

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 15th March 2017 at Friends Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (chair)
Dave Brookes
Tony Finn
Sue Nieduszynka
Geoff Oliver
Jane Parker
Ian Procter
Mick Short (minutes)

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Mandy Bannon, Ken Capewell, Shirley Rawsthorne.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The following amendments were made to last month's minutes:

Matters Arising point 6: Mandy agreed to talk to Tony about interest in providing music in the Orchard, expressed by Grievous Angels.

4. Matters Arising

i. Recipe book. Carol is working on it, Hilary & Carol haven't yet met.

ii. Jane has contacted the Coop Bank. Our funds are protected up to £85k by FSA. No action currently required but Jane will keep an eye on the situation.

iii. Tony's story-telling session was disappointing in terms of audience numbers and there were no children present. Refreshments which were bought can be used at volunteer sessions, Easter Egg Hunt etc. We didn't cover the cost of the room and Tony offered to pay but Hilary proposed money comes out of the Green Path project. Agreed. It was agreed that in future more information about how exactly the session would work and how our audience should be targeted.

Playground: letter from Council: they have said they will take the £100 off their first bill (but we don't use them for repairs). Hilary will get back to them.

Treasurer's report

The details are

Bank balances: 15/02/17 70,505.81
15/03/17 68,028.80

Significant payments:

F Kitchen. 1,303.20 Triangle from Tesco grant
FW Huddleston 732.00. Digger hire from BTC grant
D Brookes 929.57. 6 Triangle invoices from Tesco grant

Restricted funds estimated £20,646 at present. This includes Sharing Heritage, BTC, Tesco Bags of Help (negative balance at present) & Community Fund grants and FOTT balance.

Bigger bills mainly for Triangle and Beyond the Castle. We haven't had all the money from Tesco yet. £2k to run.

We have 20, 468 in **restricted** funds on ongoing projects. £40k odd unrestricted.

We appear not to have the £300 promised from Lancaster Green Spaces for the new chain saw.

Membership Report

5 people have moved away, so membership has gone down slightly. No big issue really.

Local Development Plan

Still getting nowhere. Fairfield Green is already protected in perpetuity. Our submission for the whole nature reserve failed because it was too large and sprawling, not well defined and at the very edge of town. H doesn't feel this a valid view but we don't need to protect Flora as we own it, so the trustees have decided we should go for protection for Fauna. It was suggested by the planning department that we go for LNR status but we are already doing this and we have been doing this for 5 years now and it is the Council which is holding it up. So we need to push it forward. Hilary to talk to Oliver. Dave suggests email to chief exec.

Easter Egg Hunt

Tony: Same format as last year, with one addition. Some people didn't have a prize as we ran out of goody bags. So suggested we have a bowl of eggs at the end for latecomers. Latecomers will pay £1 each instead of £2.50 for main entries. Knitted chick and cream egg prizes again for Easter Bonnet competition. Mick to ask Geoff Orr about music. Grievous Angels may also perform.

Education

We have had one group from Dallas Road and we have a request from Willow Lane for the end March. This year we have £1700 from Natural England visits fund and are in good financial health. Willow sculptures round the Orchard are now being worked on.

Jean, who knits the chicks, has made a throw which Tony is going to use it as part of his educational activities.

Ian asked about the people from Beaumont College. He has only seen them once, are they still coming? Tony says that they do still visit and David Elliott and others have seen them. They have been doing hedge trimming. This needs to stop by the end of March. We can find other things for them to do if they need to do more. Tony will contact the relevant people in the College.

Sue reminded us that next Thursday there is a presentation on Fairfield Woodland by four FA members. 7.30 at the Storey.

FOTT

Two weeks left of a grant, £400 left to spend but that will be covered. Things looking good, though not finished yet. Spring fair 27 May – Celebration of completion of the Tesco-funded works. Now at landscaping phase but capital works still be done on buttressing and the workshop.

FFOG

Now proud possessors of some decoy lapwing, which we hope will entice more nesting lapwing in. Currently working on a better sense of how much it costs annually to maintain the reserve. Pedestrian gate at Cromwell Road: gate latch has been broken. We are going to experiment with keeping the gate permanently open this summer. Hedge between the Fauna footpath and LGS field has been flailed (not by us). It is rather untidy and some young trees have been accidentally chopped off. Not our fault/responsibility. Flora path: Hilary is putting in more bids for funding and we hope to be able to go ahead next autumn if the bids are successful. So far, informal indications from funders approached seem to be positive.

Fairfield Green play area

Andrew has produced a sign, as asked for by the Council people who monitor the playground for us. We are going to replace the climbing net tape.

Correspondence

None.

Website and Facebook

Not much at present. Big issue is replacing Julia as the person looking after the website. She is not in a rush but we need to seek a replacement. We need to get Julia to produce a detailed job spec for us and a description of the management system. Two aspects: technical and keeping the content up-to-date. Maybe two people, then?

15. Any Other Business

None

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is at 19.30 on Wednesday 19th April 2017 at The Friends' Meeting House.
AGM 20th June at The Friends Meeting House.