

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 21st March 2018 at Friends' Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short, Chair
Mandy Bannon
Andrew Brennand
Tony Finn
Ian Procter
Mick Short
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Ken Capewell, Sue Nieduszynska and Geoff Oliver

3. Minutes from the last meeting

These were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

- Hilary advised that replacement poles were not needed for the big swings. She is in communication with Helen Ryan at Lancaster City Council, who will order the new equipment on our behalf.
- Hilary reported that she had been in touch with Morris Brophy from LCC, who had indicated that the council was proposing an 'aspirational' cycle path by widening the Long Pads footpath. All agreed that this would destroy vital habitat, such as hedgerows and field-edges, if the path were widened and surfaced. Additionally, the hedges feature in the Natural England agreement. It was agreed that, rather than wait for LCC to publish a paper, the Association should discuss the matter at our AGM in June.
- It was agreed that the Volunteers' Night at the Storey had been a great success.
- Ian recorded his thanks to volunteers, including Rotary Club members, who had planted a total of 700 saplings on Planting Day.
- 'Charge Our Street' Further communication will be postponed so that we can assess how well the scheme goes at the Boys and Girls Club..
- The Team Swimathon had raised more than £700. A donation of £500 will be spent on net-mending and tools.

5. Treasurer's Report

- To follow.

6. Membership Report

Nothing to report.

7. Playground Report

Ken has made a small repair to the net.

8. Education

Tony reported that Year 1 pupils from Ryelands School are due to visit in May.

Additional item: Literary Festival

The following report was provided by Mandy:

Lancaster Arts Partnership

LAP event, 28/2/2018, attended by Mandy Bannon, Fairfield Association

A wide range of arts organisations in Lancaster & Morecambe were represented (e.g Dukes, Halton Mill, Lancaster City Council , More Music, Lancaster jazz Festival, The Vintage festival, King street Studios, plus artists and musicians)

We all had an opportunity to introduce ourselves to each other and make useful contacts. We all placed events on posters of each month, which has been typed up and distributed.

*I met Nina Bleasdale who organises Litfest and the two of us had a brief chat about the “mini Hay – for children”. She sees it as a festival concentrating on authors and illustrators of children’s nature literature, such as Jackie Morris who has illustrated the hugely popular *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane. Also Nicola Davies, children’s author and zoologist.*

We then formed into 5 tables comprising about 8 people and our topic for discussion suggested by Nina was “organising a mini Hay children’s festival”! On our table was the Artistic Director at the Dukes, the organisers of Morecambe’s Vintage festival, and Hilary McManus, an artist who amongst other things, makes puppets.

As a result, we have accrued lots of ideas.

It was suggested we create a “pop-up” festival, piggy backing off an existing event (Apple Day, say, where Tony already has a story-telling) and growing it gradually. That way when we’re applying for funding, we can demonstrate to funder that we have a good track record.

Potential funders:

Nina thinks Waterstones would support it, and WH Smith who donate to local charities through the money they collect from carrier bags.

Other funders suggested:

Patricia Clarke fund!

Ernest Shackleton fund – “Young Adventurer”

Blue Spark – young Adult

Trusthouse

The Duchy

Paul Hamlyn, publisher

NW Literary Arts

Proctor & Gamble “In Kind”

Royal Society of Literature “Make literature Matter”

Hilary McManus would be happy to run a puppet making workshop. The Dukes would be happy to publicise the event.

Nina would arrange for the authors and illustrators of children’s nature-based books to attend. We would need to set up a sub-group to organise and apply for funding (these people need paying!).

We have been sent a list of names and email addresses of everyone who attended – so very useful contacts database, if anyone would like me to forward it to them.

There was a discussion about how the event would be funded, and when it would be scheduled. Mandy confirmed that any visiting authors would charge a fee. It was agreed that, if FA decided to go ahead with it, it would be scheduled for Autumn 2019. A sub-committee would be set up to steer the project.

Easter Egg Hunt: Tony said that he was confident that he will have sufficient volunteers for the event, and that arrangements were in hand.

Fun Day: The cost of hiring the marquee had increased to £750, of which Barclays Bank is to donate £500. Hilary advised that she had requested a donation from the Duchy of Lancaster to support a celebration of the Queen's Award.

Pony Wood Footpath: All the planning paperwork has now been sent to the Council. A drain is to be installed at the Towneley Close end, where recent rainfall has eroded the path.

9. FOTT

Nothing to report.

10. Dementia Friendly Status

Dementia-Friendly Status: Mick reported that he recently ran a session for eight people, with a further session to be arranged. He had visited the reserve with a dementia expert, who had pointed out where improvements could be made, such as signage and information boards.

11. FFOG report

Three calves have been born. Ian advised that he had put warning notices on the gates, after someone had entered the field to look at a calving cow, which had subsequently rejected its calf.

12. LNR status

Hilary advised that LNR status is ever closer, and we hope it will shortly be publicised.

13. Website and Facebook

Mandy advised that she would be issuing a newsletter in May.

14. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th April at Friends Meeting House.