

Minute of the Fairfield Association Annual General Meeting held on 7th June 2006 at The Friends Meeting House.

Present: Ann Duncan (Treasurer), Sid Duncan, Oliver Fulton, Catherine Haines, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, Henry Hicks (Vice-Chair), Elaine Lewis, Moyra Milner, Mary Ridley, Michael Sheppard (Chair), Hilary Short (Secretary), Mick Short, Adrienne Wallman, Elaine Weedy, John Weedy.

Matters Arising:

- i) Michael described the 'stepping stone' project to celebrate our achievements over the last ten years.
- ii) Concerns about membership numbers was deferred to the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's report: Ann circulated the accounts for the year. We received £510.92 in grants and donations and made £1844.03 by our own fundraising efforts. Membership fees were down from £170 to £118. The fund restricted to usage on the play area which will enable us to pay the 5% retainer on the installation work when the job is signed off and also to pay for any necessary repairs stands at £2894.95. At the end of the financial year there was £8991.43 in our account. Ann reported that a scheme to collect subscriptions by Standing Order was underway.

Mary Ridley asked if any repairs had been needed to the play equipment and Michael reported, that although there had been few problems, there had been some damage during the year.

Oliver Fulton asked why the profits from Fun Day were down by almost £1000 from the previous year. Ruth Haigh said that it very much depended on the size of the grant obtained. There was then some discussion as to whether we needed a marquee which is an expensive item. It was decided that it was needed both for outward show and for indoor shelter. Mick Short made the point that the Fun Day does need to raise substantial amounts of money in order to justify the outlay of money on it to the Charity Commission.

Chair's Report:

Michael reported a year of gentle progress and maintenance work and a year which saw us closer to achieving the FAUNA project which is our next target. This year's Fun Day will include a competition to design a logo for the FAUNA project.

As examples of some of the years events, Michael commented on the Fun Day which was well organised by Ruth Haigh, Wendy Ford and Elaine Weedy and included a wide range of activities and also of the success of the stall at the castle on bonfire night which was organised by Helen Hicks. Our carol singing saw the best turn out to date and Michael also thanked Helen and Henry Hicks for the post carols warm-up which is fast becoming a tradition.

Michael said that the playground, which was completed last year, had had relatively few issues and required little maintenance. He thanked Henry for his regular inspections which enable us to be sure that the area is safe for the children who play in it. Michael said that he felt that there was a great spirit of ownership in the area and that this accounted for a good deal of our success. He also acknowledged our

debt to our local Community Officers who provided strong support when it was needed.

This year has seen the development of an improved website which should enable us to maintain stronger links with our local community. It will also enable people to pay their subscriptions and make donations more easily. We are also developing a Standing Order scheme which should also help to maintain membership. Michael thanked John Weedy and Oliver Fulton for their work on this new development and also Simon Greaves for his work on the old website. He also thanked Ann for her work on the Standing Order scheme.

Finally Michael thanked Mick and Hilary Short for their work on the Millennium Green and the FAUNA projects.

Election of Officers

The following were re-elected unopposed:

Chairman Michael Shepherd

Vice –Chairman: Henry Hicks

Treasurer: Ann Duncan

Secretary: Hilary Short

Mary Ridley asked whether or not we should have a Publicity Officer. It was agreed that we have had a Publicity Officer in the past but that at present we don't need the additional post.

FAUNA project

Mick Short gave a short presentation on the FAUNA project for the benefit of new members. He displayed our current plan for the area which should shortly receive outline planning permission. There will be an informal public consultation on Fun Day and we will also ask for feedback via the website. We hope to have an official public consultation in the Friends Meeting House in September. We will also consult those most affected by our plans, the people living in Cromwell Road and Aldcliffe Road, and try and find out what difference the Millennium Green has made to those whose houses back on to this area.

John Weedy asked how much the project was likely to cost. At present it is impossible to say, but the cost will certainly be large. We will be making a joint bid with LGGs and the allotment holders.

AOB

- a) Elaine Weedy apologised for the fact that the next committee meeting could not be at 10, Sibsey Street as arranged. Ann and Sid Duncan volunteered to have the meeting at Brook House.
- b) Elaine Weedy announced a rota meeting for Fun Day on 8th June at 8 pm. Ann Duncan said she would attend as Treasurer.
- c) Mick said that work on the Millennium Orchard will now take place on Saturday 24th June.

Website

The new website was on show for those interested. It will be fully accessible and in line with all current legislation. There will be a members-area with up-to-date news and a facility for paying subscriptions and making donations. We are also hoping to make it as interactive as possible and it will be possible to comment on the FAUNA plans via the web and there will be competitions eg for photograph of the month of anything in the Fairfield area. The address is www.fairfield.org

John Weedy handed out forms so that people at the meeting interested in accessing the members-area could supply a username and password to enable them to do so.

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