

Minutes of Fairfield Association Meeting held on at 1930 on 16TH July 2014 in the Robert Gillow pub.

Present:

Andrew Brennand, Chair
Dave Brookes
Peter Callingham
Ken Capewell
Tony Finn
Ruth Haigh
Jane Parker
Ian Proctor
Shirley Rawsthorne, Secretary

1. Welcome

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mick and Hilary Short and Oliver Fulton.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

Andrew confirmed that most actions from the last meeting had been completed. Mick Short was still working on a discussion paper about the name of the nature reserve. Andrew's action to do section 61 was carried forward. **Action AB**

4. Alternative Futures Group Link

Andrew advised that Amy Bates and Mick Short were in consultation about a more formal arrangement between Fairfield Association and Alternative Futures, and that Amy intended to come to a meeting to talk about a collaborative approach between the two organisations.

5. Treasurers report

- Fun Day had raised £1475.
- Jane reported that the balance of the account at 16th July was £27,563.36, an increase of £1,783.50 since 1st May.
- A payment of £4,100 had been made to D. Edwards for the rebuilding of the playground wall.

6. Membership Report and newsletter

Ruth advised that she had enrolled 6 new members as a result of Fun Day, and received donations from 23 existing members, making a total of £250 in membership fees and donations since May 2014.

7. Website

Nothing to report.

8. FOG report

- The grass under the fruit tress has been strimmed.
- The Association has paid for one day of assistance from a contractor. Concern was expressed that this may be a requirement in future, unless more volunteers were recruited to undertake the work.
- It was necessary to expand the mechanical capacity.
- The boundary stone has been restored and returned to its original site.
- RSPB monitors had submitted a positive report, and did not expect any problems in relation to water levels in the scrapes.

Andrew gave a vote of thanks to Tony Finn and Sue Nieduszynska for their work on the education programme.

There was a short discussion about FOG expenditure. Andrew said that an annual budget would be set up for recurring costs such as haymaking; this would be retained in the general fund, but earmarked for FOG.

9. FSG report

A working party had been set up to prepare the autumn exhibition in St. Nicholas' arcade, scheduled for 26/27 September 2014.

10. FOTT report

- Dave reported that a faulty vacuum flask which had been returned to the supplier had not been returned.
- The external works to the workshop had been completed.
- It was planned to demolish lean-to buildings during the summer, and some building materials to be sold on.
- Walls to be repaired using the FOTT mortar ingredients.
- A grant had been secured from the wind turbine fund, but no money had yet been received from Lancaster University.

11. Playground Report

- Repairs to the wall were now complete.
- The plaque from the Lottery Fund awaited erection.
- Andrew agreed to inspect the board at the top of the slide, which appeared to be rotting.

12. Events

Fun Day

- Ruth reported good feedback about Fun Day, but thought that tasks could be devolved further. She also hoped that someone would take on the role of liaising with volunteers who provided the Fairfield attractions.
- There had been a disappointing response to the request for volunteers via the newsletter, resulting in some of the usual attractions being abandoned.
- An alternative portaloos company was being investigated.
- Insufficient parking spaces had been available on the day for stall holders, although this problem was ameliorated by Fairfield members loaning their visitor parking cards.
- The tea tent was sited in full sunshine, so some of the cakes had melted.

Andrew thanked everyone for their efforts.

Cross-Bay Walk

Andrew announced that Annabel was thinking of organising a fundraising walk, and promised to circulate details when available. It was thought that participants would have to provide their own transport. Jane advised that the sponsor forms should include Gift Aid details.

Quick Cricket

Andrew advised that this event would be organised by Geoff Orr. LGGs field to be booked for either 14th or 21st September.

Flora Exhibition.

See paragraph 9.

Apple Day

It was hoped that this event could be arranged in conjunction with the national Apple Day, and Lancaster's Food Fortnight. It was agreed, however, that it would have to be arranged after the Flora exhibition. Tony suggested that the event should take place every two years, but on a larger scale than at present; this was carried, and it was agreed that there would therefore be no Apple Day in 2014.

13. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

14. Website and Facebook

Sites are to be updated with forthcoming events mentioned above.

15. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the Association would take a small stall at the Green Christmas Fair to sell calendars and notelets.

Tony advised that he had visited schools to promote the feedback sheets from their visits to the reserve.

16. Date of next meeting

Andrew decided that there would not be a meeting in August. Dates for the next two meetings are 10th September and 15th October, at the Robert Gillow pub.