

Minutes of Fairfield Association Meeting held on at 19.30 on 20th May 2015 at Friends Meeting House

Present:

Andrew Brennand, Chair
Mandy Bannon
Dave Brookes
Tony Finn
Sue Nieduszynska
Geoff Oliver
Ian Procter
Hilary Short
Mick Short
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ruth Haigh, Jane Parker, and Ian Procter

3. Minutes from the last meeting

These were agreed.

4. Treasurers Report

Bank balance 30/04/15 £26,713.71 (year end)

Significant income:

Easter Egg Hunt (including refreshments)	£287.90
Fairfield Friends (part month)	£57.50
Lancaster University (for Triangle)	£1,080.00

Significant expenses:

Bowland Tree Services (for Triangle)	£350.00
P McGaffigan - mower from HLF grant	£1,200.00
Rolande Urwin - Triangle carvings	£615.00

5. Membership Report

Ruth emailed a report which said that she had signed up one new member who has made a donation of £20. There was a discussion about the recruitment of Ruth's successor. It was thought that the position may not be as arduous now that the work has been divided. Mandy confirmed that she had advertised the post to members by e-mail, and now had a copy of the membership database. Andrew announced that he would offer himself for the position of Membership Secretary if anyone wanted to take his place as Chair.

6. AGM

Andrew thanked Mandy for carrying out some of the Membership Secretary duties since Ruth's retirement. Sue asked for the new FFOG meeting schedule to be ratified at AGM.

Andrew agreed to check the minutes of the last AGM to ensure that all the actions had been done.

Andrew said he would add details of the AGM to the website, Facebook and posters.

7. Books!

Mick advised that there had been an offer of a book donation from a local couple. It was agreed that the books should be sorted to identify any of value, and the remainder sold to raise funds, or loaned out to members.

Mick said he would obtain more details about the gift.

8. Events

Creative Writing

Mandy reported that nine people had taken part, and had given positive feedback about the event. An additional event was planned in June, for which a venue was required. Dave suggested advertising in Atticus bookshop.

Open Garden

Andrew requested volunteers to help with setting up and taking down.

Kwik Cricket

This will take place in September. Andrew agreed to supply LGGs with insurance details, and arrange for collection of the keys.

Apple Day

Tony advised that he had booked the beekeepers and the wood turner, and has written a piece for the newsletter. Mick observed that music is popular at the event.

FOTT Funday

Dave confirmed that preparations are underway, and the event would soon be advertised.

9. Website

Julia has:

- Added volunteering sessions to calendar, as per minutes of last meeting.
- Met up with Sue on Fauna footpath to test out James' mifi device (mobile wifi hotspot) in preparation for the Open Garden event.
- Put together a draft 'History' page on the Flora website (not currently viewable) and will be sending an email out shortly to ask for feedback and further content.
- Met up with Chris Workman and David Herrod to discuss design of a webpage to display photos of the area over time. She has agreed a mechanism to enable this, and are in the process of looking for a large-scale copyright-free digital aerial map of the reserve to act as clickable image map.

10. Education

Tony advised that he had approached Dallas Rd. School about their Year 3 wildflower project, and intended to deliver a presentation to the pupils. There was a discussion about the best place to sow the seeds, and it was decided to use the patch of ground by the Fauna stones as it did not require approval by Natural England. The ground is to be prepared by a volunteer task force.

Tony advised that there had been interest in the schools Flora project from Ryelands School, St. Pauls, Scotforth, and Dallas Rd.

Sue said she was hoping to arrange an additional educational event at the Storey with a local history theme.

Hilary reported that an Aldcliffe resident had supplied some information about the concrete wall in the Pads fields.

11. FFOG

- Mick requested members to be vigilant about fires during the summer months.
- It was hoped that the marshy areas of the Reserve could be cropped by ponies.
- Hilary had supplied a report to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Wildflowers are starting to appear in the arable field.

12. FOTT

Dave said that the wall repair was underway; a new bench had been fitted in the workshop, and an owl carving had been made from a tree stump.

13. Playground Report

Andrew advised that his working party was continuing with repairs.

Two complaints had been made about abuse of parking spaces at the playground. A discussion about signage was postponed to the September meeting.

14. Correspondence

Andrew reported that he had been approached by Friends of Williamson Park who wanted to share knowledge and publicity with FA. He agreed to email Dr. Liz Dean with FA publicity details and put her on the mailing list.

AB

There had been a request from the Friends of Long Marsh Lane Gardens to advertise their garden party, and to borrow a gazebo on 13th June. This was agreed, as long as they collect it and erect it themselves. Andrew to advise Ian Procter. **AB**

15. Website and Facebook

Andrew confirmed that he had promoted the forthcoming events discussed at para.8., and would advertise the position of Membership Secretary.

16. Any Other Business

- Dave advised that he is closing the Mail chimp account and intended to use Tiny Letter instead. He agreed to provide Julia with the details. **DB**
- Mick said he had been approached by the owners of the land adjoining Laurel Bank. They had enquired whether FA would be interested in managing it. There was a discussion about ways of offering support, without committing to manage it. Mick agreed to arrange a meeting with the owners. **MS**

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on 17th June, then 15th July 2015, both at Friends' Meeting House.