

Minutes of Fairfield Association Meeting held on at 19.30 on 16th December 2015 at the Friends Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short, Chair
Mandy Bannon
Ken Capewell
Tony Finn
Geoff Oliver
Jane Parker
Ian Procter
Mick Short
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Andrew Brennand.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

- News about Tony's EyeCan Community award has been posted on the website.
- The FA Logo is available from Dropbox
- Tom Dunbar, a retired environmentalist, will talk about butterflies on April 7th 2016.
- £1500 profit has been made from the sale of cards and calendars; vote of thanks to Carol and Mandy.

5. Treasurers Report

Bank balance increased to £40,387.

Income: Rural Payments Agency £3807, Net sales of stationery £1221.

6. Membership Report

Thirteen new members enrolled following the Green Fair.

7. Additional items for discussion: Spending safeguards

Hilary reported that FFOG committee had agreed to purchase new gates, to allow better access for the haymaking wagon. A quote of £1228, plus £200 consultation fee had been received from David Hartley. It was agreed that this expenditure should be approved.

There was also a general discussion about spending authorisation. It was agreed that purchases over £2k should be approved by the FA committee, with the exception of urgent expenditure arising between meetings. In which case there could be Chair's action for spending in the order of some hundreds of pounds and larger expenditure would be referred by the Chair to the trustees. It was also agreed that more than one quotation should be sought for work that involved the expenditure of £2000 or more. There was a discussion about how this would affect the Association's relationship with current, regular contractors who have quoted 'charitable' rates in the past.

8. Education

Tony will move information about Flora on to the main website.

9. Events

Plans were finalised for carol singing on Christmas Eve.

Thanks were offered to Mandy and Loura for their work with Write Around Fairfield, which had been a real success.

Sales at the Green Fair exceeded £830. It was suggested that we might adopt a wildlife theme for next year's calendar.

10. FFOG

- Hedges had been laid along the Pads footpath.
- Associate Volunteers Scheme launched, for people who like to work at their leisure rather than attending organised sessions.
- Volunteers Buffet booked at the Storey in February.
- 'Longface' the elderly cow passed away; locals informed.
- Fell ponies arriving during December.
- There was a discussion about 'problem reports' on the website. To be added to January's agenda.

11. FOTT

Nothing to report.

12. Playground

Ken said that the roundabout was safe to use, following his recent inspection.

There is still some vandalism of trees in the play area.

13. Correspondence

- Hilary agreed to write to the organisers of the Potato Fair, declining their invitation to participate.
- Hilary to meet Ruth Davies in the New Year to discuss the possibility of providing a location for Forest School activities.
- Andrew has been in touch with the solicitor about registering Flora land with the Land Registry; the FA is considering lodging a formal complaint with the Law Society. **AB/ HS**
- Mandy agreed to mention the matter informally to a solicitor friend.

14. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

15. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Hilary advised that FHM has been booked for the next five meetings: 20th January, and 17th February 2016.