

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 49, Wingate Saul Road.

Present: Andrew Brennand, Gabbi Burley, Nathan Burley, Sam Edge, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, David Howard, Jude Naish, Mick Short, Hilary Short.

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

Matters Arising

- i) **Fun Day:** Elaine Weedy has agreed to take responsibility for the arrangements.
- ii) Nathan has circulated a drawing showing how the plaques will be installed.

Planning consultation for the Martins' revised plans:

David Howard, who represented Mrs. Houghton, pointed out that the house is about 0.5m higher than agreed and the roof now overlooks the sycamore trees. He recommended that the Fairfield Association should ask to be consulted on the boundary fence (wall or hedge). It was agreed that Hilary would write to the planning department to point out that i) the FA would in general like to be consulted on matters that concern land that we lease and ii) in the particular case of the Martins' house, we would like to be consulted over the boundary fence.

Recap on FA procedures:

Our policy for bringing business to meetings and also for spending claiming expenses is attached.

Treasurer's Report:

Income: 476.46. This includes £178.78 from the Easter Egg Hunt (- £130.62 expenses some of which may be recouped from the sale of the remaining eggs), £10 membership and £287 in donations.

Expenditure: £3487.90 (£3612.17 adjusted for cheques cashed/uncashed).

This includes £2550 (Capra Design- from the Breathing Places Grant); £240 Peacock Designs and £18.00 for photographs (FAUNA); £431.14 (insurance); £43.40 (trees on Fairfield Green and in the Orchard); £35.62 expenses for the Easter Egg Hunt and £169.74 for a projector stand.

Membership Report:

There have been 2 renewals.

Stall at the Transition City Event: There was a fair amount of interest and we gained one new orchard volunteer and commitment from a local Woodcraft group to come down and do some work in the Orchard. Jonathan Tansley agreed to contact the Woodcraft leaders.

Orchard Report

- i) Tony has consulted with Rob Bracewell, the City Council's Access Officer, about the path that skirts the Orchard and goes to the canal. He has recommended

- that the dead alder should be taken out and the path levelled at the corner just beyond the Orchard.
- ii) There are problems with some homeowners who have land adjoining the Orchard and consider it their right to pour bleach on the grass to kill moss, keep their compost bin in the Orchard etc. Oliver agreed to ask Steve Edwards for advice.
 - iii) The Boards are almost completed
 - iv) The Easter Egg hunt went well with around 80 children taking part.
 - v) Posters advertising the Blossom Picnic on May 1st have been emailed round.
 - vi) Rebecca Procter and Jonathan Tansley are organising Go Wild Week. So far Andy Lee has agreed to talk about trees in the orchard, Friday will be bat night and Monday will be bird night. All events start at 7.30 pm except the bat talk which begins at 9.30 pm.
 - vii) School visits: we have not yet heard about our application for funding from The Lancashire Gateway Fund. If this is unsuccessful, we will ask the schools if parents would be willing to pay.
 - viii) The path from Townley Close: Lancashire County Council will provide us with some funding and will help us to bid for money to make up any shortfall on the lower specification. The difference in price between the lower and higher grade path, not including the extra arm of the Y is £1500. The most significant thing missing from the lower specification is believed to be the geotextile which prevents the weeds and grass growing through. Since we believe we had a verbal agreement to put in the geotextile, Andrew will email the County Council about this. Since the path is heavily used by disabled people, it was agreed that the construction of the path should be linked to standards which apply to disabled access. Tony will contact Rob Bracewell and get back to Andrew so that we can compare costs.
 - ix) Minor problems: The notices, about dog fouling, that we put up, were taken down. One tree in the Orchard has been shaved with a knife. Jude said that it was possible to get paint to protect trees in this state and it was agreed to look into this. Andrew will bring the matter up at the next PACT meeting.
 - x) Replacements for the stumps in the circle are likely to cost £100.

FAUNA

- i) The Lancaster Guardian provided coverage of our successful LEF grant application and a number of us were photographed with Robin and his cows.
- ii) We have had a letter from Groundwork to say we are going forward to stage 2.
- iii) Ann Wood has agreed that the change of lease should be approved by the City Council Cabinet no later than 22nd June. Cabinet budgeted for no rent and will say that in the lease.
- iv) The planning application is still valid but we also need to submit a planning application for the paddock.
- v) We should be able to take advantage of VAT exemption by submitting our bills through the Council.
- vi) Soil sampling is almost complete and we can talk to English Nature about revenue support when this is done.
- vii) A steering group has been organised and will meet soon.

viii) Jude agreed to ask about insurance for FAUNA.

Fields beyond FAUNA

It was agreed to contact the people who sent letters about proposed building on the fields prior to the last review of possible land for housing. Since Haverbreaks is about to circulate a letter about purchasing the land, it was agreed that we would inform them before going public.

We will continue to ask around among people we know and pass the message on by word of mouth. It was agreed that we should aim to raise £50,000 by the end of July and that we should have a stall to publicise the event on Fun Day. We should also try and raise money by bidding for grants.

Installing the Plaques: This was deferred to the next meeting.

Forthcoming Events:

- i) The Midsummer event has been cancelled.
- ii) Kwik cricket on Sunday June 6th; the field has been booked and Mick is liaising with Geoff.
- iii) It was agreed to book the AGM for Wed 23d June. Andrew will book the Meeting House. A newsletter will go out advertising the event.

AOB: The display boards, which we have been using for some time, now belong to us.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 12th May at Helen and Henry's house: Edenbreck.

Wednesday 23rd June AGM at the Meeting House.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm.