

## Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 on Zoom

### Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Graham Brandwood, Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Tony Finn, Lucy Hutchinson, James McDowell, Carole Martin, Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker, Sue Pope, Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

### 1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

### 2. Minutes from the last meeting

- Graham Brandwood noted as 'member of the public', in error. Graham is a member of the Fairfield Association.

### 3. Matters Arising

- There had been repairs to the footpath, which included the creation of drainage channels.

### 4. Treasurer's Report to 17.3.21

Bank Account 20.1.21	73,188
Bank Account 17.3.21	74,350

General Funds	69,916
Restricted Funds	4,434

Restricted funds	2,338 Triangle
	1,596 BTC
	500 Community Fund

It was reported that there had been teething problems with the new on-line banking platform. £2 in an old account requires a letter to authorize it's closure and transfer.

### 5. Membership

2 new members, bringing the total to 390. One new friend.

### 6. Playground

Nothing to report.

### 7. Items for discussion

#### a) University Student Projects:

Lucy Hutchinson, Lancaster University's Faculty Placement Officer, and James McDowell, Principal of Graduate College, were introduced. They explained that they hoped to involve students in volunteer placements, building on last year's successful project which resulted in a video production. Some suggestions were:

Video documentary on the volunteering that takes place within FA.

Students taking part in volunteering projects, such as monitoring pondlife.

FA to host environmental field trips, to fill the gaps created by Covid restrictions.  
Facilitate visits from primary schools alongside Tony; storytelling, artwork, creative writing etc.

Lucy advised that she is also involved with a community group – Escape to Make' for local 11-18-year olds. Some suggestions were made about the activities they may be able to take part in:

Drama productions such as open-air Shakespeare.  
Help with Apple Day in the form of drama, crafts and readings, treasure hunt.

Graham suggested that students might wish to apply for a year's voluntary service programme, working towards a John Muir award.

**b) Apple Day**

Apple Day -25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 2pm, with set-up from morning onwards. Carole Martin to organize this event.

**c) The Open Garden**

Call for a volunteer to organise Open Garden. Carole offered to help.

d) **Call for items for newsletter**, to be published around Easter time.

## **8. Education Report**

School visits still suspended due to Covid restrictions, however, Tony reported that schools are keen to resume them, possibly in June.

## **9. Events**

A volunteers' picnic was suggested for the summer months – details to be arranged.

## **10. FFOG**

Sue provided the following report:

- LWT have completed the first stage of the pond creation and improvement project , Graham has dealt with the hibernacula . Very positive comments from local community
- The bird table, installed by Lancaster and District Birdwatching Society, will be removed at the end of the month and it is proposed to reinstate it next winter. Along with the sightings board it has generated a lot interest in the the variety of bird species which can be seen.
- Graham is successfully tackling the smaller bamboo stands in upper Sowerholme and liaising with an Aldcliffe Rd neighbour on a stand which straddles the border.
- A new contractor, Aubrey Hoyles, has been found for the arable field at very short notice. Muck was spread today.

## **11. FOTT**

Rotting posts on the pergola are to be replaced with posts with steel footings.

## **12. Website and Facebook**

Nothing to report.

## **13. Any Other Business**

A compromise had been reached on the wording for the new gatepost signage, it will include Ian's phone number.

Comments were invited on the paper about the role of trustees.

Our supply of notelets has been exhausted. A new set will be produced in time for the Open Garden event.

## **14. Date of next meeting**

Meetings to be on alternate months during Covid restrictions. Next meeting, using Zoom, will take place at 19.30 on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.