

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 20th February 2019 at the Friends' Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Andrew Brennand, Ken Capewell, Tony Finn, Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver
Jane Parker (Treasurer), Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Dave Brookes and Mandy Bannon

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes were agreed without alteration.

3. Matters Arising

- Hilary reported that calendars were all sold out and that Single Step had been a particularly good outlet.
- Hilary has chased up the solicitor handling LNR status. The problem is that Natural England require us to obtain Village Green status within a given time and we are not clear who is able to make the application: we have a 999 year lease but are not the landowners. Natural England, will now only act through solicitors.
- Hilary agreed to provide feedback to Maurice Brophy, LCC, about the 'aspirational cycle path'; she advised that there appeared to be mistakes on the Council plans, with the Nature Reserve being described as 'arable fields'. Sue suggested that the matter should be raised with MP, Cat Smith.
- Tony agreed to arrange this year's Easter Egg Hunt, but advised that he would like somebody else to take over next year.

4. Treasurer's Report to 20.2.19

Co-op Bank Balance	15.1.19	£49,262.82
	20.2.19	£51,238.28
General Funds		£57,327
Restricted Funds		-£ 6,089
Total Funds		£51,238

The negative figure for Restricted Funds is because the Lancashire Environment Fund grant claim is still being processed.

Significant Income

RPA £1897

P. Chesterman legacy £1,000

Wassailing £110

Significant Expenditure £

Peacock Design £765

LCC Aldcliffe crossing £885

Restricted funds breakdown

Postcode Lottery £2,634

Lancs Environment Fund £-16,903

Garfield Weston £6,902

Triangle £1,278

5. Membership

There are no new members. Andrew advised that he would be calling for membership updates in May 2019. Jane requested that his letter include a question about tax status, for Gift Aid purposes.

6. Playground Report

Ken had successfully removed some graffiti with Cif. One of the threads on a roundabout nut is stripped but Ken is able to deal with the problem. There had been some fly-tipping alongside the litter bins.

7. Items for Discussion

- The decision on the opening date for the new path was deferred until the next meeting.
- Natural England are supporting the campaign to save Freemans Wood, and it was confirmed that, the FA would write a letter of support.
- It was decided that the Blossom Picnic would not take place this year, due to its proximity to the Easter Egg Hunt.
- It was noted that the proposal for a Feast in the Field on 6th July, would clash with the Triangle Fair.

8. Education Report

Dallas Rd. Year 2, will visit in March. Ian confirmed that there would be no access to Pony Wood for school parties, although there would be good sight-lines. It was proposed that the historical artefacts, which Mandy has curated, might be made available for the children to look at.

9. Events

Hilary reported that the Wassailing went well. Hilary said that with more forward-planning we could have Morris Men in future years. Andrew commented that Morris Dancers are expensive to hire for this event.

Mandy, Tony and Sue give a presentation at the Thomas More Centre in March.

Mick is to give a talk to the Probis Group at Scotforth

Hilary will provide publicity for the Swimathon, as numbers are currently low.

Easter Egg Hunt arrangements are unchanged except that sweets will now be put in a bucket from which participants can help themselves to a scoop. Jane suggested arranging a back-up date in the event of wet weather.

Open Garden – 23rd June.

10. FOTT

Nothing to report.

11. FFOG

- The path contractor has unblocked two land drains, which has created a large pond in West Field.
- Ian and the Volunteers will plant 2,000 saplings over the next couple of weeks. He confirmed that his next application to Woodland Trust would be for low-growing shrubs.

12. Website and Facebook

Julia is engaged in updating the website using input from Geoff, Sue and Hilary.

Ian hoped that the website could be used to attract younger people to the organization. It was agreed that future publicity for events should contain a request for people to get involved.

13. Any Other Business

Ian agreed to be the contact for Laurel Bank Nursing Home in their efforts to combat loneliness. Sue will enquire of Natural England whether a recent donation of twelve trees would fit the criteria for the Reserve.

14. Date of Next Meeting

7.30 pm on Wednesday, 20th March 2019, at the Friends Meeting House.