

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on 22nd February 2022 on Zoom.

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Tony Finn, Dave Brookes, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Sue Pope added as an apology. 'Gazebo' and 'event tent' should read 'Gala tent' – for consistency.

3. Matters Arising

The access path from Townley Close has been laid with fresh gravel, which seems to be stable. We have been advised against a concrete ramp by David Dawson.

4. Treasurer's Report to 18th January 2022

Bank Balance 18.1.22 £78,395

Bank Balance 21.2.22 £79,065

Funds:

Restricted 3,217 (Gazebo purchased)

General 75,848

Total 78,395

5. Membership

One new member has joined since last month.

6. Item for discussion:

- Bike shed: Gina Dowding has suggested that FA may be able to make use of a bike shed for visitors to the playground. An update was expected from Gina in the near future.
- There had been a request from a member of the public to host a 'Pizza in the Orchard' event as a fundraiser for a mental health charity. Hilary to advise the organizer of restrictions including noise levels, no alcohol, fires, entertainment licence, etc.
- Jon Barry enquired whether he could advertise his 'Neighbourhood Open Gardens' event in the next Fairfield newsletter.
- Jon Barry proposed to organize a fundraising event. Local people will be invited to open their gardens at a charge of £5, with FA serving refreshments from The Green and the Triangle.
- City Nature Challenge: Lancs. Wildlife Trust and Lancaster City Council are keen to enter the City Nature challenge. It was suggested that FA records its biodiversity using an iNaturalist app, and arrange some guided walks.
- Green Spring Fair: will take place on 7 May 2022, at Friends' Meeting House. FA will not require a table.

7. Playground

There was a detailed discussion about the future of the playground:

- Andrew had consulted five suppliers of playground equipment, and received three quotes; it was thought that total replacement would cost approximately £50k. City Council tendering procedures will apply for procurement over £10k.
- A questionnaire had been issued to 350 local addresses, which had elicited 61 responses. There was a lot of praise for the job we do but most agreed that the playground needed upgrading.
- It was noted that the majority of the playground users were aged 5-8 years.
- Council will recycle our old units which are in good repair.
- There was a discussion about whether the old units are dilapidated enough to qualify for a grant to replace the entire playground, which is the preferred option for the 'Friends' group.
- Council will replace wet-pour more cheaply than contractors.
- Paul Pavli has suggested that the Friends of Fairfield Play Area run a fundraising event around the platinum jubilee, as part of the effort to raise £3k towards the cost.
- It was hoped that grants could be secured to offset some of the cost.
- A proposal for the erection of willow domes had been received; residents of Sunnyside close will be consulted.

8. Education

Nothing to report.

9. FFOG report

Wildlife:

- Record numbers of snipe – 106 in Feb incl. 17 jack. Average for Jan higher than Leighton Moss. Graham suggests of writing an article
- Rare bramblings at the feeding station are causing interest in bird watchers as well as linnets, reed buntings, chaffinch etc. The birds are eating 3kg seed per day. So far this has been supplied by RSPB. We have just bought one 25kg bag of sunflower hearts which are their favourite
- Good liaison with LDBWS – one of their members has made a nest box for stock doves for us – another success story.
- Propose we take part in the City Nature Challenge on 1st weekend of May
- Martin Waine of Butterfly Conservation has applied for continuing funding for the Moreacmbe Bay Facilitation Fund Partnership, which we are part of and which provides us with training and networking opportunities
- 2 new calves.
- FOGG held a review meeting in March to look more broadly at the reserve. Ideas have to be in line with the current NE agreement
- Electric fences have been installed and cows have learnt to avoid them even if not being charged. This means we can protect sensitive areas for example pond edges.
- Volunteers continue to search for the drains which cause the drop in water levels in the pond in West Field

10. FOTT report

Nothing to report.

11. Website and Facebook

Improvements to the website continue.

12. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting, will take place at 7.30pm on 15th March 2022, at **the Friends' Meeting House**.