

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on 21 February 2023 at the Tite & Locke

Present:

Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Geoff Oliver, Hilary Short (Chair), Ian Procter, Jane Parker, Pavlos Pavli, Sue Pope

1. Apologies

Ian Diffenthal, Mick Short, Rick Gould, Sharon Diffenthal, Sue Nieduszynska, Tony Finn

2. Minutes from the last meeting

These were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Nothing not on the agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bank balance	17.01.23	90,421	
	21.02.23	96,080	
Restricted funds	Duchy of Lancaster	1000	
	ET Thompson	2500	
	LEF	-951 (not yet received)	
	E&R Wilson	2000	
	University	131	
	Glasdon group	5000	
	Play area appeal	5385	
		<hr/>	
		15855	
	Lancaster University	133	
	Triangle	830	15,897
General Funds		<hr/>	80,183
			<hr/>
			96,080

Significant income: Glasdon group for play area £5000; carol singing £197; wassailing £102; net income from cards and calendars £1792

Significant expenses: Bowland tree services £550

£48,000 will be going out to the Council towards the playground equipment within the next couple of days

5. Membership and Friends

No new members reported this month. So, there are 405 members in total.

6. Playground

- £47,967 raised so far against the £75K required
- Tender process has been formally closed off
- Roundabout has been paid for
- Negotiated an extension to the project beyond the end of August, so work doesn't start until September and is completed before October half term
- Pizza event to raise funds for the playground – 1200-2000 on 27 May – Jon Hill will get council permission for an event and publicise, volunteers will be needed to help on the day
- Press release hasn't happened yet – Andrew to follow up – may link with Pizza event

7. Education

Nothing to report.

8. Events

- Easter egg hunt on Monday 10 April 2-4pm – Pavlos Pavli to set up and take down and Andrew to ask Friends of the Playground for volunteers and Hilary to approach Veronica.

9. FOGG report

- Thermal Imaging Devices were used by Colin McShane on 9 January to assess numbers of Jack Snipe. However, the density of the rush prevented an accurate assessment. Volunteers counted 19 Jack Snipe in Big Meadow and one in School Pond. The mosaic area in Big Meadow was noted to be extending. Colin McShane is doing a long-term study of Jack Snipe and is currently putting together a paper to explain the difficulties of recording them. Sue has agreed that he may use our data to add to his paper, as he would like to show results from surveys carried out in a range of habitats. Clio will ask him to acknowledge our site and send us a copy of the paper.
- Following Ian's suggestion, we are updating our reviews of each area of the reserve.
- We considered gritting the paths in icy weather but pet friendly grit is prohibitively expensive. Trustees will investigate the legal situation re warning signs.
- There is a reduction in the number of linnets this winter, possibly as a result of the change in farming practice by the river. Bats have been found using the bat boxes in Pony Wood. Four nest boxes have been replaced and put lower down the trunks for easier access and positioned with a more southerly aspect.
- Vandalism in the 'wild area' of the orchard, a barrier has been destroyed on a number of occasions. We can't have a fence but can make use of thorny deterrents. Hilary will inform the community police and ask them to include the orchard in their regular patrols. We need photos of the boundaries to this area – Hilary to organise.

10. FOTT report

- Taken delivery of new bench and it will be installed in due course.
- Considering a Triangle Fair to raise funds.

11. General Updates

Shed roof – nothing to report.

Wall needs to be replaced – likely to be expensive.

12. Website and Facebook

Julia has met Jason who works for FatMedia and is interested in supporting the website. Quite a bit of the website is out of date.

13. AOB

Lancaster Lore promotion – there is quite a bit of creative writing related to Fairfield Nature Reserve, Tony Finn is an enthusiastic storyteller – Hilary to contact a few people and share on the members' email.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday 28 March at the Tite & Locke.