

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 @ 3.00pm  
The Gregson Centre

**Attendees:** Andy Halladay (AH) Chair, Neil Tomlinson (NT) Treasurer, Margaret Wiggins (MW) Secretary, Paul Wiggins (PW), Claire Duff(CD),16 members.

**Apologies:** Cat Smith, Tim Cox-Hamilton, Caroline Jackson

ITEM	ACTION
1 – AH welcomed attendees & introduced the Committee & explained the day's meeting which was to be followed by a fund raising auction.	
2 – <b>Minutes of Previous AGM</b> - 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2017 - agreed as accurate & carried by attendees, with no objections.	Minutes accepted & carried. Proposer - John Cousins; Secunder – Rosie Rushworth.
3 - <b>Matters Arising</b> – Matters arising to be covered in Chair's Report (Item 4).	None from Committee or members.

#### 4 – Chair’s Report of Previous 12 months (AH)

AH emphasised that much of the work undertaken by the Committee happens ‘behind the scenes’. FMWF are aware of the need to keep members of FMWF & locals updated. We do this via our website, Facebook & newsletter updates. He thanked our anonymous donor whose generous financial support enables us to have our own website. The main points of the Chairman’s report were:-

- The Committee have had 7 meetings & held 5 public events, including a pedestrian survey to record the field’s use.
- Our primary Constitution aim remains to increase the level of the Field’s protection as a green space. Our Village/Town Application made in Dec ’14 is still on-going. At the moment the main issue raised by Lancashire County Council lawyers is the outline map of the field as the original trust deed can’t be found. If there is no progress soon then we intend to involve Cat Smith our Local MP & our County Councillor.
- We now have the nationally recognised Fields in Trust Status, which adds a further national level of protection. However as this supersedes our previously accepted Local Green Status, the field has been taken out of the Local Plan as one of the area’s Local Green Spaces. The City Council have said it is to be recognised in the Local Plan which includes other similar green spaces e.g. Williamson’s Park, Fairfield. We need to follow this up with them.
- Involvement of Local Schools – schoolchildren from Ridge Primary & Central Lancaster High Schools were involved with the Centenary Event by making & burying time capsules under the new bench. The capsules have been registered & the plan is to dig them up in 50 years time.

Pupils at CLHS are also improving the orchard as part of their GCSE Horticulture course, under the guidance of their tutor Jon Oliver. CLHS pupils also litter pick on the field.

- In September 2017 we took part in the English Heritage Open Day Events to promote our group & advertise our December Centenary Event.
- November Bonfire Event 2017 – this was another very successful & well attended event organised by the Gregson Festival Group. Members of the FMWF group helped on the night & clearing up the next day.
- December Centenary Event was a successful event attended by Jean Argles (Miss Whalley’s great niece) local dignitaries, Royal British Legion Standard Bearers, a bugler to sound the last post & cadets from LRGS. It marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Miss Whalley’s brother in WW1. The mayor unveiled 2 plaques on a large stone that was erected in the field. The plaque presented by Fields in Trust signifies that the stone is a war memorial. The other plaque explains the history of the field. Thanks were given to local businesses, Mark Hudson Stonemason, Aggregates Ltd, Envirometals and Quay concrete who made the event possible.
- Early 2018 – the Hornbeam trees at the Kentmere Rd end were cut back & coppiced. The trees were brought to everyone’s attention at last year’s AGM when Councillor Caroline Jackson & 2 residents explained the problems.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Visit & overview of field by Tom Dunbar of Lancashire Butterfly Conservation who came to advise on how we could maintain the rarer species & encourage further species of butterflies on the field’s

One of the attendees suggested contacting/researching The National Archives for a copy of the field’s deeds.

<p>diverse habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Party early April – Further clearing &amp; spreading of chippings along paths alongside the stream. Also planting of wild flower seeds at the top of the field. Unfortunately, we failed to complete the task as we only had a small number of volunteers. There are many dog walkers who use the field &amp; paths regularly but don't get involved. We need the group's work &amp; aims to be known more widely.</li> </ul> <p><b>Looking Ahead:-</b>  The Management Plan will be updated on a rolling programme to reflect progress &amp; future aims of how we plan to manage the field.  Work with Schools – extend local schools involvement &amp; use of field.  CLHS plans to improve the area around the stone; Ridge Primary will take part in a 'Pebble Project' to decorate pebbles &amp; the winning stone will be taken to Julian Whalley's grave in Cambrai. Armistice Day – Local schools to be encouraged to use the field &amp; stone, which now has War Memorial Status, as a focus for their Act of Remembrance Event on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.  Improvements/extending footpath from Derwent Rd bus stop to Keswick Road – following feedback from locals, FMWF have started discussions with Lancaster City Council about the possibility of this.  Drainage – Poor drainage appears to be a worsening problem. We had plans to get some professional advice &amp; apply for grants etc, but this is now 'on hold'. The City Council have become aware of similar problems on larger areas above &amp; upstream of Miss Whalley's Field e.g.LRGS &amp; CLHS playing fields. Miss Whalley's Field will be looked at as part of this wider problem and may well mean significant excavation work.</p>	<p>Suggestion for a noticeboard as on Claver Hill &amp; Ridge Estate Community Area/Woodland Area.</p> <p>Does anyone know of a person who could make a similar noticeboard?</p>
<p><b>4 – Treasurer's Report (NT)</b> Neil explained the breakdown of the accounts. We were successful in gaining several small grants last year to boost funds. The money was used to buy the time capsule, bench &amp; plaque &amp; install the (donated) stone. Funds still look healthy but most of these funds are from grants and must be used for the planned, designated work i.e. wild flower planting &amp; maintenance at top of the field.  Hopefully funds will be boosted by the auction to follow this AGM.</p>	
<p><b>6 –</b> No guest speaker - planned speaker unavailable.</p>	
<p><b>7 - Request for new Committee Members &amp; re-election of Officers</b>  Chair person, Treasurer &amp; Secretary are all 3 year roles which are due for re-election this year. Margaret &amp; Neil have both indicated they are willing to be re-elected if no-one else would like to be nominated.  <b>Treasurer: Neil Tomlinson</b> – Nominated by: Dale Bragg; Seconded by: Sheila Cousins. Carried - None against  <b>Secretary: Margaret Wiggins</b> – Nominated by Andrew King, Seconded By: John Cousins. Carried – None against.  <b>Andrew Halladay</b> – no longer wishes to stand as Chair person but would remain as a Committee member.  Nominated by: Stuart Seward; Seconded by: Rosemary Brockbank.  Carried – None against.</p>	<p>John Cousins raised a public vote of thanks to AH as the outgoing Chair person for his work &amp; the progress that has been achieved during his role over the past 4 years.</p> <p>Can Committee members be co-opted?</p>

<p><b>Paul Wiggins</b> willing to stand as Chair person for 1 year.  Nominated by: Sam Rushworth; Seconded by: Andrea King;  Carried – None against.  Paul stressed the need for more Committee members</p>	<p>Plea to all members to increase the number of Committee members we have, &amp;/ offer their support for working parties &amp; events etc.</p>
<p><b>8 – AOB</b>  We need to confirm with the Council which areas of the field we would like to see cut on a regular basis.  Japanese Knotweed is sprayed by the Council, which seems to be working.  Query about the spreading areas of Brambles. FMWF are aware of this &amp; are planning to try to cut it back/keep it to restricted areas.</p> <p><b>Contact/More Information:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:marg.wig@gmx.co.uk">marg.wig@gmx.co.uk</a> – Margaret Wiggins (Secretary)</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/MissWhalleysField/">https://www.facebook.com/MissWhalleysField/</a></p> <p><a href="http://misswhalleysfield.org.uk/">http://misswhalleysfield.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>MW – to contact new people attending AGM &amp; check they wish to be added to our members e mail list, &amp; send them our last March Update.</p>