

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on 18th January 2022 on Zoom.

Present: Hilary Short (Chair), Sue Nieduszynska, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker, Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Andrew Brennand, Tony Finn, Dave Brookes

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Nothing to report.

3. Matters Arising

- The action on Ian to obtain costings for a concrete ramp is carried forward.
- The action on Hilary to obtain costings for some boarding is carried forward.
- The events tent is stored in Carole Martin's garage.
- Carol singing and wassailing were cancelled due to Covid.
- Playground is on a 10 year lease. The original lease was signed in 2004 and amended in 2010.

4. Treasurer's Report to 18th January 2022

Bank Balance 18.1.22: £73,395

Bank Balance 16.11.21: £71,660

Funds:

Restricted: £3217 (Gazebo purchased)

General: £75,178

Total: £78,395

Significant Income:

RPA – HLS grant 2021: £7,538

Stationery sales: £2,211

Significant Expenditure:

Gala tents: £1300

LWT: £1992 (work on Alder Pond)

Armer hay: £525

Leases:

- Play area acquired 2004/5 - Possibly renewed March 2014
- Millenium Green/ Orchard acquired 2000 - renewal due 2999
- Fauna acquired 2011. Renewed 2014 - renewal due 2040
- Triangle acquired 2013 – renewal due 2043

5. Membership

Geoff to send out reminders to Friends to renew their subscription.

6. Item for discussion:

- Bike shed: Gina Dowding has suggested that FA may be able to site a bike shed for visitors to the playground. There was a mixed reaction to this suggestion. Hilary to circulate pictures of the shed, when available.

- • Open Gardens: Jon Barry has suggested that locals throw open their gardens during the summer, with FA providing refreshments.
- • Playground: Andrew has had a reasonable response to his leaflet drop. A decision is needed on which items to replace. The Council will bear the cost of the wet pour; Andrew has responsibility for any grant applications, and hopes that parents will raise £10K. Update to be included in the next newsletter.
- • Lone Workers policy: Ian advised that volunteers sometimes work alone in remote parts of the reserve, and suggested a Lone Workers policy. There was a discussion about tools training, and the benefits of working in pairs.

7. Education

Tony has submitted school event forms to Dave, who suggested providing feedback to Natural England about uptake of the scheme.

8. FFOG

- • Glen Swainson, Manager of Gaitbarrows National Nature Reserve, walked round the reserve with a group from FFOG. He is keen to help and advise us when we go into a new funding regime. He is very enthusiastic about what we do and stressed the importance of the area for the local community.
- • Volunteers have done a fantastic job on laying the hedge along the path by Big Meadow.
- • The hedge has been laid at the southern end of the orchard and some tall hazels have been coppiced at the request of neighbours. We will be planting up in the autumn with lowering growing and scrubby plants.
- • On a recent Saturday volunteer session, additional supporters came along and planted 1,000 saplings to create a hedge along the Fauna path. There was very good spirit despite the damp conditions. (In the interests of preserving the view towards Aldcliffe, this will not be a continuous hedge.)

9. FOTT

- • Children have taken an interest in the knitting which is displayed in the Triangle.
- • Coping and pointing repairs are scheduled for March 2022 **Website and Facebook**

Nothing to report.

10. Any Other Business

Sue to contact Winston about modifications to the Cromwell Rd. noticeboard, which has suffered considerable deterioration. It was suggested that a copy of the current newsletter should be displayed on the noticeboards.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting, on Zoom will take place at 7.30pm on 22nd February 2022.