

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on 16th August 2022 at Friends Meeting House

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Andrew Brennand

2. Minutes from the last meeting

These were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- Query whether Dave has received the forms for the school visits.
- The defibrillator has been replaced.
- Freemans Wood fundraising posters to be removed, as campaign has moved to next phase.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bank balance 27.6.22	78,912
16.8.22	82,322
Restricted funds	Duchy of Lancaster 1,000
	Thompson Trust 2,500
	LEF (951) claim pending
	Triangle 875
	<hr/>
	3,424
General Funds	<hr/>
	78,898
	<hr/>
	82,322

Significant items: LEF grant spent £951 – claim pending

Mower repairs: £377

Increase in room hire tariff due imminently.

5. Membership

No new members this month; two new Friends. 404 members in total.

6. Matters for discussion

Following an altercation in the orchard between a local person, and a group who were stripping the apple trees, it was decided that the usual notices should be amended to include a suggested limit of six pieces of fruit per person, and a phone number in case of queries. It was agreed that members should not be involved in confrontations. It was also agreed that the orchard was looking particularly

fine at the moment, and should also be treasured by the community for its aesthetic appeal rather than merely as a provider of fruit.

Apple Day, 1st October 2022, to be organized by Veronica Dunne with the support of Emma and a few others. Ian to approach his team of volunteers. The event will include participants from the Ukrainian community.

A suggestion to raise funds via 'loose change' donation boxes was declined; our bank is reluctant to handle large volumes of cash.

Locals have expressed their disappointment over the appearance of the 'wildflower' section of the Playground. It was confirmed that the area may take a couple of years to become established. Scything will take place in early September, and children will not be permitted within the patch during the summer until yellow rattle has been established. It was pointed out that the area at the grass at the far end of the play area consists of the concrete garage base which was roughly broken up to allow drainage and then turfed over.

6. Playground

- City Council are aware of the damage to the safety surface beneath the spinner.
- News of grant for improvements expected in October.
- The birch tree is leaning; Sarah has mislaid the bollard key which would enable the tree surgeon to access to the site. We need to ask the City Council for a replacement.

7. Education

Nothing to report.

8. FFOG report

FFOG report for FA Aug 2022

Very enjoyable picnic held on July 30th, thanks to Emma for organising it and Louisa for the music. Presented a framed photo of the orchard to Carol Martin who will be greatly missed.

The arable field has been harvested and Peter and Sue have remeasured the margins as the contractors have cut into them in several areas. The bird feeding station will be reinstated earlier this autumn

We continue to monitor ash die back and this year there has been little change and no trees posing a hazard.

The scything group have been working largely on thistles though areas that we worked hard on last year have little thistle growth this year

We are piloting a change in the organisation of FFOG with alternate meetings held on site. This should facilitate decision making and encourage volunteers who are reluctant to come to formal meetings to attend. Other items will be dealt with by email. Thanks to Anne Greenwood for organising this.

9. FOTT report

Nothing to report.

11. General Updates

19th November – Green Fair. Volunteer required to produce the calendar.

11. Website and Facebook

Work in progress on the website.

12. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting, will take place at 7.30pm on 20th September 2022, at the Friends' Meeting House.