**FRIENDS OF TAWD VALLEY**

Minutes of meeting held on 4th April 2019

PRESENT: P. Campbell, E. Brookes, D.Brookes, Z. Hilton, T.Lake, P. Meadows, R. Newby, C. Jones, Y. Gagen, K. Rea, R. Cooper, C. Dixon, C. Cooper

APOLOGIES: C. Bankier

1. Yvonne Gagen, Chair, welcomed the those present and noted apologies.
2. Minutes of last meeting passed as true record
3. Matters arising- dealt with as agenda items
4. Tawd Valley Working Group Meeting update- Paula Campbell reported
5. Cycleway tender has been submitted
6. Whalleys Development monies have been released and work will begin shortly on footpaths and ponds
7. Fishing Lake- working with partners this will become “Fish The Lake” and local angling societies will hopefully become involved
8. BMX Track- very slow progress on this as specialist companies do lots of work nationally and internationally so difficult to pin them down. Efforts will continue and looking to have community input to any plans drawn up
9. RC reported that testing of Tawd River water quality continues undertaken by United Utilities and the Environment Agency
10. Discussion around events that could be organised to advertise/promote Tawd Valley to local community. After some discussion it was decided that as a first event a “Guide Walk” of the Valley be organised in July or August. One or two members of the Group are qualified Guides/Leaders and contact will be made with local heritage groups to get some advice from them to inform the walk.
11. FOTV Annual General Meeting- the Group usually meets on the first Thursday of the month but May 2nd was not convenient for several members. May 16th was AGREED as date of the AGM. PC will contact the Ecumenical Centre to confirm availability of a room for 7pm that day. EB AGREED to prepare wording of press release to be sent to The Champion to encourage people who are not members of FOTV to attend and become involved. The AGM itself will be a short as possible but will be the time when Officers of the Group will need to be appointed. AGREED that Officer Profiles will go out with the agenda for the AGM.
12. Recent activities-
13. April was national Big Clean Up month. On April 6th members of the group and other volunteers joined with West Lancs Ranger Service to clean up the area of the Tawd behind the local Library and round towards the amphitheatre. It was a very successful session with around 25 people turning up filling multiple rubbish sacks and retrieving trolleys, bikes and sundry items from the river.
14. Fishing Lake- Rangers and Team Tawd volunteers have been installing steps down to the lake
15. Lots of tree work been undertaken to open up ground vegetation to aid deer grazing
16. Friends of Ormskirk Clock Tower Rotary donated two lime trees to the valley
17. Other matters for discussion. (Chris from the Ranger Service was present to offer advice and guidance on matters raised under this point).
18. General discussion around events and/or projects that FOTV will need to get moving on to encourage use of the Valley. In May there is the Skem Fest at The Buffs so a stall run by FOTV would be arranged. Other events could include Tai Chi, calendar competition (photographic competition), quiz night at Miners Peg
19. Publicity materials are essential for Group to be a success. TL has been in touch with local printer and drafted up some leaflet and post card ideas. But there will be a cost attached to that and at present Group has no funds. KR said he would contact Tawd Valley Lions Group to see if they would agree to sponsor FOTV for these costs.
20. ZH to go ahead with designing and opening an FOTV Facebook page
21. Group need to start thinking about and planning bigger events for next year. Public Liability Insurance will need to be arranged and the Local Authority would probably be able to do risk assessments of any events organised.
22. Group was informed by the Treasurer that Santander Bank do offer community accounts that appear suitable for FOTV. The Bank does require named signatories plus names of three other committee members. Meeting AGREED who those names will be. The Constitution of the FOTV may need to be slightly amended to reflect some of the requirements of the account being applied for.

There being no further business everyone was thanked for their attendance and contributions.