

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday February 24th 2010 at The Friends Meeting House.

Present: Andrew Brennand (Chair), Gabbi Burley, Nathan Burley, Margaret Burtonwood, Marcia Clegg, Tony Finn, Simon Gershon, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, Jude Naish, Mick Short, Hilary Short, Paula Skidmore, Aline Torday, John Weedy.

Apologies: Henry Hicks, Michael Sheppard, Jean Stuart, Elaine Weedy.

Matters Arising:

- i) We are still looking for a way forward on installing Henry's plaques.
- ii) We still have no account of our meeting with Lancashire County Council about the proposed footpath through the Orchard from Towneley Close. We have been contacted for more details about the Fairfield Association.

Treasurer's Report:

Receipts: £2012.

A Lancashire County Council grant for FAUNA of £2000, together with Christmas Card Sales of £10 and a Wassailing donation of £2.

Outgoings: £402.08.

Money was paid for: Bowland Tree Services £315, newsletters - £48, room booking - £20. £19.08 for gloves and concrete came from the Breathing Places grant.

Nationwide: £10,601.06.

Coop Account: £7391.71 in our account minus £910.54

Membership Secretary's Report:

Ruth reported that things were quiet.

Orchard update

For reasons of safety, more work will be done on the trees and, this is likely to change the appearance of the large sycamore and ash trees. The ash will be trimmed to reduce its weight. The sycamore has a hole in one of its main branches and will need to be cut back.

There has been a good number of volunteers recently and the insect hotels have been installed. They still need to be filled with materials. On the 13th March the hedge between the public footpath and the Orchard will be pruned. Simon will be away for 4 months. Jonathan Tansley and Rebecca Procter have agreed to organise the volunteers during his absence.

Future events in the Orchard are a Blossom Picnic on May 1st and the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Monday (April 5th). Apple tree-grafting will be at Piccadilly Gardens since they have plans to create a small tree nursery and also to work with schools and families to encourage the propagation of fruit trees. The University will plant 6 fruit trees per year.

The noticeboards, provided by the Breathing Places grant are in the final stages of preparation and we have applied for a Gateway Grant of £1500 to extend educational activities in the Orchard. We are looking to put in a further bid to provide the money to label the fruit trees.

FAUNA

There is now a full report of the outcomes of the Public Consultation on the website.

The City council is currently in discussion with Robin Loxham about the termination of his lease and Ann Wood reports that the discussion is going well. If the situation cannot be settled by negotiation, the Council will serve notice on March 31st. FA representatives will meet Robin's agents next week to finalise the terms of the grazing agreement with him.

The £2000 which the FA has already received from the County Council has already been spent on expenses, mainly for services from Georgina Peacock and Graeme Skelcher. We have been assured of a further £15,000 towards Stage 1 of the project. We have applied for £30,000 from the Lancashire Environmental Fund and the LEF represented has been round the site. The FA has agreed to donate a further £5,000 to the project. We have also put in a Stage 1 bid for £50,000 from the Lottery Community Spaces programme.

The £30,000 which we hope to get from LEF will enable us to put in footpaths and hedging and work will begin in the autumn.

We are looking to form a small group will manage the detailed implementation of this project and also a larger consultation group who will give advice on wildlife issues as needed. Robin Loxham will need to be part of this larger group. Oliver hopes to be able to call a meeting of the expert group by the end of April at which point we will know if we have been successful in our bid for a LEF grant.

The allotment holders have expressed interest in a shared project to develop the paddock at a later stage.

Playground Report

The graffiti has finally been removed, thanks to Jean Stuart. The hedge still needs trimming and Ruth will follow this up. Drinking has been reported in the Playground. Hilary will ask Cath Griffiths if she include the area in her patrols again. It was also agreed that contact details for our Community Support Officers should appear in the next newsletter, on the website and on the noticeboard. PACT (Police and Community Action) take place on the first Tuesday of each month and Andrew agreed to go along to the next one.

Coming Events

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Monday and we will need volunteers to provide cakes and hard-boiled eggs and also to run events.

The Blossom Picnic on May Day The Steiner School have agreed to lend us the Maypole but not the dancers. A decision on Maypole dancing will be taken at the next Orchard subgroup meeting.

The Morris Men are keen to run a dance workshop, free of charge, one Thursday evening. It was agreed that Thursday 24th June which is Midsummer Day would be appropriate and that Andrew would ask them if this was convenient for them.

The Kwik Cricket Match will take place on either the 5th or the 6th of June, depending on the weather.

FUN DAY July 3rd

Andrew has a list of people to phone. Hilary agreed to ring up and book the marquee and also to look for a grant to pay for it. The Coop community Fund was suggested and also the Yorkshire Building Society.

AOB

- i) There has been a request for outdoor gym equipment for older people. It was agreed that we would ask the people who initially contacted Ruth to research the matter.
- ii) Ruth has asked for spare elastic bands of which Oliver has many.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 24th March at Thorneycroft, Fairfield Road.

Wednesday 21st April at Andrew Brennands, 39?49 Lincoln Road.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm.