

**Minutes of 22nd Annual General Meeting of Friends of Anderton and Marbury (FoAM)
held by Zoom on
Monday 17th May 2021.**

Introduction

The Chair, Alan Redley, opened the meeting at 7.00pm. The meeting was quorate, with 25 members joining by Zoom. In addition, one member had tried to join the meeting, but had been unable to connect. Two ex-officio Committee members, Dave James and Clare Olver, were also present at the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everybody and thanked them for logging in to FoAM's 22nd AGM, which was being held for the first time by Zoom. He asked everyone to mute their speaker to avoid feedback. Anyone wishing to speak was asked to raise their hand and, if the Chair failed to spot it, to turn their speaker back on and interrupt!

The Chair reflected on the challenging circumstances which have arisen from the pandemic. When planning for this year's AGM he had been reminded that he was on holiday in March last year when the first signs of the pandemic had begun to appear. By the time he got home, the first lock down had started.

Shortly afterwards, FoAM's Committee decided it was not possible to hold the AGM planned for Monday 18th May 2020. Little did we know that more than a year later, things would still not have returned to normal. So here we are, trying to get back to some semblance of what has become the new normal, by holding this year's AGM via Zoom.

The documents for today's meeting had been posted on FoAM's website and, in addition, Jim Jeeves had sent an email reminder to all members on Saturday, with all the documents attached.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Frances Findlay, Roy Leigh, Howard Bentham, Helena O'Byrne, Sue Smith, Dee Langley, Elna Harrison, Bev Owen, Barbara Firth, Jonathan Wills and Christa Chadwick.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

As agreed in previous years, Minutes of the 20th AGM held on 20th May 2019 had been posted on FoAM's website (www.foam.merseyforest.org.uk). The Chair said that, because we had been unable to hold our 21st AGM last May, the Minutes of our 20th AGM had not yet been approved by members.

In the absence of being able to hold the 21st AGM, there are no minutes for that meeting. However, the Chair had put a note on FoAM's website on 18th April 2020 to let members know that all the Trustees who were on the Committee at the time would remain in post to enable the group to continue to function.

Members had also been notified that Jim Jeeves had taken over the role of Membership Secretary from Debbie Antrobus. In addition, Frances Findlay would have completed her 3-year term as Secretary at the 21st AGM and Mike Allen took over the role of Secretary in August 2020.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Debbie and Frances for their work in the above roles.

There were no amendments, and the Minutes of the 20th AGM were accepted. The meeting also accepted the other notes referred to above, which had been circulated in the absence of being able to hold a 21st AGM.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the Committee had been unable to hold meetings in person, but like so many other organisations, had managed to hold regular meetings via Zoom. Although it is not ideal, it has at least enabled the Committee to continue to move forward.

Towards the end of 2020, the Marbury Ward Councillors Norman Wright, Phil Marshall and Lynn Gibbon, had awarded some of their Members' Budgets to FoAM, which had enabled the Group to purchase two rechargeable hedge trimmers. These are much lighter and easier to use than the existing petrol driven machines and will be put to good use as soon as normal volunteering arrangements restart.

We were all very sad to hear of the death of Liz Bentham. Liz had been involved with FoAM for many years and will be missed by us all. You will see in our accounts that we have received many generous donations in memory of Liz and volunteers will be meeting soon to decide on a fitting tribute to the varied activities she had undertaken as a volunteer in the Woodlands.

We had only been able to hold one event during the year and the Chair thanked Jim Jeeves for organising a very successful photographic competition. We received a large number of entries and the quality of photographs was exceptional. He also thanked Nick Jones, Andy Harmer and Simon Davies for giving up their time to act as judges. Jim has arranged for the entries to be put into a photo album and a copy is in the Rangers' Cabin for viewing when circumstances permit.

Looking forward, the Committee are hopeful that a series of Family Events will be possible during the summer holiday period and Mel Bradley is working with Clare Olver from The Mersey Forest to make the arrangements. Mel and Clare are re-working the event formats to reduce social mixing and make them as safe as possible. We hope the events will be able to go ahead and feel sure they will be well received by parents and children alike.

The Chair explained that, over the past few years, it had become clear that the simple spreadsheet we had been using for our accounts was no longer fit for purpose. Steve Penwill had taken on the task of researching suitable accounts packages and the Committee accepted his recommendation to adopt MoneyMinder, which is a package designed specifically for non-profit organisations.

We have purchased a one-year subscription to MoneyMinder, and Steve has inputted data for 2020/21 into the package. The Financial Statement for the year is in the new format which the package produces. The Chair took the opportunity to thank Steve for all his work on this new package as well as for checking this year's accounts.

During the various lockdowns, there have been several examples of individuals continuing to play a role in maintaining the appearance of the Woodlands. An outstanding example of this is the litter picking which Diana Whipp and others have continued to do on an almost daily basis.

The Chair completed his report by thanking Dave James for his tireless work in the Woodlands in the most challenging of circumstances.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by David Bullock, who summarised the main items.

The Chair thanked David for presenting the Report.

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

Jim Jeeves presented the Membership Secretary's Report.

Membership numbers are currently:

57 Life Members
72 Individual Members
59 Household Memberships.

This gives a total of 188 memberships.

Assuming conservatively that each Household Membership is 2 members, these 188 memberships represent a total of 247 members.

There were no questions and the Chair thanked Jim for the Report. With the lockdown and other restrictions impacting on the Group's ability to hold events and other activities, it is particularly pleasing that so many members have continued to support the Group and the Chair thanked all present for their support.

7. Election of Officers and Committee for 2019/20

The Chair said the Committee is always looking for new members. The formal commitment is not too onerous and involves attending six committee meetings and the AGM each year. Anyone interested can contact a committee member for more information.

The Chair said that John Ellaby had announced his intention to stand down from the Committee. He thanked John for his contribution and was pleased to report that both John and Christina will continue to volunteer in the Woodlands.

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 2021/22 as follows:

Officers

<i>Alan Redley</i>	<i>Chair and Projects and Grants</i>
<i>David Bullock</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Mike Allen</i>	<i>Secretary</i>

Additional Committee Members

<i>Debbie Antrobus</i>	
<i>Melanie Bradley</i>	
<i>Stephen Costa</i>	
<i>Howard Fearn</i>	
<i>Frances Findlay</i>	
<i>Jim Jeeves</i>	<i>Membership Secretary and 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 Oliver</i>	<i>The Mersey Forest</i>

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

8. Any Other Business

In answer to a question from a member, Dave James confirmed that Health Walks are taking place. The walks start from Marbury Lodge at 09.45am and last about 1.5 hours.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and said he hoped that members had found the experience of holding the meeting by Zoom to be an acceptable way of continuing to make progress in these unprecedented times. He looked forward to next year's AGM being able to be held in the more usual format of the AGM followed by a Quiz and supper.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

The Friends of Marbury Country Park and Anderton Nature Park FY 2020

Annual Report

01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021

Events	Income	Expenses	Year to Date	Net Budget	More/-Less
Summer Family Event 2019	-	£707.88	(£707.88)	-	(£707.88)
Photography competition	-	£100.48	(£100.48)	-	(£100.48)
Other events	-	-	-	-	-
Events Totals	-	(£808.36)	(£808.36)	-	(£808.36)
Projects	Income	Expenses	Year to Date	Net Budget	More/-Less
Elm Trees project	-	£2,430.00	(£2,430.00)	-	(£2,430.00)
Other projects	-	£481.99	(£481.99)	-	(£481.99)
Projects Totals	-	(£2,911.99)	(£2,911.99)	-	(£2,911.99)
General Income	Income	Expenses	Year to Date	Net Budget	More/-Less
Donations					
Donations from talks & walks	£100.00	-	£100.00	-	£100.00
Donations re Liz Bentham	£2,265.00	-	£2,265.00	-	£2,265.00
Donations re Oscar	£35.00	-	£35.00	-	£35.00
Other donations	£460.00	-	£460.00	-	£460.00
Donations Totals	£2,860.00	-	£2,860.00	-	£2,860.00
Subscriptions					
Subscriptions - Annual	£1,134.00	-	£1,134.00	-	£1,134.00
Subscriptions - Life	£720.00	-	£720.00	-	£720.00
Subscriptions Totals	£1,854.00	-	£1,854.00	-	£1,854.00
Sales income					
Wood products	£693.90	-	£693.90	-	£693.90
Timber	£120.00	-	£120.00	-	£120.00
Wood allotments	£240.00	-	£240.00	-	£240.00
Room Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Other sales income	-	-	-	-	-
Sales income Totals	£1,053.90	-	£1,053.90	-	£1,053.90
Interest	£9.59	-	£9.59	-	£9.59
General Income Totals	£5,777.49	-	£5,777.49	-	£5,777.49
General Expenditure	Income	Expenses	Year to Date	Net Budget	More/-Less
Newsletter	-	£159.00	(£159.00)	-	(£159.00)
Workshop materials	-	£512.98	(£512.98)	-	(£512.98)
Workshop expenses	-	£479.73	(£479.73)	-	(£479.73)
General Expenditure Totals	-	(£1,897.49)	(£1,897.49)	-	(£1,897.49)

General Expenditure	Income	Expenses	Year to Date	Net Budget	More/-Less
Office expenses	-	£296.71	(£296.71)	-	(£296.71)
Subscriptions & insurance	-	£341.60	(£341.60)	-	(£341.60)
Other costs	-	£107.47	(£107.47)	-	(£107.47)
General Expenditure Totals	-	(£1,897.49)	(£1,897.49)	-	(£1,897.49)
Grand Totals					
	£5,777.49	(£5,617.84)	£159.65	-	£159.65

Bank Account Balances	01/04/2020	31/03/2021	Last reconciled	Summary for the Period	
Barclays Current	£12,341.32	£12,491.38	31/03/2021	Starting Total	£27,566.67
Barclays Savings	£15,225.34	£15,234.93	31/03/2021	Income	£5,777.49
Cash in hand	£0.01	£0.01	Never	Expenses	(£5,617.84)
Totals	£27,566.67	£27,726.32		Ending Total	£27,726.32

Submitted by:

Name: DAVE BULLOCK Signature: 

Date: 17/05/21

CHECKED BY:

S. Pennie



Provisions and Reserves List at 31 March 2021

Life Membership provision	£3,484.00
Liz Bentham memorial	£2,265.00
Total Provisions and Reserves	£5,749.00
Working Capital	£21,977.32
Cash and bank Balance	£27,726.32