

## Friends of Miss Whalley's Field (FMWF)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 @ 7:30pm  
The Gregson Centre

**Attendees:** Andy Halladay (AH) Chair, Neil Tomlinson (NT) Treasurer, Margaret Wiggins (MW) Secretary, Paul Wiggins (PW), Claire Duff(CD), 15 members.

**Apologies:** Cat Smith, A King

ITEM	ACTION
<b>1 – Welcome, Introductions &amp; Minutes of previous AGM</b>	Minutes accepted & carried. Proposer R. Frankland; Seconder B. Pye
<b>2 – Matters Arising</b>	None from Committee or members.
<b>3 – Chair's Report of previous 12 months (AH)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications for protection of the field :-<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Village/Town Application made in Dec '14 Communications still on-going with LC &amp; LCC. Can take several years to confirm. e.g. Fairfield application took 5 years, Moorside's went as far as the High Court.</li><li>- Lancashire County Council's Green Spaces Status to add further protection, has now been granted. Article in Local Green Spaces leaflet Dec'16. Lancaster Green Spaces website listings at:- <a href="http://www.lancastergreenspaces.org.uk/groups.html">http://www.lancastergreenspaces.org.uk/groups.html</a></li><li>- Fields in Trust Status - F in T have teamed up with the British Legion to mark WWI centenary (2014- 2018). (see item 5)</li></ul></li><li>• Supported another successful Gregson Festival Bonfire Event in Nov '17</li><li>• Jan '17 – FMWF group liaised with council to remove burnt out car on field.</li><li>• Newsletters produced in Oct '16 &amp; March '17. E mailed to members list &amp; some printed copies.</li><li>• As a recently formed group we realised we needed the experience of the Gregson Community Association. We are now a sub group.</li><li>• Revised Management Plan. (see item 6)</li></ul>	P Wiggins now a member of the Gregson board as required by Gregson Community Association. This now gives us charitable status which helps with funding bids.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Parties – Oct '16 to clear rubbish, prune apple orchard &amp; plant daffodils. March '17 – Further clearing &amp; spreading of woodchips to mark out paths near stream, soak up water &amp; improve access. Plans to do more of these.</li> <li>• Liaison with City Council to erect a safety barrier at the open drop at top of stream next to Derwent Rd. Barrier is now in place.</li> <li>• Would like 2 events per year. More Working Parties suggested.</li> <li>• Addressing drainage problems a big issue.</li> <li>• Recent developments at Freeman's Wood on the Quay make FMWF aims &amp; plans more significant.</li> </ul>	<p>Community football Match has been suggested. C Jackson (CJ) suggested liaising with local farmer for help with drainage. Water diviner suggested.</p> <p>Any other ideas for events on the field requested from members.</p>
<p><b>4 – Treasurer's Report (NT)</b> Funds still low but helped by £100 donation from local resident &amp; small donations from other local businesses incl Gregson, Corner Shop, Plumb store, The Brit, Feeholders, Patti B Flower shop &amp; Animal Zone. Wickes &amp; Travis Perkins donated a wheel barrow &amp; gardening tools. Our new Website creation has been funded by a local resident also.</p>	<p>Encourage local business &amp; residents' donations.</p>
<p><b>5 – Centenary Events - Sat 9 Sept; Sun 3 Dec '17</b> Sat 9 Sept – Part of a nationwide Information Day that is organised &amp; promoted by English Heritage. When we plan to raise awareness of the group &amp; promote our event planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.</p> <p>Sun 3 Dec – Main event to be held on the field to mark 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Julian Whalley's death in WWI. To involve the Mayor &amp; other local dignitaries (e.g. Cat Smith) to erect &amp; unveil a Fields in Trust plaque &amp; another. Lancashire Environmental Fund have granted us up to £1000 for a second plaque, bench &amp; boulder to display these. We have contacted the Lancaster Guardian to promote &amp; appeal for a member of public to take a pebble from the field to J Whalley's grave in N France.</p>	<p>Awaiting approval from City Council about the exact site &amp; type of bench &amp; boulder. AH to liaise. Suggestion of a time capsule produced by local school to be buried under the bench. Will need help from local schools. CJ suggested a stone mason who may be able to give us a quote. PW to contact. Also need - Bugler, poetry reading, military presence/cadets. AH to contact Veteran Ex Military.</p>
<p><b>6 - Request for new &amp; re-election of committee members</b> Claire Duff – Prop by B Pye, Sec by R Brockbank; Carried. No Obj or abs. Paul Wiggins – Prop R Frankland, Sec by B. Pye; Carried. No Obj or abs.</p>	<p>Treasurer (NT), Secretary (MW) &amp; Chair (AH) need to be re-elected next year. Anyone interested or would like more information about joining the Committee to contact a Committee member.</p>

### 7 – Hornbeam Trees Kentmere Rd

Caroline Jackson (Green Party Councillor for Bulk Ward) explained the current situation with the large mature Hornbeam trees along the rear of the field behind Kentmere Rd houses. These were neglected & not kept trimmed. As a result the trees of the original hedge in 50's have grown to approx 60' high, & will continue to grow. The 2 Kentmere Rd residents explained the problems they (& others) have with the trees i.e. lack of light & gardens flooding from drains blocked with foliage.

The City Council Tree Officer has explained the best & only action is to coppice them to near ground level. Questions raised about potential problems that coppicing may cause e.g. waterlogging of gardens from increase in water from field. The ultimate decision is with the Council.

2 Kentmere Rd residents to inform the other residents. Anyone who has questions is encouraged to meet one of the Council's Public Realm officers.

Ideas from a landscape gardener for a row of trees within the longer grass at bottom of field to act as another screen for houses & take up water.

### 8 – AOB

None from audience.

**Social Media** - CD gave a demo of FMWF Facebook page & link to the new Website. Request for more photos.

<https://www.facebook.com/MissWhalleysField/>

<http://misswhalleysfield.org.uk/>

**Management Plan** – NT gave an overview of updated Management Plan & any questions from this.

**Overview of Year** – PW gave an overview of the successes of the last year with photos.

Attendees shown images of ideas for bench, boulder & plaques in situ & asked to give their views on which they preferred.

Suggestion that our Facebook page could be used as a means of contacting & informing residents of Kentmere Rd regarding the Hornbeam trees

Other suggestions welcome for additions to Facebook & new Website.