

Minutes of the meeting of the Fairfield Association held on October 16th 2007 at Whitegates

Present: Caroline Costello, Simon Gershon, Ruth Haigh, Jude Naish, Mary Ridley, Michael Sheppard, Mick and Hilary Short

Apologies: Andrew Brennard, Ann and Sid Duncan, Oliver Fulton, PJ Butler, Dorothy and Gordon Phillips, Shirley Rawsthorne, Norman Ridley,

Matters Arising

- i) We now have the bollard keys and will have them copied.
- ii) Commemorative plaques. PJ is still trying to come up with somebody who would put them in place for us. Otherwise we need to think about finding somebody suitable and paying them. Michael knows a good contractor through work.
- iii) The nettles along the cycle path, are the responsibility of the Allotments Association and John Barry will contact John Lambert.
- iv) The bin slats have been ordered.
- v) The hedge near the substation has been trimmed.
- vi) Hilary agreed to ring Colin Briscoe about the play surface since it appears to have shrunk away from the wooden surround and therefore not to be 'fit for purpose. Otherwise, we need to contact Mark Houghton who is the person with the expertise to repair it using a kit.

Treasurer's Report

We have £9,398.05 in our account. The Teddy Bears' Picnic raised £84.10. Membership fees have raised £145 + a donation of £48. We have paid out £352.50 to the Trust.

The new bank account with the Cooperative Bank requires us to name our trustees. Jules and Anna are happy either to remain as trustees or to step down and allow new trustees to be appointed. Trustees have unlimited liability for any debts which the Fairfield Association incurs. Caroline said that perhaps we should consider registering as a limited company and agreed to outline the advantages and disadvantages involved at a future meeting.

Apple Day

Simon described the events proposed for Apple Day which were games including William Tell, a candlelight procession and a small bonfire and story telling as well as cakes and tea. Mick agreed to do orchard talks and Jennifer Newton from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust will also be there and will bring along a bat detector.

Fireworks at the Castle

We have a tent, duck boards and a table for £30 but no lighting is provided. Hilary agreed to advertise on Swapshop for lanterns or a small generator. Jude agreed to organise the rota and take charge of the stall. Hilary agreed to ring round for cakes.

Green Fair

We have a table at a cost of £7 and Hilary agreed to organise cakes and Mick will provide the Power Point display.

Orchard Update

- i) Simon said that there were steady 5 – 7 volunteers and there will be planting in January. The management plan is still to come. Orchard news will be available on the website.
- ii) Simon also thinks we should consider having more trees for the play area.

Merger with the Trust

Mick reported that it was likely that nothing would be decided before the next AGM and that although the Fairfield Association had made it clear at its AGM that it wanted a merger, the same vote at the Trust AGM did not bind the Trust to that course of action. Mick said that the situation re the Trust was not at all clear and that there had not been a meeting at which all the trustees were present, which was needed for the proposed merger to be agreed. The Charity Commission is not, in principle, against the merger, although there would be questions about the management and maintenance of the orchard. The City Council was also, in principle, not against the merger.

Mick said that he would email out the Pros and Cons Document so that members of the Fairfield Association could give feedback.

FAUNA

We have had a meeting with Jon Barry, Ann Wood (for the Council) and Charles Wilson (for LGGS) to discuss the situation to date. LGGS have not yet served notice on Robin Loxham and are hoping to come to an amicable arrangement before the February deadline. Robin Loxham has indicated that he is happy to go along with the plans of LGGS and the Fairfield Association if he can buy the farmhouse at the bottom of Sunnyside Lane. In principle, the Council are not against this but the details need to be sorted out. Should there be no agreement before February, LGGS will serve notice. We need to ask how to amend our planning application and also to meet with LGGS to talk through some of the details of their plans.

Membership Secretary

We now have approximately 90 members and we have received a donation of £100.

AOB

Michael will contact the press re Apple Day

Martin of the Borough has agreed to pay a standing contribution to the Fairfield Association whenever a particular item is ordered from the menu.

There will be a newsletter in the first two weeks of January which will report back on Apple Day and also advertise Wassailing.

Dates of Next Meetings

- i) 7.30 pm, November 29th at Thornycroft
- ii) 7.30 pm, January 9th at ?