

# Friends of Miss Whalley's Field (FMWF)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 @ 7:30pm  
The Gregson Centre

**Attendees:** Andy Halladay (AH) Chair, Neil Tomlinson (NT) Treasurer, Margaret Wiggins (MW) Secretary & Paul Wiggins (PW), Claire Duff(CD), 13 members.

**1 - Apologies:** Cat Smith, P Cavanagh, S & J Cousins

ITEM	ACTION
<b>2 - Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	
<b>3 - Minutes of previous AGM</b>	Minutes accepted & carried.
<b>4 – Chair's Report of previous 12 months (AH)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loss of Committee members – Ben Greene, Mo Kelly &amp; Stuart Hunt. AH thanked Stuart &amp; Mo for their valuable work for the Committee.</li><li>• Village/Town Application (Dec '14) – Communications still on-going with LC &amp; LCC. Can take several years to confirm. e.g. Fairfield application took 5 years.</li><li>• Local Green Spaces Application (April '15) – will provide special status to further protect the field. 56 sites applied; Our field is one of the 46 to be visited &amp; judged. May take several years.</li><li>• Proposed web site - costs would be more than our limited funds.</li><li>• Nov '15 - Newsletter produced with updates &amp; request for evidence of field use to support our applications. E mailed to members list &amp; some printed copies.</li><li>• Photographic archive of field over time started.</li><li>• Enquiries re association with Gregson centre started.</li><li>• July '15 – Overview of field &amp; its flora by David Redmore. He confirmed the presence of Knotweed &amp; gave us information on the probable future development of the plants &amp; ideas on what could be realistically achieved.</li><li>• July '15 – Management Plan produced &amp; e mailed to members. Part of this identifies the need to eradicate Japanese Knotweed. (see item 6)</li></ul>	<p>New committee members needed. Contact AH for more information.</p> <p>20+ affidavits collected from locals &amp; sent to LCC solicitors to support application.</p> <p>To apply to Lancaster Green Spaces for funding for web site development.</p> <p>To continue to take photographs over the seasons.</p> <p>Continuing to meet &amp; discuss possibilities with Gregson committee.</p> <p>To seek out funding &amp; support to remove Knotweed.</p>

<p><b>Future Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday 8 May – Litterpick &amp; Flower Seed planting @ 10.30</b> – Council to provide bags &amp; removal of litter.</li> <li>• <b>Monday 9 May – Field Use Survey</b> – all day – Plan to do this throughout the year.</li> </ul>	<p>Volunteers needed for this &amp; future surveys. This info will provide useful evidence of its use when applying for funding. Everyone welcome to take part.</p>
<p><b>5 – Treasurer’s Report (NT)</b>  We have very limited funds for activities. These have been used for printing, room hire etc. Costs for setting up a website would be £60 - £70. So far our funds have been provided from members’ donations only.</p>	<p>Need ideas of how to raise funds from events, donations or funding bodies.  Also any member with experience of bid writing would be useful.</p>
<p><b>6 – Japanese Knotweed</b>  PW explained that Lancaster City Council said they don’t have funds to deal with removal of this. It involves complex legalities esp removal. i.e. Allowing it to spread from your land could make you liable to prosecution. It is an offence to deposit, treat, keep or dispose of it without a licence. We had been given a ‘rough quote’ of £3,500 (+VAT) from licensed contractor.</p>	<p>Tim Hamilton-Cox to follow up Knotweed issue with Lancaster City Council.  R Frankland suggested that as the field has a watercourse that feeds into the Lune, The Lune Rivers Trust may be able to help with funding, esp for removal of the Knotweed. Sarah Littlefield to be contacted.</p>
<p><b>7 - CD</b> has set up a FMWF Facebook page &amp; explained how this free social media can be used to collect &amp; show pictures, updates &amp; meeting information etc. Now active on the internet:-  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MissWhalleysField/">https://www.facebook.com/MissWhalleysField/</a></p>	<p>Updates &amp; information will also continue to be sent via e mail &amp; a limited number in printed format.</p>
<p><b>8 – Committee Members</b>  3 members of the original Committee have now retired. More volunteers are required to share the workload.</p>	<p>Anyone who may be interested or like more information about joining the Committee to contact of the current Committee members.</p>
<p><b>9 – AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion from a member that CCTV may be a useful device to monitor field use &amp; numbers.</li> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator at Central High School may be interested in activities on field that children could help with.</li> <li>• Show of hands showed those present thought a membership fee was reasonable. Suggestions from members that a one-off subscription or voluntary subscriptions (perhaps to a specific need) may be more appropriate.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Days – Can apply to advertise own ‘Secret Space’. Events take place 2<sup>nd</sup> week - Sept 11<sup>th</sup>?</li> <li>• Gregson Centre – Need to speak to GCA about FMWF becoming sub-group. Gregson status &amp; charity track record would help with funding bids.</li> </ul>	<p>To invite 1/2 members of GCA to our meetings.</p>
<p><b>8 – Date &amp; Venue for next meeting</b>  Next Committee meeting Wed 10 May, Gregson Centre @7.30pm</p>	