

Minutes of Fairfield Association Meeting held on at 1930 on 21st May 2014 in the Robert Gillow pub.

Present:

Andrew Brennand, Chair
Mandy Bannon
Dave Brookes
Peter Callingham
Oliver Fulton
Ruth Haigh
Jane Parker
Mick Short
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Proctor, Hilary Short, and Pamela White.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The following amendments were agreed:

David confirmed that three trees had been removed from the triangle, and Sorbus planted to replace them.

Ripley's finger posts would direct visitors to 'Fairfield Nature Reserve', although an 'official' name change would be discussed after further consideration, since some people present at the last meeting had not been clear on what they had voted for. Mick agreed to draft a paper to help people come to a decision. **Action MS**

4. Task Directory

Andrew confirmed existing tasks which awaited ownership:

- Public consultation about the footpath
- Team leader volunteer

New tasks were added:

- Locate a venue for the end of Flora project exhibition in the autumn
- Steering group for above
- Graffiti police for the playground

5. Treasurers report

Jane reported that the account balance stood at £25,779 as at 30th April 2014, with a further £2.43 in the Nationwide Building Society.

Income to 30th April 2014:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| HLS Grant | £2073 |
| Community Foundation Grant –for tools | £500 |
| Source to Sea Grant | £5084 |

Expenditure: Nil

Per draft accounts: Grants etc. (net) £3,977 – restricted fund.
£21,805 – general funds.

Some restricted funds balances:

Fauna grants – cleared

Community spaces grant £540 balance

FOTT - £789 balance

Flora & Fauna - £4,824 balance

Income received since 30th April 2014:

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| United Utilities | £1,000 |
| Lancaster Green Spaces | £450 |

Expenditure: £450 by FOTT, as per above grant.

Jane explained that she had tidied up the accounts, and this work required auditing. Mick pointed out that it would be necessary to plan for a more predictable income stream over the next decade. Oliver suggested that a depreciation fund should be set up to cover repairs and ageing equipment. Andrew agreed to add the matter to the AGM agenda.

6. Membership Report and newsletter

- Ruth had received £1670 from 210 members.
- Mandy confirmed that she would produce the newsletter, and would require three weeks' notice of going to press. Items for the forthcoming letter included AGM, Fun day, Fairfield Friends, and some news from the blogs about recent sightings.

7. Website

Andrew advised that Julia intended to extend the education subsection, which was greeted enthusiastically by members.

Mick reported that there was now a blog for sightings of wild flowers.

8. FOG report

Oliver confirmed that the camper had been evicted, and he and others had cleaned up after him.

Andrew proposed a vote of thanks to Oliver and his helpers. Andrew agreed to investigate 'Section 61 Notice to Quit' with the solicitor. **Action AB**

Mick explained that the cattle herd size remained the same, pending the outcome of TB testing, but required a reduction to seven, plus followers, in the future.

Mick reported that a motorist had damaged the wall opposite Haverbreaks bridge. Repair would cost up to £1,200, which it was hoped would be covered by the motorist's insurance.

9. FSG report

Andrew reported that new display boards were required. There was a general opinion that an attempt should be made to repair the existing boards, due to cost. Currently, only three are useable. Mick agreed to approach Ken about the repair. Mandy said she would include a request for second-hand boards in the newsletter. **Action MS and MB**

10. FOTT report

Dave reported that the recent fundraising event at the Aldcliffe Triangle had raised £345. He said that a second draft of the design had been submitted for consideration by FOTT members. The group awaited news about a grant from Lancaster University wind turbine fund. The noticeboard had been erected, following a grant from green spaces.

11. Playground report

Andrew reported that some graffiti had appeared which would be removed at the next volunteer session. It was noted that some of the nettles required cutting back.

12. Events

Fun Day 5th July 2014:

- Ruth summarised the progress made with the arrangements. There was a discussion about the availability of pergolas and marquees.
- Mick suggested that photographs of the archaeological finds should be displayed.
- Ruth agreed to put out a request for donations of raffle prizes. **Action RH**
- Volunteers required for selling ice cream, organising the football penalty shoot-out, and facing painting.
- Andrew agreed to contact the allotment holders about their marquees. He also agreed to handle the publicity, and let Mandy have information for the newsletter. **Action AB**
- Andrew said he would speak to Ian Mecklenberg about moving equipment from the shed to the playground on the day. **Action AB**

13. Items of Correspondence

Andrew had received an invitation from Alternative Futures to submit some Fairfield publicity for their forthcoming Carers event.

Ruth had received a reminder about the possible inclusion of a piece about the reserve in Lancashire Walks and Wildlife. It was agreed that this should be added to the task list. **Action AB**

14. Website

Andrew agreed to add Fun Day to the website. **Action AB**

15. Any Other Business

Oliver volunteered to contact the Concrete Society about the wall on the Pads footpath. He reported that he had made contact with Gorse Hill Nature Reserve in Ormskirk, and would ask Sue N to set up an exchange visit. **Action OF**

16. Dates of next meetings

The AGM is on 18th June 2014 at 1930 in the Friends Meeting House.

The next FA meeting will be held on 16th July 2014 at 1930 in Robert Gillow pub.