs had been placed around the Reserve.
- Chair reported that there had been no comments about the role of the trustees.

4. Treasurer's Report to 30.4.21

Co-op 17.3.21 74,390
30.4.21 75745

Funds

Restricted
BTS 1596
FTP 807
FOTT 2335
General 71004
Total 75745

Expenses Bee boxes 244
Seeds 277
Drainage 312

Review of year Friends up by £600
Donations down by £500

Fundraising income down by c£1k. Sales of cards and calendars was buoyant.

There was a discussion about how to bank copper and silver change taken at fundraisers. Trans-Pennine grant was used to purchase bee-boxes and wildflower seeds.

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5. Membership

3 new members, bringing the total to 393.

6. Playground

An inspection had been carried out by the Council; rot had been detected in the timbers set into the ground. The toddler play area had given rise to concern, along with the larger of the two multi-units. Playdale had been asked to quote for replacement of some items and repair of others. It was reported that the Council would carry out installation if the items are purchased by the FA, and Peter Tilley advised that volunteers could carry out some of the work. New Playdale equipment would be guaranteed for twenty years.

A trench is to be dug around the toddler play area to keep it free of nettles.

7. Items for discussion

- There was a discussion about the eventual return to in-person meetings following the pandemic, which would happen in accordance with the government's road map to recovery.
- It was agreed that publicity for the Apple Day 25th September 2021, would be included in the Big Green Week flyers to be produced by Kathy Barton.
- Four students have been appointed to work with the FA on special projects. The work will be paid for by Lancaster University. Some filming of bee boxes had been done, and it was hoped to make a film of one of Tony's educational visits.

8. Education Report

- Reminders had been issued to schools about the availability of guided visits next term.
- Presentations on bird feeding stations, and habitat ponds are to be delivered on Zoom.

9. Events

- Open Garden 3rd – 4th July. Funds to be raised for FA on the tea stall.
- Apple Day – 25th September
- Online Meadow Exhibition is almost finished and we are advertising for drawings/paintings of creatures that might be seen in meadows from local people of all ages.

10. FFOG

Sue provided the following report:

There has been a one-year extension of the agreement with Natural England. The first phase of the pond-improvement scheme is complete, and has attracted swallows and swifts.

The Arable Field has been planted with barley and peas.

Lancaster and District Birdwatchers have now removed the feeding stations, which will be reinstated next winter. The stations had attracted linnets and reed bunting, amongst others. There was a discussion about a possible contribution to LDBS funds.

The volunteers were back at work, in parties of six, observing staggered start times.

11. FOTT

Nothing to report.

12. Website and Facebook

There is now a separate menu item for Surveys on the website.

13. Any Other Business

Volunteers were requested to help set up a community library on Sibsey Street. It was thought that they would be able to make a wooden box for the books.

Action: Ian to ask one of his volunteers whether they would make a library box.

14. Date of next meeting

Next meeting, using Zoom, will take place at 19.30 on 16th June 2021.