

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 16th June 2021 on Zoom

Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Andrew Brennand, , Sue Nieduszynska, Jane Parker, Sue Pope, Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- The footpath drains are still effective and our volunteers will keep the channels clear in future.
- The volunteers have tidied up the vegetation round the play area equipment.
- Open Garden planning is all in place. Jane Parker will organise a float.
- Community library idea (see AOB from last meeting): the volunteers have been consulted over the carpentry needed and feel that their skills are not up to making an effective cupboard..

4. Treasurer's Report to 30.5.21

Co-op 16.6.21 74,276

Funds Restricted:

BTC 1596

FOTT 2338

TPE 783

General 69559

Total 74276

Expenses:

Zurich Insurance renewal 1523

5. Membership

No new members, membership remains at 393.

6. Item for discussion: Playground

Andrew had met with Stef Gray from the City Council. The Playdale quotation was circa £50,000. Stef says the Council has no funds to contribute but will help with advice and installation as well as funding applications. We can also order through them, saving VAT charges. The Council engineer had said that there were better suppliers than Playdale. We need to get quotations from a range of suppliers and Stef will help with this. Her advice would be to use a woodchip safety surface but in the past there were local objections re aesthetics and the possibility of dog excrement being hidden in the woodchip. Stef said she would send us catalogues, arrange meetings with suppliers and attend

meetings. Members thought that most of the current equipment was popular and well used but the current balance beam had a limited use.

We have received a grant of £1k from Tesco Bags of Health. The original bid was for a larger amount, for a marquee and a replacement climbing net (which we have now already replaced). So we will use the money to buy a new marquee, as the £1k will make only a small dent in the amount we need for replacement play equipment.

7. Education Report

No report as Tony was not present, but school visits to the orchard have started again.

8. Events

- Planning for the Open Garden, 3rd – 4th July is well in hand and is being organized by Patricia Clarke, Carole Martin and Sue Nieduszinska. We will be operating within Covid rules and so will be using paper cups etc.
- Apple Day – 25th September: Carole will bring detailed plans to the next meeting.
- Online Meadow Exhibition is nearly there but still delayed because Loura is unwell. There have been 25 entries for the children's art competition.

9. FFOG

Volunteer shed damp issue: Peter Tilley, Sam Edge (architect) and Scott Montgomery have all looked at the problem and the general view is that condensation is the probable cause. So Scott will install vents to improve the ventilation and hopefully cure the problem. If it doesn't work, attention will move to work on the roof itself. Scott will also install a water butt, LED lights and a solar panel, thus hopefully improving the lighting in the shed. The estimate for the work is £1400.

The nature reserve volunteers are gradually enlarging group sizes as Covid restrictions lessen. The power scythe, donated by Peter Tilley, is having a good effect on nettle reduction at Pony Wood.

The window box project has been successful and we may repeat it next Spring.

Fiona Sturgess's plants donation from the Storey Gardens have been planted in Pony Wood and the Wildflower Meadow, as appropriate.

A lot of work is being done on keeping the Long Pads path passable.

10. FOTT

Advertisements for volunteer sessions are starting again. Volunteers are soon to replace the rotting pergola posts. New posts have already been purchased. There will be another Art Exhibition over the summer, when circumstances allow. There will be a Yarn Bombing activity in the autumn.

11. Website and Facebook

Nothing to report.

12. Any Other Business

Ian requested that we have a full agenda again and this was agreed.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 20th of October, in the Friends Meeting House, Covid rules allowing.

13. Date of next meeting

NB CHANGE OF DATE: This is NOW Wednesday 28th July using Zoom, will start at 19.30.