

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 18th September 2019 at the Friends' Meeting House

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Many Bannon, Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Ian Procter, Mick Short (acting secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Tony Finn, Jane Parker and Shirley Rawsthorne.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Accepted.

3. Matters Arising

- We now have planning permission for all the nature reserve details.
- Woodscape came up and repaired the recent damage to the fingerpost.
- Our LNR status for the nature reserve is still outstanding.
- No issues about the new 5-a-side goal have been reported from Fairfield Green neighbours.
- No Making Spaces application was made as we had no suitable project. Dave explained that they were looking to fund projects other funders were not willing to fund, including seedcorn funding to attract funds from elsewhere.

4. Treasurer's Report to 14.9.19

Co-op account balance at 17.7.19	£53,448
Co-op account balance at 14.7.19	£57,002

Restricted funds:		
	Postcode Lottery	£2,634
	Marsh Community Fund	£500
	Aldcliffe Road Triangle	£2,204
	Sub-total	£5,338

General funds:		£51,664
----------------	--	---------

Total funds	£57,002
-------------	---------

Significant Income:

RPA revenue grant	£3,297
-------------------	--------

(Note: £1,400 then had to be repaid, due to RPA error)

Donation (in appreciation of nature reserve)	£1,000
--	--------

Donations towards Towneley Close handrail	£565
---	------

(Note: a further £100 has been promised, plus an £800 disabilities grant from Lancashire CC)

(Note: £1229 donations have been received for the 5-a-side goal, as well as the £500 grant already reported)

Significant Payments: Four invoices totalling £529.65 for school educational visits

5. Item for Special Discussion

James McDowell talked about his idea for student placements and took questions. James said that the University would fund the placements and that students would benefit from experience which would enhance their CV's. The Fairfield Association would benefit from the diverse skills of 3-4 students working together on projects connected to our work. Initially the project would be about the Fairfield Association itself, its history, growth and management. The issue of editorial control was raised and we were reassured that copyright would remain with the FA and might sign Memorandum of Understanding. James would oversee the project. It was agreed that the FA would benefit from students and we should certainly accept the offer.

5. Membership

One member has died.

6. Playground

It was agreed to replace the much-repaired scramble net (cost = c. £1400) and the metal bollard that the City Council had provided (with a wooden one more like our other bollards [cost = c. £500])

We have been unable to find someone to replace Ken in overseeing the playground repairs but the City Council has offered to do repairs free of labour charges.

7. Newsletter

Julia Salmon has agreed to take over the Newsletter editorship from Mandy Bannon. They are working together on the upcoming newsletter as Julia learns the ropes.

8. Events

- The upcoming Apple Day on 21 September were discussed.
- The Pony Wood footpath will be officially opened (at the Pony Wood viewing point along the path) by Jon Barry at 12 noon on Saturday 12 October. Fizzy wine and cake for all who come along. The usual nature reserve volunteer session will end early for the opening.
- The next Swimathon will be on Saturday 21 March.

9.

FOTT

The FOTT summer fair raised £937 and FOTT's share of the Art Exhibition proceeds was £148.

10. FFOG

- To update our four remaining first aiders and train new first aiders at the same time we are arranging a local First Aid training event, to train a total of 12 people on Wednesday 27 November in the Friends Meeting House. Moreover, the total cost (£370 for the trainer and £76 for the FMH room for a day) will be less than we have been paying to get four people trained in Cumbria.

- It was agreed that the FA scythes could be used free of charge for the scything course Ian is running for local volunteer groups.
- Reports of recent surveys will soon be available on the website. In addition to local birds, flora, butterflies and bees we will now be surveying bats as well.
- We are having a FFOG 'Away Evening' on 17 October at the Toll House Inn, starting at 7.30 pm to discuss how best to manage the nature reserve in general terms in the future. The context for this is the possible ending of Natural England support when our current agreement comes to an end in March 2021 and recent reports of 'rewilding' and other developments elsewhere.

11. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

13. Any Other Business

None.

14. Date of Next Meeting

7.30 pm on Wednesday, 16 October 2019 at the Friends Meeting House.