

## **Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on 21/9/2016 at Whitegates, Sunnyside Lane, Lancaster**

### **Present:**

Hilary Short (chair)  
Mick Short,  
Ken Capewell  
Dave Brookes  
Tony Finn  
Mandy Bannon (minutes)

### **1. Welcome**

Hilary welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Shirley Rawsthorne (Secretary), Sue Nieduszynska, Ian Procter, Jane Parker (Treasurer)

### **3. Minutes from the last meeting**

The minutes were agreed pending the following amendments:

1. Fun Day fundraising total of £2.5 K is a gross figure, not net profit.
2. The play area had the beam removed, not the net.
3. The amount of ragwort is reducing (not just one bag removed)
4. Tony reported we had an increase in the number of groups visiting and that credit should be given to Julia McDowell who has worked with a class at Dallas Road school to create an e-book that covers their visits to the orchard. Thanks also to Ian Procter who prepares the site prior to school visits.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Hilary reported that the back room at the Museum was no longer available for the forthcoming Flora Footpath exhibition, but unit 7 of St Nic's Arcade may be available from 28<sup>th</sup> November. Dave also suggested getting in touch with the manager of Market Gate.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Bank balance 15/07/16	£79,725.42
Bank balance 16/09/16	£72,734.02

#### **Significant payments:**

Abbey Traders for	
Fun Day Marquee	£564
Fun Day tables & chairs	£306
UK Timber for Triangle sleepers from	£3,520
Tesco grant + further smaller invoices	
Playdale Playgrounds re balance beam for	£318
play area	
N Blades for haymaking	£1,050

The 2016 Fun Day currently has net income of £727. I am expecting a further £105, which is matched funding from Simon Hetherington's employer and possibly a further £116 for the 2014 Fun Day which we have never received.

## **6. Membership Report**

One new member has joined.

## **7. Additional items for discussion**

Ian would like £150 to buy 6 pairs of shears as soon as possible. Hilary to pursue Lancaster Green Spaces grants of up to £250.

Hilary reported the sad death of Alan Waters, whose wife Mary has donated £51, following donations from his funeral. Hilary to write to Mary, to thank her.

## **8. Education**

Tony and Julia McDowell have evaluation forms for Dave. Ryelands School and Dallas Road school have both visited.

## **9. Other Events**

- Open Garden date agreed for first week of July, 2017
- Green Fair Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – we will attend to sell calendar, new notelets by local artists and Xmas cards (Mandy to ask Carole Martin for reprinting quotes). A big thank you to Carole for organising the design and print of the calendar and cards.
- Flora Footpath & Exhibition - Laura has been unwell but is keen to get back involved. Hilary is meeting with Georgina to review the map for noticeboards funded by Heritage Lottery Fund
- Meadow Project
- There will be 3 more meetings – two at priory Meadow and one in our meadow. Tony to talk to Lucia re getting Willow lane and other schools involved in plug planting in Vicarage Fields.
- Light Up Lancaster, November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> – Dave confirmed they will be using the Triangle to project images. We won't be serving refreshments as we haven't got a food safety certificate.

## **10. FOTT**

Dave reported on the following:

- The boat is going ahead – Lancaster City Council say it can be made into a safe play structure but we need to put railings up and a barrier and gate so it is fully enclosed. Insurance company has said yes, if inspected and approved. We haven't got the money for railings at the moment, so may do it next year. We've had a quote for £1200 for railings so it may be double that to include a gate. It would also need a safety surface.
- There are worries about dogs chewing the wooden mushroom sculptures.
- Princes Trust have contacted us about providing paths and soil in raised beds.
- The bench at the end of Cromwell road has been repaired by Dave and Ken at a cost of £250 for which we had a grant.

## **11. FFOG**

Mick reported on the following:

- Following complaints about rats in the orchard/shed area, Ron the rat man has done a first treatment. Apparently there is a big problem with rats all over Lancaster at the moment.
- The arable crop has been taken, the farmer is happy with it. Flowers are still growing in the stubble.

- Big Meadow – rushes have been cut but new rushes very high. Weed wiping will take place tomorrow. The area will be limed to encourage grass and discourage rush. Weed wiping will also take place by School Pond and the end of the wildflower meadow.
- Hay-making went well as we had more volunteers than usual, including some new faces, which meant we finished earlier (6.30pm). We made fewer bales this year, hay rattle having an effect, so we will be flexible about cattle being in the field in early spring. The wrapper for bales may be a problem so we may need to change the size and type of bale.
- Saturday volunteering is going well, but summer Wednesday evenings have not been as popular. It was suggested that the start time of 6.30pm may be too early for some people so maybe we it should start later.

## **12. Playground**

Ken reported that:

- the enclosed area and benches are all okay. Trees have been trimmed by the fence, the gate has been oiled and all plastic caps have been replaced. The Balance Beam has been replaced, and it is a significant improvement on the last one (thanks go to Dave Brookes, Dave Dawson and Andrew Brennand). The Spinner has a missing bolt but Ken will check regularly. The base of the big Tower slide still needs attention and the Tower net is worn in places.
- Ken is concerned that the roundabout is going too fast. He will ask Andrew to arrange for it to be serviced.
- The slide on the multi frame requires panel beating. Ken to ask Piccadilly Garage to recommend a panel beater.
- The Council have reported that there should be a sign with emergency telephone numbers on the Toddler Area fence (the noticeboard, near to allotment gate is too far away). Dave Brookes to investigate legal requirements.

## **13. Correspondence**

Land registration: Hilary reported that Flora fields have now been registered to us by the Land Registry and we can progress the new grazing licence. We agreed an additional amount of £300 +VAT to pay JWK for all the additional work that they have done and the completion of the grazing licence.

## **14. Website and Facebook**

Nothing to report.

## **15. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that Mandy should go ahead with the November newsletter in the usual format (double-sided A4).

## **16. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is at 19.30 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at The Friends' Meeting House, meeting House lane.