

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 18th October 2017 at the Friends Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (chair)	Jane Parker
Mandy Bannon	Ian Procter
Andrew Brennand	Sue Nieduszynska
Dave Brookes	Mick Short
Ken Capewell	Daniel Heery (in attendance for item 6 below)

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service certificate and crystal were passed around for everyone to see.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tony Finn, Ruth Haigh, Geoff Oliver and Shirley Rawsthorne.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The wall near the Towneley Close entrance to the Orchard has now been repaired.

The Rotary Club's offer to buy and plant 40 trees around Pony Wood has been accepted.

Further discussion of the proposal by Nina Bleasdale and Debbie Williams concerning a future literary festival was postponed to a later meeting.

Further discussion of Ian Procter's suggestion of a possible garden of remembrance in the nature reserve was also postponed to a later meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bank balance 20.09.17: £53,313

Bank balance 17.10.17: £49,699.88

Balance summary:

Restricted funds £6998

General funds £42,700

Significant income

£266 (commission from Art Exhibition)

£362 (Apple Day)

£545 (New path around Pony Wood)

£111 (recipe books and cards)

Significant expenses:

D. Howard (Orchard wall) £250

Playdale (gate mechanism) £254.68

Emorsgate Seeds (Beyond the Castle) £1,356

Peacock Design (Flora Green Path project: maps) £1,136

Active Aid (First Aid courses for Ian, Ken and Mick) £345

Defibrillator spares £214.79

5. Membership Report

There have been two new members since the last meeting.

6. Discussion of possible Charge My Street electric vehicle charging points on two of the three FA parking spaces on Wingate-Saul Road

Daniel Heery outlined the advantages of electric vehicles in terms of pollution and the problems of charging EVs parked on the road from terraced houses (electric cables across pavements!). Daniel answered members' questions as to how the Charge My Street scheme would work in our parking spaces. There would be one charging point which could serve two cars on adjacent spaces, leaving one space free. Members were sympathetic to the general idea. However various practical concerns were raised, including how we could manage the issue of ensuring that the charging points were available overnight if another car was parked in the relevant space. It was agreed that (i) if we were to go ahead, there should be no cost to the FA (including legal costs) and (ii) a survey of local opinion would be essential and that Charge My Street would be responsible for designing the paper questionnaire (which the FA would need to approve) and delivering and administering it. Should we decide to go ahead, it was agreed that we would need to consult our membership in advance, possibly at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Hilary agreed to contact Daniel and relay the outcome of the discussion after he had left the meeting.

7. Newsletter and Calendar

We agreed that the current newsletter would be printed by Castle Hill Press, in spite of the slightly-raised cost and that we would consider other options for future newsletters. The meeting thanked Mandy for her work on an excellent newsletter.

It was agreed that 200 calendars should be printed, as last year and thanks were recorded to Carole Martin for all the hard work she has put in, producing a lovely new calendar.

8. Trustees Indemnity Insurance

It was agreed that we would come back to this at a later meeting, with details of what the various levels of cover would offer protection on.

9. Fairfield Green Play Area

There had been a visit from Playdale (but at a time when Ken could not be present, in spite of the original arrangement). Andrew and Ken had received a quotation for a list of works that Playdale might undertake. It was decided not to go ahead with the proposed £3,000 plus VAT worth of Playdale repairs. However, it was agreed that the Spinner should be replaced, at a cost of £1,353 plus VAT and to ask Playdale to install it. If we can find the funding, we would also like to replace the large scramble net, which is becoming worn. The meeting thanked Ken for his sterling work in maintaining the play equipment.

10. Education

No report

11. Events

Apple Day: It was agreed that this was one of the best Apple Days ever, being much enjoyed by everyone, young and old, and a healthy income was generated too. Many thanks to all our contributing bakers and helpers on the day, and particularly to Tony and Jacqui Finn, the organisers and Ian Procter for organizing the setting up and removal of the stalls and other 'furniture'.

Upcoming events: (i) Ian Nieduszinski's talk on Fairfield's migrating birds (Storey Institute, 9th November), (ii) Green Fair, 18th November, (iii), Walk and Talk event for MA students from Lancaster University, 13th November and (iv) Christmas Carols, 24th December.

Wassailing: it was agreed that there would be no Wassailing in January 2018.

12. FOTT

A Fairy Ring of wooden mushrooms have appeared and some bulbs have been planted.

13. FFOG

Report postponed as there had not been a FFOG meeting between the last FA meeting and this one.

14. Pony Wood Path project

The LEF funding for the new path has been approved, now that we have raised the £3,300 Third Party funding. Georgina Peacock has finished the new reserve maps and is organising the discharging of the planning conditions and the tenders from prospective contractors. Hilary will organise a project planning meeting. We need to get formal permission from Natural England before going ahead.

Dementia-Friendly Organisation

It was agreed, subject to upcoming discussion in the next FFOG meeting that the FA should work towards becoming a dementia-friendly organisation. This involves (a) a significant number of our officers and volunteers becoming Dementia Friends (Mick will arrange some induction workshops for this purpose) and (b) the charity needs to undergo a dementia-related audit (which Mick will pursue).

15. Website and Facebook

There is now a Green Path project page and Hilary invited members to explore it and contribute. The aerial footage of the nature reserve is now on the Home Page.

15. Any Other Business

None.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is at 19.30 on Wednesday 15th November 2017, at The Friends' Meeting House.