

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 20th January 2021 on Zoom

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Graham Brandwood, Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Tony Finn, Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Sue Pope, Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Mandy Bannon and Jane Parker.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

- Reference to 'HSE' should read 'HFE'.
- Mandy Bannon was deleted from the list of attendees.

3. Matters Arising

- LNR still awaiting signatures.
- Calendars and cards had been sold out.
- Alex had been contacted about the website and Facebook.

4. Treasurer's Report to 20.1.21

- RPA payments are up-to-date.
- A query was raised about whether the Income figure included bamboo and bird feeders.

Co-op Bank Balances

Bal.	21/10/20	62,051-31
Bal.	20/1/21	73,188-35

Significant Income

22/10/20	£1,000	anonymous donations
9/11/20	£150	legacy D. Herrod
11/2/20	£7,555	KPA - revenue grant
2/12/20	£50	in memoriam D. Herrod.

Net proceeds from sale calendars,
cards, notelets etc £2229 - some
income still to come. eg Arteria

Significant Expenses

1/11/20	£1188	Leicester City Council - climbing net.
11/11/20	£715	Property World -

5. Membership

6 new members. Some long-standing members have become Friends.

6. Playground

A new climbing net and swings have been erected. Confirmation was required that inspections are still being carried out.

Action: Andrew to email Paul Pavli about playground inspections.

7. Items for discussion

It was agreed that funds should be used to improve the footpath between Sunnyside Lane and the Orchard, which was often flooded. There was a discussion about the possible need for drainage. Consultation with the council was required before deciding where to site the new wildflower patch, and the hedges. It was thought that seeds to the value of £50-60 would be planted next year; in the meantime, the grass would be allowed to grow, to ascertain which plant varieties already exists. It was proposed that funds from Beyond the Castle grant would be used to mount an on-line exhibition, which would include the development of a wildflower meadow, some creative writing and artwork. It was hoped that this would have an interactive element, which would have particular appeal to school groups.

There was a discussion about the wording of a new notice for the Reserve's gatepost. Some members thought that the current wording was too heavily weighted towards the livestock; others thought that insufficient emphasis was placed on conservation and habitat protection.

A proposal had been received from a member of the public to create an orienteering course, incorporating the footpaths and the Reserve. Members thought that this would create clustering of participants, which would not be appropriate during the pandemic.

The Millennium Oak has been twinned with a copse in Madagascar. It was agreed that QR code, with a link to the site, should be attached to the Oak.

Action: Committee to look for a second tender to compare with the one from Frank Huddleston.

Action: Sue to recruit a volunteer to carry out a wildflower survey.

Action: Dave Brookes to notify the Council about the exhibition.

Action: Sue and Hilary to circulate the text of the new gatepost notice.

8. Education Report

Nothing to report.

9. Events

A pop-up shop, selling calendars and cards, was a success.

There was a possibility that the Blossom Picnic could take place this year, if Covid restrictions are lifted in time.

10. FFOG

- Lancashire Wildlife Trust are to work on the creation of wildlife ponds, in the hope of attracting crested newts.
- It was hoped to attract nesting lapwings to the Flora field.
- A bird feeding station has been installed in the field margin next to Pony Wood path.
- Work is to begin on improving the hedging in West field.

11. FOTT

Nothing to report.

12. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

13. Any Other Business

It was agreed that window boxes currently stored in the Triangle shed would be planted with wildflowers and will be available to those without gardens in the Fairfield area. There will be a donation bucket when the boxes are given out at the beginning of May.
A small-leaved lime tree will be planted in Pony Wood rather than as a replacement for the Aspen.
Details of a 'Plover Rovers' project to be circulated to the committee..

14. Date of next meeting

Meetings to be alternate months during Covid restrictions. Next meeting, using Zoom, will take place at 19.30 on 17th March 2021.