

**Fairfield Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting held**  
**On 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013, at: Robert Gillow pub, Lancaster**

**Present:** Mandy Bannon (mins), Andrew Brennand (chair), Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Oliver Fulton, Simon Gershon, Ruth Haigh (Membership Secretary), Jane Parker (Treasurer), Ruth Feinberg, Hilary Short, Mick Short

**1) Welcome by the chair**

**2) Apologies:** Tony Finn, Julia McDowell, Jean Stuart

**3) Minutes of the last meeting** were accepted as correct.

**4) North Lancashire Community Land Trust (NLCLT)**

Simon Gershon is one of six directors (the others are John Whitelegg, Viv Preece, Gina Dowding, Mike Hallam and Frank Ledwith). Simon explained that CLT is a legal status given to a variety of different organisations e.g charity, cooperative society. A Land Trust owns land and/or buildings for the benefit of the community – usually for a specific purpose e.g. social housing. NLCLT has identified office space needed by 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations in Lancaster City Centre. They are hoping to have land gifted by City or County councils – e.g Highfield site has been gifted to the Gregson Community Centre. It can be in the interests of the council to gift land in order to minimise their costs and enable other organisations to apply for grants. Simon’s group specifically want to get people back onto the land, and run land-based training – e.g. horticultural, arboricultural courses, but would need a building to run training from, and is interested to know if the Fairfield Association is willing to get involved .

Andrew explained that we’re planning to expand the nature reserve so we won’t be able to put a building on FAUNA or FLORA. Oliver added that that our funding from Natural England specifies that the land is used as a nature reserve and Harries family has a covenant in their contract, to insist that the land is used as a nature reserve.

Mick suggested that the field on the other side of the hedge (along Aldcliffe Road opposite canal) is 4-5 acres of improved land, possibly owned by Aldcliffe Hall Estates, and may be worth investigating. Mick gave Simon the name of the agent managing the land.

**5) Treasurer’s Report**

Jane presented the following:

**Co-op Account**

Balance on 23/1/13	£51,261.84
Balance on 20/2/13	£52,340.03

**Income - significant**

Flora cheques	£1,880
Fraser: hay & Asbestos removal	£ 660
Sustainability grant pending	£1,200

**6) Membership report**

Ruth reported that we’ve had five new members ( two more from Haverbreaks, making a total of 7 from there). There have also been 2 renewals.

**7) Website**

Oliver said Julia is very committed and has been doing a lot of work to the website, especially organising the blogs.

## **8) FOG Report**

Mick gave out FAUNA and FLORA leaflets. Mandy offered to draft a letter to approx 250 Abraham Heights households to send with leaflets and newsletter to drum up more support from this estate, which doesn't have many Association members.

FLORA campaign – Mick reported that we've had £46.5K plus gift aid. If we get the lottery bid which is due to be announced in the next week, we could nearly be there with funding. Hilary has also applied to the Lieutenancy Fund for £500. Oliver says if we are unsuccessful with the Lottery bid, there's a new fund, with an 8 week turnaround, so we can reapply.

FOG maintenance: Mick reported that the hedge-laying complainant came to the previous FOG meeting. It was an animated discussion and no minds have been changed. Today's hedge laying is the last of the year. Oliver, Glynis and Ian have been involved in long discussions on two hedgerows along the paddock. They think we won't get permission to remove the two sycamores. It depends on Maxine Knagg, the Tree Preservation officer.

We have paid for an arboricultural consultant £100, who has sprayed "P" for pollarding on some trees – but it's too late for this season because birds are about to nest. Mick and Nigel Pilling from Natural England had a meeting to discuss hedges v. trees issue.

Robin Loxam and Fraser's cattle - Natural England will provide funding to put in a water tank, because the school pond is getting churned up. Gravel will be put down across the little meadow field - for when lorries collect the hay. Natural England don't want cattle to feed in the hay meadow because it will make the earth too rich.

Nigel Pilling said that the meadow needs measuring because it includes a footpath and we're probably getting paid too much.

Fraser is about to buy land near the pig sties.

Graham Brandwood has been doing a flushcount – found 90 snipe nests.

There's a leak in Anna's pool, but we've managed to get clay from Freeman's Pool, wheel-barrowed. Richard Storton from NE and volunteers will try and fix the leak.

New bird and bat boxes are up in FAUNA.

Oliver has been working hard on the Nature reserve's designated footpath agreement.

Toolshed – Hilary reported that we have a contract with Joe Duirwyn - the estimate is £20,490 (£10 k more than we have allocated). However we will be getting 6.5k funding for the play area and Andrew said we could easily use £10k's worth on resurfacing the playground. £10K could be used from FAUNA for the toolshed. Rotary still hasn't sent a cheque yet. (Alexandra House had told the Rotary how much they benefit from the playground, orchard and FAUNA).

## **9)FOTT report**

Dave reported that they have draft terms for the lease, which is being activated by Jobling and Knape.

Andrew will send draft terms to J&K. Dave said it will probably go slowly. Dave said they are about to accept Take Pride funding, and about to get £3k from County Council to fund the contamination survey.

They will do a site walkover and desktop study before deciding what to investigate. The licence for FOTT to carry out work on the site before the lease is signed, needs signing and returning – Dave will arrange with Andrew.

The Canal & River Trust have given them a key for the workshop building so a bat survey can be done on Sunday.

Mick asked whether FOTT is getting enough volunteers. Dave said because it's winter, they don't need a lot now, but may do in the future, in which case, Jonathan could spread the word in his next volunteers email.

FOTT next meets on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## **10) Playground Report**

Hilary reported that someone has painted the wooden bollards white (or is it chalk?). On closer inspection it appears to be chalk, but it has still made quite a mess. It should wash off.

## **11) Events**

**Easter** – Tony has offered to organise the Easter Monday egg hunt again. He has a few requests – for volunteers, boiler, marquee etc. There is always an upfront cost of Easter eggs, and because the event is weather dependent, this can work out expensive, if the event is cancelled. We discussed cost-cutting e.g buying smaller/cheaper eggs. Hilary offered to go to Wilkinson's to ask for donations of Easter Eggs.

Mick said the marquee is in his garage.

Boiler – we have two but neither work well. We were going to look at hiring or buying an electric one that could be maybe powered from the Martins' house.

Ruth will send out email newsletter.

A paper-based newsletter will be sent out once we have the news of the lottery bid grant.

FLORA Auction at Gregson on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 – 9.30pm

Loxams Open Garden on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June – will be 10am -4pm

Mandy to put events on website calendar.

Ruth says Hum, Holler n' Sing are keen to organise a fundraising concert for us. We will publicise, when we have more details.

## **12) Items of Correspondence**

NatureSave Insurance – Andrew has been trying to negotiate a better insurance deal, but NatureSave says we're uninsurable. They thought the risk profile on the playground was too great. Because we're doing the maintenance, they wouldn't be able to sue anyone if there was an injury. So we may have to renew our insurance with Zurich.

Luneside & Rosebank Bowling and Recreation club - Mandy received letter from them, asking whether they can advertise for new members in our newsletter. They also have a room for functions. Mandy will forge links and let them know we can mention them in our email newsletter.

Ruth reports that the Fairfield Association is one of several charities that will be able to benefit from the sale of Hermione Roth's children's book: "Yak and Nak go on a trek". Buyers have a bookmark that lists the charity they want to donate to and £5.00 will go to them or us.

Moorsides Fields Group are having an Open Day 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2-8.30pm to show their plans off – at Barton Road Youth & Community Centre.

## **13) Website & Facebook**

Mandy to put forthcoming events on website calendar.

## **14) AOB**

None for this meeting.

## **15) Date of next meetings**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Robert Gillow Pub, 7.30pm – 9pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013, Robert Gillow Pub, 7.30pm – 9pm