

Minutes of Friends of the Triangle Meeting on Monday 2 Sept. 2013

Present: Dave Brookes, Geoff Easton, Gillian Allen, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Vincent Macdonald.

1.Apologies: Peter Callingham, Martin Lake, Kathy Barton, Sheila Bliss, Will Maden, Matt Homewood, Duncan Bell.

2&3: The **minutes of the last meeting** held on 5 August 2013 were approved and there were **no matters arising** not dealt with below.

4.Recent developments: Art: Vincent Macdonald, a 6th form design student at LRGS, outlined his initial ideas for his school's Extended Project Qualification, in the form of a design brief for a minimalist installation – to be constructed by himself – based on the shape of the land, its history and its future use as a community space. Having studied the historical maps of the Triangle, studied visitors' responses to our questionnaires and researched other artists' work for similar projects, Vincent put together 5 ideas for an installation that would “bring the broken Triangle back together” with the help of the community interacting with the artwork.

His first sketch showed the three fragments of the Triangle as a seating arrangement; the 2nd was a statue of three clasped hands; the 3rd comprised of 3 raised bedding boxes in the style of a canal boat, using 3 different historically significant building materials – asphalt, paving stone/cobbles and wood. The 4th idea was an electronic installation designed for children to interact with.

His 5th suggestion was a piece of minimalist art comprising 3 large metal sheets with reflective inner surfaces (again designed as components of a triangle) so arranged that the interaction of visitors with the artwork would “define the collective”. Vincent's final idea was a horizontal and vertical design merging the 3 fragments with the elements of a boat and using materials symbolic of the Triangle's historical use: sandstone, plywood/oak and stainless steel.

The ensuing questions and comments addressed issues such as cost, scale, health and safety, robustness and durability. Mention was made of the abundance of bricks on the Triangle (following the demolition of the lean-to) and their possible inclusion into the design of Vincent's artwork. Discussion continued on the desirability of a path continuing through the installation so as not to obscure sightlines.

5. Lease: Completion, Payment. Dave announced to the meeting that he had received an email from the solicitor that morning informing him of completion and assuring him that the lease documents, duly signed by the Council, would be forwarded to him in due course. THE LAND IS NOW OURS!! Payment would be made in the form of a cheque for £30 to cover 30 years of our peppercorn rent.

6. Site Investigation: Drainage: It was reported that volunteers had already tested the drain from the workshop building and found that it emptied out onto Aldcliffe Road, but as any water would in future comprise only of rainwater this was felt to be insignificant. We still needed to investigate the old drainage from the toilet area but a septic tank was unlikely to be found. Dave replied to a query about insurance that we hold public liability insurance pertaining to the land in general but the Council as landlord would continue to pay buildings insurance.

7. Workshop Repair: Door, Render, Rainwater Goods: This is almost finished; the new timber door fitted with the old metal perforated sheet will be installed this week, whereupon the render work can be done. The gutters and downpipe will also be fitted shortly.

8. Design: Georgina Peacock, the landscape architect for the FA's Flora and Fauna, has quoted £720 for developing our initial design, together with advice re planting, paths, etc., and this sum will be slotted into a major funding bid.

9. Planning Application: Statements, Submission, Payment: We are now close to submitting the planning application which Peter and Mike have worked hard on, and now Dave will endeavour to complete it asap, and submit it with the appropriate payment. Permission is needed for such items as the demolition of the lean-to, works to the wall, a solar panel to the workshop roof and a notice board.

10. Finances: No change: Nothing to report apart from the solicitor's fees (more than £2,000!) for completion of the lease.

11. Fundraising: Lancaster Green Spaces: It is hoped that the cost of the notice board (about £900) would be met by Lancaster Green Spaces; a decision will be made by 16 September. Other possible funders include Green Partnerships, United Utilities etc., for such items as the solar panel and rainwater butt.

12. Events: Celebration: The completion of the lease and the workshop building call for some sort of celebration, and this will form part of the FA's grant funded Party in the Paddock, to be held on October 5th, following Apple Day activities.

13: Volunteer Sessions: Painting, Stumps, Workshop clear out: Mike had done preparatory work on the double doors and would look into either asking B&Q for

a one-off charity gift of free paint (promise of logo on website) or buying a 2.5 litre tin of green paint (with a 10% Wednesday discount). More stump work needs to be done, as well as a final clearing out of the workshop. To save the cost of hiring a skip, volunteers were needed for tip trips. Saplings and ivy also need clearing.

The lean-to has already been cleared out (photos on the website) revealing attractive ashlar masonry to the bridge abutment. The end of the buttress was found to end in a pleasing curve. Jane alluded to the fact that Basin Bridge had in fact been built by John Rennie, the renowned architect of the Lune Aqueduct.

14. Any other business: No matters were raised.

15. Date, Time and Location of next Meeting: Dave suggested 7 October 2013 at 7.30 in the Robert Gillow and this was agreed by the meeting.