

## Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at The Friends Meeting House

### Present:

Hilary Short, Chair	Sue Nieduszynska
Mandy Bannon	Jane Parker
Ken Capewell	Ian Procter
Geoff Oliver	Mick Short, scribe

### 1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting with fortifying home-made mince pies.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies received from Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Tony Finn and Shirley Rawsthorne.

### 3. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes were agreed with minor amendments.

### 4. Matters Arising

Hilary and Mick recently met Emily Runcastle, who is interested in helping with the proposed 2018 literary festival, perhaps by organising a promenade performance play in Fairfield Orchard. It was agreed that she be put in touch with those exploring the festival idea.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

Bank balance 20.12.17: £50,803.44

Bank balance 17.11.17: £49,002.89

Balance summary:

Restricted funds £6421

General funds £46,464

#### *Restricted funds:*

Beyond the Castle grant £4,339

Flora Path Grant (deficit) -£413

Mary Ridley donations £115 (maybe intended for general funds?)

Aldcliffe Road Triangle £2015

Flora footpath donations £365

Total £6421

#### *Significant income:*

£320 (Walk and Talk donations)

£1,828 (calendars and cards: see also expenses below)

(Net predicted provisional profit on calendars = c. £1,000)

#### *Significant expenses:*

£413 (Peacock Design: Pony Wood survey and design)

£460 (Printing of 200 calendars)

We have now sold out of cards and will create a new set for next year. Recipe books currently show a net loss of £481 but sales of these will continue long term.

Ian reminded people of his paper to FFOG concerning the need for new equipment. It was agreed that he should buy the necessary equipment (posts etc) for the winter hedge-laying work and that he can also buy immediately the new harness to be used with our heavy hedge trimmer. We are

hoping that the non-urgent items can be covered by one of the grants Hilary has applied for on the FA's behalf.

## **6. Membership Report**

There has been one new member this month, who has given a £200 donation. Geoff reported that there has also been a new Friends donation of £100 pa.

## **7. Playground Report**

Ken reported that most of the equipment is in order and the minor matters for other items is being dealt with. The hazard tape on the swing post concealing the vandalized damage needs to be replaced. Hilary has put in funding applications to pay for the new Spinner and a new multi net and is awaiting news. She has also contacted Will Griffiths at Lancaster City Council concerning LCC's promise of an annual £100 grant for repairs or new equipment.

## **8. Education**

Beaumont College are still enthusiastic about their (usually weekly) visits to the Orchard.

## **9. Forthcoming events**

- There will be a talk on Wetland Areas at the Storey Institute on 25<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm. The speakers will be Sue, Oliver and Graham, who have recently been on a 2-day wetlands management course, organised by the RSPB.
- The Volunteers annual meal, which is actually open to anyone, volunteer or not, will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> in the Storey Institute. A buffet meal, as last year, which was very popular.

## **10. FOTT report**

The new workshop doors have been damaged again and discussion about what to do, including possible insurance claims, is ongoing.

## **11. Pony Wood Footpath**

Georgina Peacock has completed the plan and has sent out the requests for tenders for the work. She still hasn't heard back from the Council's Tree Protection Officer. Georgina has provided an excellent survey of Pony Wood, which we agreed that Ian should give a copy to Andy Lee. Sue asked about the signage needed in relation to the new path and Hilary said that it was in hand and that details would need to be agreed after the path itself was in place.

## **12. Dementia Friendly status**

The induction workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> November was attended by 17 people, 15 of whom signed up to be Dementia Friends at the end of the session. Mick also attended a one-day session in Manchester on 12 December and is now a Dementia Champion (which enables him to run future Dementia Friends inductions). He will organise one or more Friends induction workshops in the first few months of 2018, as needed. He will also research what else we need to do to make the FA dementia friendly.

## **13. FFOG report**

- Ian Ward has agreed to farm Flora Field, our arable field, in 2018. We still need to talk to him about the new path and what it means for him in terms of a slightly-reduced acreage to farm.
- We now have a more flexible agreement with Natural England concerning cattle access to our fields and so the White Park may be in them for longer periods from this winter onwards.

- According to Ruth Haigh's historical work (including interviews with long-term residents), what Graham thought were the footings to a coach house were almost certainly for the barn which was used by school children in the early C20 as a changing room for sports activities.

#### **14. Website and Facebook**

Julia has posted the last three Newsletters on the website and Mandy will send her future editions for posting.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that Daniel Heery's proposed questionnaire for residents concerning possible EV points on two of our three car-parking spaces needed some amendments and that relevant people would send suggested changes to Mandy early in the New Year, using Word's Track Changes facility.

#### **16. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Friends Meeting House.