

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

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Many Bannon, Dave Brookes, Ken Capewell, Tony Finn, Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker (Treasurer), Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Andrew Brennand

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Ian commented that he hadn't decided whether low-growing shrubs would be planted, and Mandy had noticed that she hadn't been listed as an attendee in January's meeting, but had, in fact, attended.

3. Matters Arising

- Hilary reported that Natural England had dropped their requirement for Village Green status. We are now waiting to sign the Deed of Adherence which has been agreed by both NE and our trustees. This is preliminary to receiving LNR status.
- Hilary will speak at the Lancaster Local Plan examination about the aspirational cycle path, and providing a better-quality description of the whole area.
- On behalf of the FA, Hilary has posted a comment on the Council website opposing the plan to develop housing in Freemans Wood. It was agreed that the FA would circulate information on the campaign via our email circular.
- Only £20 has been pledged for the Swimathon. Julia to readvertise, with emphasis on fundraising.

4. Treasurer's Report to 20.3.19

Co-op account February 2019 £51,238

Co-op account March 2019 £29,911

Significant Income – LEF grant claim £15,252

Significant Expenses – Huddleston invoice £35,014

McGilligan mowing - £265

Woodland Trust- £403

Zurich Insurance – £1475

5. Membership

Nothing to report.

6. Playground Report

Graffiti has been removed from the roundabout and multi-frame by a team from the City Council.

One rotten tree stake will be replaced.

The Spring Chicken will be cleaned up.

A resident of Anthony Road, Suzee Tyler, is crowdfunding for a football goalpost. More consideration is required with respect to its impact on local residents, allotment-holders and the electricity substation.

7. Items for Discussion

- There was a discussion about the opening date for the new path. Hilary proposed that the date be deferred until the trees had been checked by Andy Lee, our tree surgeon. It was agreed that the footpath will be taped off in the event of severe weather, as some of the trees are nearing the end of their natural life. Ian agreed to monitor weather reports and close the path until we can make a more permanent arrangement.
- Tony suggested that Jon Barry should be asked to perform an opening ceremony.

8. Education Report

Tony reported that he had made a contact in the Steiner School, and intended to arrange a session for them. However, their group will be too small to qualify for payments under the Stewardship scheme.

9. Events

Easter Egg Hunt – 22nd April

Swimathon – 30th March

Open Garden – 23rd June. Ian will be away and we will need to find a replacement to organise the volunteers.

10. FOTT

Summer Fair – 6th July

Art Exhibition – 26th August

Dave advised that more events may be planned with the Canal and Rivers Trust, and Mandy agreed to include FOTT events in the next newsletter.

11. FFOG

- Sue advised that the Lancaster Meadow Group had requested permission to set moth traps around the Reserve.
- The Lancaster Meadow Group has asked if FA would like to join The Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership and the trustees have agreed to this. There may be the possibility of applying for joint funding and information-sharing.
- Sue confirmed that the results of the Winter Bird Survey would soon be uploaded to the website.
- Ian reported that approximately half of last year's saplings have survived.
- Mick commented on the new pond that had appeared in West Field following the blocking of course land drains.
- Ian and the Volunteers will plant 2,000 saplings over the next couple of weeks.
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12. Website and Facebook

Several pages from the website have been reviewed and revised by Sue, Geoff and Hilary. The work continues.

13. Any Other Business

Hilary reported that the Furness Building Society is offering grants of £150 and asked for suggestions for items that we might apply for.

14. Date of Next Meeting

7.30 pm on Wednesday, 17th April 2019, at the Friends Meeting House.