

Minutes of 20th Annual General Meeting of Friends of Anderton and Marbury (FoAM)
held at
Comberbach Memorial Hall on Monday 20th May 2019.

The Chair, Alan Redley, opened the meeting at 7.45pm. The meeting was quorate, with 48 Members attending.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Mike Allen, Roy Leigh, Howard Fearn, Clive Brookes, John Gilbody and Anna and Ian Cooper.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

As agreed in previous years, Minutes of the last meeting (19th meeting) had been posted on FoAM's website (www.foam.merseyforest.org.uk). There were no amendments and the Minutes were accepted by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the group had reached a significant milestone, with today's meeting marking the 20th Anniversary following its formation on January 27th 1999.

The Chair then presented his review of the year using a short slide show, which started by showing how the group has gone from strength to strength, with membership growing from a handful of people who met in 1999 to around 250 members now.

At the time of the previous AGM, the group was in the process of registering with the Charity Commission. This application was successful, and the group was registered as a charity on 29th May 2018.

Following this, we made a successful application to HMRC and were recognised by HMRC as a charity on 1st August 2018. This gives FoAM the general tax reliefs available to charities.

Over its first 20 years, FoAM has successfully completed more than 30 projects and has brought more than £200,000 of investment into Northwich Woodlands, by using £15,000 of its own investment to leverage £185,000 of external investment. In addition, FoAM has facilitated at least a further £100,000 investment from the Council.

Turning to the current year, the slides illustrated another successful year of projects. The group has completed a project to replace the viewing platform at the Dragonfly Pond, together with an interpretation panel and leaflet to give visitors more information about dragonflies and damselflies.

The group has also been involved with two projects to improve bio-diversity - a project to renovate three ponds behind Haydn's Pool and a project to dig scrapes at Dairy House Meadows. Finally, as part of its work to improve understanding of the local area, several volunteers excavated the foundations of Marbury Lodge (the former toll cottage on Marbury Lane near the canal bridge).

This year's events programme has again been varied. It has included events and guided walks which enabled visitors to identify and learn about the moths, birds, wildflowers and pond life found on site. Other events taught visitors new skills, such as making small items of furniture out of natural materials and making floral decorations using materials collected in the Woodlands.

A highlight was a visit to the Woodlands as part of Mental Health Awareness Week by Clare Moriarty, Permanent Secretary from DEFRA. This gave an opportunity for us to explain the role of volunteers in the Woodlands and the health benefits of volunteering.

Another highlight was more than 650 Year 1 pupils from 21 Northwich Primary Schools taking over Marbury Park for a day. The Chair thanked the volunteers who helped the event organisers make the day a huge success.

Much of the success of the Group stems from partnership working and the Chair thanked all the organisations involved for their support over the year.

In closing his review of the year, the Chair said that Cllr Louise Gittins (Deputy Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council) had been planning to attend our 20th Anniversary AGM, but was unable to be here as a result of the impending election. However, she sent the following message to the group:

My congratulations to the group for surviving so long and being an inspiration for other groups and I have to say officers and councillors.

Volunteers are the life and soul of the borough: in these times of financial challenges they help us and other organisations to keep going.

However, for me it's more than that, it's the health and wellbeing benefits that this type of volunteering brings: bringing people together for a common aim; making new friends; physical activity to name but a few.

It's a real partnership and you can't underestimate how much we value your vital contribution to our society. Congratulations on the wonderful achievement.

*Best wishes,
Louise*

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by David Bullock, who summarised the main items and said that once again Steve Penwill had kindly checked the accounts.

The Chair thanked David for presenting the Report.

The Chair said he also wished to pay his personal best wishes to Steve for a speedy recovery from illness and to record his thanks for the help Steve gave with the application for Charity Commission Registration and the subsequent successful application to HMRC for FoAM to be recognised by the Revenue as a charity.

The Treasurer's Report showed that the group's finances continue to be robust and the Report was accepted unanimously by Members. A copy of the Financial Statement is attached to these minutes.

6. Report from Membership Secretary

Debbie Antrobus presented the Membership Secretary's Report.

Membership numbers are currently:

48 Life Members

82 Individual Members

61 Household Memberships

Assuming conservatively that Household Membership is 2 Members, this represents a total of 252 members.

There were no questions and the Chair thanked Debbie for the Report.

7. Election of Officers and Committee for 2019/20

The Chair reported that following successful registration as a charity, Committee members have signed Trustee eligibility declarations and are recorded on the Charity Commission website as Trustees of the Group.

The Chair also reported that since the previous AGM, Frances Findlay has taken on the role of Secretary, Anna Cooper and Graham Walker have resigned from the Committee and Howard Fearn, Melanie Bradley and Stephen Costa have joined the Committee.

The Chair said he wished to place on record his thanks to Anna Cooper and Graham Walker, both of whom continue to support the work of the Group. He also thanked all the Committee and volunteers who give up

their time to make the work of the group so successful and finally to Dave James who continues to give his full support to the Group, which he's done since its formation 20 years ago.

The Chair then sought offers from anyone present at the meeting to put their names forward for election to the Committee or for election to an Officer role. There were no offers, so the meeting proceeded to a vote on the following resolution:

To Elect Officers and Additional Committee Members for 2019/20 as follows:

Officers

<i>Alan Redley</i>	<i>Chair and Projects and Grants</i>
<i>David Bullock</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Frances Findlay</i>	<i>Secretary</i>

Additional Committee Members

<i>Mike Allen</i>	
<i>Debbie Antrobus</i>	<i>Membership Secretary</i>
<i>Melanie Bradley</i>	
<i>Stephen Costa</i>	
<i>John Ellaby</i>	
<i>Howard Fearn</i>	
<i>Jim Jeeves</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
<i>Mary Jeeves</i>	<i>Publicity</i>
<i>Roy Leigh</i>	
<i>Joanne Redley</i>	<i>Newsletter</i>
<i>Brenda Yates</i>	

Ex-officio Members (not Trustees and with no voting rights)

<i>Ranger</i>	<i>Cheshire West and Chester</i>
<i>Clare Olver</i>	<i>The Mersey Forest</i>

The resolution was proposed and seconded and was passed unanimously by Members

8. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and said the meeting would be followed by a Quiz and supper which was expected to be attended by 61 people. FoAM's regular quiz master, John Gilbody, is on a birding trip to Latvia and Estonia, so is unable to be with us tonight. John has prepared the Quiz and Dave Bullock has offered to do the honours and read out the questions.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Friends of Anderton & Marbury
Treasurers Report, 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019

Income & Expenditure		2018-19	2017-18
Events and projects:			
Events			
Income	1,716.97		1,749.72
Costs	(2,143.86)		(1,780.01)
	-----	(426.89)	----- (30.29)
Projects			
From provisions for dragonfly pond	1,200.00		
Costs	(6,848.56)		(4,330.32)
	-----	(5,648.56)	----- (4,330.32)
Workshop			
Income	1,345.00		1,990.00
Costs	(891.52)		(3,035.77)
	-----	453.48	----- (1,045.77)
Other Income:			
Subscriptions (net)	1,346.00		1,145.00
Donations from talks and walks	413.00		301.00
Donations	2,841.62		2,012.00
Logs, charcoal etc	426.00		1,102.50
Interest	30.49		28.92
Room hire	1,692.00		1,085.00
		6,749.11	5,674.42
Other Expenditure:			
General expenditure	(900.03)		(934.71)
BTCV membership & Insurance	(379.60)		(379.60)
	-----	(1,279.63)	----- (1,314.31)
Net Income		(152.49)	(1,046.27)

Assets & Liabilities		31-Mar-19	1-Apr-18	movement
Assets				
Bank account - General	10,905.71		11,552.62	(646.91)
Bank Account - Other	15,194.95		15,164.46	30.49
Cash	0.65		1.56	(0.91)
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Total Assets	26,101.31		26,718.64	(617.33)
Liabilities/Provisions				
Unpresented cheques	(606.00)		(146.84)	(459.16)
Provision for Educational	(3,580.50)		(3,580.50)	0.00
Provision for Life Membership	(3,064.00)		(2,788.00)	(276.00)
Dragon Fly Pond			(1,200.00)	1,200.00
Total Liabilities	(7,250.50)		(7,715.34)	464.84
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Net Assets	18,850.81		19,003.30	(152.49)
Funding				
Prior year net funding	19,003.30		20,049.57	(1,046.27)
Current year net income	(152.49)		(1,046.27)	893.78
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Total funding	18,850.81		19,003.30	(152.49)

Signed *Dave Bullock*
Dave Bullock (Treasurer)

Date: 10th June 2019

Signed *Steve Penwill*
Steve Penwill (Auditor)

Date: 11th June 2019