

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 16th November 2016 at Friends Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (chair)
Mandy Bannon
Dave Brookes
Tony Finn
Jane Parker
Ian Procter
Mick Short
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mick Short, Ken Capewell and Andrew Brennand.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

- FFOG have bought a new chainsaw using a grant from from Lancaster Green Spaces.
- A meeting has taken place with Georgina Peacock about the maps of the entire nature reserve.
- Action to repair slide has been carried forward.
- A meeting has taken place with Helen Bingley, assessor for the Queen's Award. Those present thought it went well and that she be an advocate on our behalf.
- Two more members will receive first aid training including one from the Triangle.
- The Walney Island bid has failed. All we know is that we met the criteria.
- Cards and calendars are now ready for sale.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Bank balance is £65,042
- A significant gift of £300 from Lancaster Bridge Club has been received.
- £1200 received from Tesco

6. Membership Report

There has been one new member since the last meeting.

7. Additional Items for Discussion

Nothing to report.

8. Education

- School visits have finished for this term. A joint bid has been submitted from Beyond the Castle, and FA, for an £18K project which includes some work with local schools. Hilary re-

ported that there had been an on-site meeting with Lucia Marquart, teachers from Bowerham School and the countryside rangers. In March 2017, Tony is visiting Bowerham, taking maps and photographs, to talk about a project which will involve planting wildflower plugs. This is to be followed up in late spring and we may also contribute to Science Week.

- Ian said that he was sending out advice about hedge-laying courses.
- Dave reminded Tony about the feedback forms.
- On 1st December there is to be a 'Virtual Walk around the Nature Reserve' event in the Storey Institute as part of the Green Path project.

9. Other Events

- Calendars are ready for the Green Fair on 19th November.
- Carol Singing 17.00 on Christmas Eve, followed by refreshments at Sonya and Liam's house. Meet outside Frasers Cottage.
- Jon Carter's bird walk at 09.30 on 11th December 2016
- Wassailing 14th January 2017
- Volunteers Buffet on 9th February 2017 at 1930 at the Storey Institute. A vegetarian buffet was agreed at around £10 per head. It was emphasised that the event is for all volunteers and not those who work outdoors in the Nature Reserve.

10. FOTT

- The raised beds are awaiting topsoil.
- FOTT provided a presentation for the Marsh History Group.
- Frances Tordoff gave a talk at Willow Lane School.

11. FFOG

- A calf has been born on the reserve.
- Some tree-felling required in Pony Wood before the new path is laid.
- Lime-spreading to take place on various areas in the hope of deterring the rushes.
- Paul Ferguson to advise on scything rusty areas.

12. Playground

Hilary to ask Jones to service the roundabout next time he's in the area.

13. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

14. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

15. Any Other Business

The Queen's Award assessor queried the level of engagement with the local Asian community. It was agreed that a special newsletter will be delivered to addresses on Dallas Rd, Wheatfield Street and Blades St, and to the LGGs staff room. Ian suggested that the leaflet could incorporate a map of the Fairfield area, including the reserve and access points

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is at 19.30 on Wednesday 21st December 2016 at The Friends' Meeting House.