

**Fairfield Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting held**  
**on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011**  
**at the Friends' Meeting House, Meeting House Lane**

**Present:** Andrew Brennand (chair), Mandy Bannon (minutes), Sarah Dawson, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Jane Parker, Philip Turner, Margaret Burton-wood, Graham Brandwood, Ann Woodfine, Hilary Short, Mick Short, Adrienne Wallman, Ellie Bulman, Steve Bullen, Paul Robinson

**1) Welcome by the chair**

**2) Apologies:** Tony Finn, Dave Brooks, Michael Sheppard, Jean Stuart, David & Peg Herrod, Pamela White

**3) Minutes of the last meeting:** agreed as correct

**4) Treasurer's Report**

**Co-op Account**

Balance on October 19	59,273.98
Balance on November 16	<u>53,812.98</u>

**Income**

Fairfield Donations	£ 397.50
Rural Payments Agency	£ 792.55
The Vodafone Foundation	£ 315.00

**Expenses**

FAUNA – ramp	
JR Moss contractor	£ 7,212.96

**5) Membership Report**

2 new members and 3 renewals.

**6) Fog Report**

**Orchard**

Mick reported all was well with the orchard. There had been a good volunteer session with 27 university students as well as 11 regular volunteers. They had cleared paths and dug out seedlings.

**Fields**

The bid to buy fields next to FAUNA has finally been turned down by the vendors. They say they will have a go at selling the fields again next year, but are thinking of asking twice the price next time. This leaves us with decisions to make regarding donations and pledges. We will write to donors suggesting we hang on to their cheques a bit longer, to explore future options with the vendors. In the New Year, the Status of Land will be made clear and that will determine the value of the land. Mick is meeting with Haverbreaks residents next week to discuss strategies.

## **FAUNA**

Oliver reported that ponds had been constructed and herons have been seen paddling in them. Other ponds are planned. Footpaths are underway and hedges will be tackled soon. A County Council bird expert advised leaving tall trees but some are rotting at the base. Being cut back means in 5 years time they'll be 6ft high and beautiful, but not in the short-term.

Oliver met with Helen Watson on site. They're trying to buy some derelict land (that we lease) opposite the pigsties, which they want to turn into an orchard. Dave Brooks talked to conservation officer at the Council re design of toolshed, which shouldn't be too demanding.

There is currently a dispute between the Fairfield Association and the contractor over the price of work carried out. The work has taken less than half the time predicted and only used one person, rather than two. Dave is sorting the problem out and RSPB are being supportive (they use this contractor).

The ragwort has gone! The hay will be used as mulch for hedges.  
We won't be reducing the willows by Lucy Brook.

We are aiming for the footpath to be opened before Xmas and there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony then. There will be a more public ceremonial opening after Easter. This weekend Mick reported they would be constructing 5 gateposts which will be carved in a similar way to the Orchard gateposts. A good fence will be built to stop dogs from going into the reserve. Noticeboards will be done after Xmas.

## **7) Playground Report**

Sarah reported that spend had been approved for replacement parts. The toddler gate has been repaired and the spinner has been fixed.

There was an incident of vandalism where the turf was interfered with, and there has been setting fire to swings twice. Cath Elliot, the Community Officer had apprehended three boys in the area, but there weren't good enough descriptions as it was dark and raining. Following the event in half-term, there was a police presence from 6-7pm – but we need to be vigilant and contact police community officers if we see anything suspicious in the future. It was agreed it would be useful to put the Community Officer's contact details on the next newsletter.

Andrew reported that two or more people had asked him what the Fairfield Association was going to do about the bonfire held on the green (one wanted us to organise it and another wanted us to stop it). This bonfire predates the F.A by two decades and we don't organise it or have anything to do with it. Sarah said someone had reported the fly-tipping of a divan & sofa bed and the Council picked it all up but by 6pm another bed appeared. Some years, responsible adults get involved but there wasn't anyone this year. Hilary stressed we need to keep ourselves apart from it. We are not insured for it.

Next year, could we ask County to put leaflets through doors or the Fire Brigade to do some PR to point out the dangers/environmental hazards (an aerosol was seen being thrown onto the fire). Andrew suggested other people should get involved.

Mick raised the issue of the fire's ashes which have been left in bags. Andrew will contact Environmental Health.

Mick is trying to get money for a major repair to the playpark's surface. Hilary has obtained a Local Initiative grant worth £4,600 which could be used to resurface totally or patch up the damaged part.

## 8) Archiving

Mick and Hilary highlighted the fact that important legal documents are spread around. This is both an indexing and storage issue. It was agreed that the solicitors should have all legal documents and we should have a list of what they have. But our copies of legal documents should ideally be in one central place for storage – eg filing cabinet. Other suggestions included storing copies on the computer for easier searching and putting things on a “Cloud” type website that could be password protected. It was agreed to fix a date in the new year when all documents could be brought together and pruned – an after Xmas filing party.

## 9) Any correspondence -none

## 10) Future Events

**Wine Tasting** – was cancelled as we only sold 13 tickets. We would have needed to sell 40 tickets to be viable. We have not lost any money as a result of the cancellation. We discussed why we thought there wasn't a great uptake, and the following reasons were mooted: £10/person price of ticket – too dear? Just before Xmas – wrong time of year? Family events more popular?

**Carol Singing** - will just be a Christmas Eve event this year, meeting at the “grey” cottage.

**FAUNA opening** – press-friendly event when it's finished (towards end of December?) to be arranged.

**Wassailing** date fixed for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan –3- 5pm – whatever the weather! We are hoping for the John O Gaunt troop

## 11) Website/Facebook

Andrew agreed to remove wine tasting event.

## 12) Any Other Business

a) Towneley Close ginnel – Adrienne wondered if there will be a bollard to stop cyclists. Andrew explained that County had been asked to put up signs to stop cyclists, but these had not yet appeared and there will also be signs on FAUNA.

b) Access on to the footpath from Willow Lane. Adrienne said a few people were concerned that the residents might be contravening planning regulations by building a tall framed double layered fence across the hedging at the bottom of Willow Lane. Mick explained how Councillor Jon Barry had investigated opening this up several years ago but had abandoned the idea due to hostility from the immediate residents and uncertainty over land ownership.

c) Printing Costs for newsletter

CVS charge 6p/sheet so would be £66

Castle Press would charge £44 for 1,100 in black and white. It was decided to try Castle Press and send a newsletter out in the New Year.

d) Philip reported that the cattle are eating the new hedging.

e) QE2 Status – to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 60 years on the throne, we can apply for spaces and play areas to be granted that protected status in perpetuity. Only the landowner can apply so in our case this is the Council. They have only submitted one request for Morecambe but they said they would consider our request. We agreed it would be good for Hilary to pursue.

## 13) Date of next meetings

Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> 2011, at 49, Wingate Saul Road.

Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 49 Wingate Saul Road