

## Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Friends Meeting House

### Present:

Hilary Short (Chair), Jon Barry, Dave Brookes, Sue Nieduszinka, Geoff Oliver, Jane Parker, Sue Pope, Ian Procter, Mick Short, Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary)

### 1. Apologies

Tony Finn, Andrew Brennand.

### 2. Minutes from the last meeting

- Correction: Dave Brookes is applying for funding for a bench.
- Correction: Replacement of defibrillator has been affected by supply chain problems.
- Gina Dowding's consultation about bike racks will take place later in the year.

### 3. Matters Arising

- Meadow exhibition is due to run until Friday.
- Sculptor hasn't visited the orchard to collect any wood yet.
- Dave has a card machine with which to process payments and donations.
- Dave has asked the Chief Executive of LCC to push LNR.
- Rick Gould will take over the 'Walk and Talk' events.

### 4. Open Yardens

Chair introduced Jon Barry who gave an update about his plans to showcase local gardens and back yards:

- 22 gardens had been signed up.
- A list of properties with photos and a map will be available, and a QR code will link to the website with help from Julia.
- Visitors will not be walking through houses to access the gardens.
- Refreshments will be available at a few addresses.
- Payment will be by cash, or Dave's new card machine.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

**Balance 26.4.22**                      **79,284**

**Balance 30.4.22**                      **80,944**

**Funds General**                      **79,438**

**Funds restricted**                      **1,507**

**Significant income**              **HMRC**              **1,234**

**Significant expenses**              **Rocket Architects**              **180**

**Lancaster City Council**              **266**

**Signs Express**                      **682**

Jane advised that funds at the Co-op bank could not exceed £85k, the limit per depositor under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. It was also noted that the minutes should reflect a more

thorough consideration of the surplus in order to justify maintaining such healthy reserves, whilst continuing to apply for further grants. This should also include a plan of future spends.

**Discussion about the level of the Association's reserves continued from last month facilitated by the following information provided by Jane.**

An analysis of the accounts for the last six years showed that the average net surplus in General Funds was approximately £6,000 per annum. This figure includes the HLS yearly revenue funding of £7,500. Clearly, if and when the HLS funding is discontinued this will significantly affect the Association's finances.

Spending on the Nature Reserve broadly covers three areas, some of which will have to be financed from reserves. These are

- A baseline budget for the Nature Reserve to cover day to day expenditure of £5,000.
- Unforeseen expenditure.  
The accounts for the last six years showed that the actual average annual expenditure for the Nature Reserve was £7,600. A figure for unforeseen expenditure is obviously difficult to predict. It might for example relate to a fallen tree which has to be professionally removed. It could also relate to opportunities for new projects such as the recent pond project with The Lancashire Wildlife Trust. All additional expenditure is discussed in order to use funds wisely with an eye to future.
- Planned expenditure in future years.  
We have assets which will eventually need replacing or renewing. At the moment for example, we are facing a large bill to replace the Storage Facility roof and we are aware of other work which will eventually have to be financed.

## **5. Membership**

No new members this month.

## **6. Playground**

Some repair required to the play equipment and the surfaces. Advice to be sought from Playdale about self-lube bushes on the swings, which may still be under guarantee.

## **7. Education**

3 school visits have taken place, with four more scheduled for June. Tony to send forms to Dave, along with invoices from his assistant.

## **8. Events**

- Meadow exhibition in the Storey until Friday.

- City Nature Challenge; 14 people took part – plenty of birds spotted, including a red kite. One participant signed up to be a volunteer.

#### **9. FFOG report**

- Cattle to graze off the hay, rather than having it cut.
- Bird tables have been removed until winter.
- Apple ladder has been given away.
- Willows along the Fauna path to be cut and used for domes.
- Ragwort in the hay meadow will not be removed this year. Dave to check the agreement.

#### **10. FOTT report**

Nothing to report.

#### **11. Website and Facebook**

Nothing to report.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

- Maritime Museum have asked to borrow the flax tokens for an exhibition. Many to be approached.
- 16<sup>th</sup> July – tents to be lent to Friends of Freemans Wood.

#### **13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at the Friends' Meeting House.