

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 20th September 2017 at Friends Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short, Chair
Nina Bleasdale
Dave Brookes
Ken Capewell
Tony Finn
Sue Nieduszynska
Geoff Oliver
Jane Parker
Ian Procter
Mick Short
Debbie Williams
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Mandy Bannon and Andrew Brennand.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

Sue Nieduszynska needs to be added to the list of those present.

4. Matters Arising

- A Sharing Heritage page has been added to the website.
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- The abandoned car at the bottom of Sibsey Street has been removed by a third party.
- Hilary has contacted Andrew Barnes about organizing children's games at Fun day.
- Hilary to engage a mason to repair the Towneley Close wall.
- Trustees' indemnity – carried forward.

Literary Festival

Hilary introduced Nina and Debbie. She explained that Nina, formerly of Waterstones was hoping to work with us to organize a 'Hay' festival next year. Debbie, who runs a Master's degree in publishing at UCLAN offered the possibility of a student who would work with us on a project which would result in a publication. There was a discussion about how school children could be involved in the project and what form the festival might take. It was agreed that this was an idea worth exploring and that the FA would identify a small number of members interested in the project and that these would form a small committee to work on the project with Debbie and Nina.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Bank account balance is £52,313
- Significant expenditure on RSPB course, and Beyond the Castle project
- Income received from Flora footpath donations

6. Membership Report

There has been one new member.

7. Additional Items for Discussion

- Ann Wood is to chase up the legal team about Local Nature Reserve status now that the boundaries have been accepted. The legal team will also advise us on what we need from LGGS. Thanks were extended to Geoff Oliver for his work in this area and also to Oliver Fulton for a very comprehensive report.
- The Rotary Club has offered to donate 40 trees; it was emphasized that the tree species have to be approved by the Woodlands Trust.
- A discussion about creating a 'garden of remembrance' within the Reserve was carried forward.

8. Education

- Tony advised that there had been an approach from Beaumont College about regular volunteering by a small group of students.
- On 9th November, Ian Nieduszynska will deliver a talk about the Reserve's migratory birds.

9. FOTT

The art exhibition had received good feedback - £1300 worth of art was sold. The artists had enquired about using the FOTT workshop as a display area.

Dave reported that FOTT may be involved in the canal's bicentenary celebrations.

10. FFOG

- The Cromwell Rd. entrance will continue open.
- RSPB have helped with work to unclog channels in Upper Sowerholme.
- Roe Deer have been spotted on the Reserve.
- Adverse conditions for haymaking meant that we were unable to harvest the hay and the cattle were used to graze off the hay crop this year.
- Graham Brandwood had organized two Forest School events but had been disappointed by the attendance.
- A list of trees for surgery is being compiled by Andy Lee.
- Thanks were extended to the volunteers for successful control of ragwort, thistles and rush this summer.

11. Playground

- Ken reported an increase in the amount of graffiti around the playground.
- The parts have arrived for the gate repairs.
- The spring chicken has been repaired.
- Ken identified that the net on the multi-frame needs to be replaced.
- Ken will fill splits in the posts on the junior and senior multi units.
- Playdale will advise us on the best solution to the spinner.

12. Correspondence

Congratulations have been received from the mayor on the QAVS award.

13. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

15. Any Other Business

- The text on a signpost pointing to the Reserve from the canal, was agreed
- Ian requested that an auto-switch device be installed to guard against the shed lights being left on.
- Plans for Apple Day were finalised.
- Hilary advised that Green Fair will take place between 1000 and 1600 on 18th November.
- Geoff pointed out that para.4 of the website still needs to be amended to explain the difference between a Member and a Friend.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18TH October 2017 at Friends Meeting House.