

Minute of the Fairfield Association Annual General Meeting held on 21st May 2007 at The Friends Meeting House.

Present: Emily Atherton, Gordon Allings, Andrew Brennand, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Simon Gershon, Catherine Haines, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, Henry Hicks (Vice-Chair), Andrew Jotischky, Jude Naish, Rebecca Procter, Mary Ridley, Michael Sheppard (Chair), Hilary Short (Secretary), Mick Short, Aline Torday.

Apologies: Mandy Bannon, Ann and Sid Duncan, Adrienne Wallman, Elaine and John Weedy.

Matters Arising:

- i) Michael thanked Henry for his continuing work on the 'stepping stone' project which celebrates our achievements over the last ten years. The metal is now cut and welded and filling is in progress.

Treasurer's report: The annual accounts were described by Mick Short, in the absence of the Treasurer (Ann Duncan). It was a year when our outgoings exceeded our receipts but at the end of the year we were £8,171.35 in funds. Oliver Fulton highlighted the fact that money had been spent on the FAUNA project which was still at the planning stage. Mick thanked Ann for all her hard work.

Chair's Report:

Michael spoke briefly about each of our projects. He said that the playground, had had relatively few issues and required little maintenance. There had been few problems, and those that had arisen had been resolved quickly with the support of our local Community Officers. 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. He reported a year of progress and maintenance work which saw us closer to achieving the FAUNA project which is our next target. There was a proposal that the Millennium Green and Community Orchard Trust should become the responsibility of the Fairfield Association this proposal would shortly be put to the meeting.

As examples of some of the years events, Michael commented on the Fun Day which was was a great success and raised a record amount of money, yet again. Thanks were given to Ruth Haigh and all those involved in the organisation and on the day. Our carol singing was also a great success.

Finally Michael thanked all Fairfield Association officers for their hard work during the year. Mick Short proposed a vote of thanks to Michael.

Membership Fees:

There were two proposals:

- i) to increase membership fees to a more realistic amount
- ii) to recognise the importance of family participation by offering family membership.

It was agreed unanimously to increase individual membership fees to a minimum subscription of £5 and also agreed unanimously to offer a family membership fee of a minimum subscription of £10 per family.

The Fairfield Millennium Green and Community Orchard Proposal

The meeting was asked to endorse a proposal from the Millennium Trust to move towards the amalgamation of The Fairfield Association and the Fairfield Millennium Green and Community Orchard Trust. Both the Fairfield Association and the Millennium Green and Community Orchard had been in touch with the Charities Commission and there was no problem with merging two organisations. However, in the case of the Fairfield Association, there was a requirement that the merger should be approved at the AGM. In the case of the Trust, there was no requirement that they should be bound by opinion expressed at their AGM, however, their deeds did not have a clause covering merger and the passage of responsibility. Any change will need to be reported to the Charities Commission.

The discussion which followed included the following points:

Helen Hicks pointed out that there could be problems if the existing trustees vetoed the proposal.

Tony Finn said that it was clear that action needed to be taken on the Orchard and the Trust would not veto the proposal.

Mick Short pointed out that we were now in a different period of administration and care. The original funding had been spent on the Millennium Orchard.

Although, care was needed over the details, the current need was to resolve the issue of short term funding, appoint some trustees in common and to ensure that the practical matters involved in the day to day running of the Orchard could go ahead in a sensible way.

Andrew Jotischky said that there would need to be a period of transition to enable grant monies to the Orchard to come in.

Mick Short pointed out that the Fairfield Association already ring fences money that belonged to the Orchard. We already have £150 in promises from Friends of the Orchard.

Oliver Fulton made the point that work parties in the Orchard were now twice monthly.

It was agreed unanimously that the Fairfield Association should endorse the proposal:

“that the two organizations might seek to merge, with the intention that closer and more structured links between the two bodies will enable the local community to work together effectively to manage and maintain the Millennium Green, by putting the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of members of the community to their best use..”

A final AGM or EGM is needed to conclude the process.

Election of Officers

The following were re-elected unopposed:

Chairman Michael Shepherd

Treasurer: Jude Naish

Secretary: Hilary Short

Membership Secretary: Ruth Haigh

AOB

Oliver Fulton reported that the public consultation meeting on the FAUNA project had been very successful in terms of both the numbers of people who attended and the amount of support recorded.

