

Minutes of the meeting of the Fairfield Association held on March 26th 2008 at Brookhouse, Sunnyside Close

Present: Ann and Sid Duncan, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Simon Gershon, Shirley Rawsthorne, Mary Ridley, Michael Sheppard, Mick and Hilary Short.

Apologies: Ruth Haigh, Jude Naish.

Matters Arising

- ? The Newsletter still needs to go on the noticeboard. Hilary will do this.
- ? Michael will contact Thomas Borland.
- ? The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. More than 80 children took part and we raised £110. Tony will pass on the details to Simon so that they can be put on to a spreadsheet for future use. It was agreed that this was an event that we should run again.
- ? Go Wild Week will go ahead.
- ? Dog mess signs have gone up on the way to both the Orchard and the Green.
- ? Michael, Jude, Mick and Hilary met with Alan Burton to discuss Gift Aid and the Constitution.

Treasurer's Report

We have £9947.63 in our account. We have received £350 in tree sponsorship and £567 has been spent on trees. We are expecting to be awarded £100 by the Woodland Trust.

Play Area

- ? Mick and Sid have repaired the safety surface.
- ? A new spring has been ordered for the Spring Chicken.
- ? The spring on the gate to the toddler area still needs repairing.
- ? Some of slimmer tree stakes have been taken. These have now been replaced with sturdier stakes.

Orchard Update

- ? The probation service continues to repair the paths.
- ? We have wild flower plugs to go in on the next working day. There was some discussion about involving local schools in the planting.
- ? On the 15th April the County Council will meet Trust representatives in the Orchard to look at line proposed for the footpath. If Townley Close is opened, the County Council will also adopt the right of way from the new footpath left towards Sunnyside Close.
- ? Planning Application will be needed for the path.

Merger with the Trust

- ? Proposed amendments to the Constitution, suggested by Alan Burton, were put to the meeting. It was proposed and accepted that the following amendment to our objects should be proposed at the AGM:
Object:

‘3b) The public areas referred to in 3(a) include but are not limited to The Fairfield Millennium Green and Community Orchard and Fairfield Green.’ Simon expressed concern that the Orchard’s objects addressed more specifically a conservation role. This was found not to be the case. However, it was suggested that the General Aims of the Orchard, together with Covenant 4.3, should become an Appendix to the Fairfield Association Constitution. Michael agreed to write to Marion and Andrew.

- ? It was agreed that there would be no proposal to change the name of the Fairfield Association.
- ? It was agreed that the best way to sort out the lease would be to organise a meeting between Graham Cox and representatives of the Fairfield Organisation.
- ? It was agreed that the Millennium Trust would be run by a subgroup of the Fairfield Association and the structure of this subgroup should be discussed once the merger is agreed. It was also agreed that we should say what we expected to happen at the AGM.

Website

Unfortunately, Wes is not able to offer help with the website. However, we may have found somebody who can step into the role. There will inevitably be a delay before the new website can be put in place.

Fun Day

- ? An email from Ruth suggested that, in view of all our new activities, Fun Day should be scaled down. It was agreed that Fun Day is our major event of the year and that it should remain in its present form.
- ? Ruth, who has run the event for the past few years, does not want to organise the event this year. It was agreed that we should ask Ruth, who on the organising committee might be prepared to take the role on.
- ? There was some discussion about the marquee, which is a major expenditure each year. The suggestion that we should buy a marquee was rejected on the grounds that storage, maintenance and insurance would be problematic.
- ? Hilary agreed to ask if our County Councillor, Chris Coates, could help with funding this year. A suggestion that we should put a bid in to Awards for All, who have funded us in the past, was rejected on the grounds that funding up to £10,000 could be better used on other projects.
- ? Shirley offered help with publicity, volunteers to help with stalls and cakes. She said that PJ would help erect tents.

Quick Cricket

It was agreed that Sunday (rather than Saturday) would be a better day for the event. Mick agreed to contact LGGS about the pitch.

FAUNA

- ? Georgina has talked to the City Council and almost finished the revised planning application. Lancashire County Council are paying her fees and they are willing to pay for the planning application if Lancaster City Council do not waive the charge. The planning application will go to the next meeting. Lancashire County Council has also indicated that it will help fund the project.

- ? It is possible that a deal with Robin Loxham may be done in the next three months.

AOB

- i) It was agreed that the next newsletter would publicise the free advice offered by the Crime Prevention Officer.
- ii) Hilary agreed to pass on the date of the AGM to Oliver so that it can go on the website.

Dates of Next Meetings

- i) 7.30 pm April 30th, Thorneycroft, Fairfield Road (Oliver's house)
- ii) 7.30 pm May 28th, 51, Ashfield Avenue (Simon's house)