

Minute of the Fairfield Association Annual General Meeting held on 15th June 2011 at The Friends Meeting House.

Present: Mandy Bannon, Jon Barry, Sheila Beven, Andrew Brennand (Chair), Dave Brookes, Graham Brandwood, Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh (Membership Secretary), David Herrod, Helen Hicks, Bill Littlejohn, Jane Littlejohn, Jane Parker (Treasurer), Ian Procter, Hilary Short (Secretary), Mick Short, Ann Woodfine, Adrienne Wallman.

Apologies: Melanie Forrest, Fraser Granell Watson, Helen Granell Watson, Henry Hicks, Mary Ridley, Ann and Sid Duncan, Michael Sheppard, Jude Naish, Sue Turner.

The Minutes for 2010 were accepted without amendment.

Chair's Report:

Andrew Brennand welcomed new members and thanked everybody present for their support. He also thanked the officers and the trustees for their work during the preceding year.

He described our achievements over the past year, the most notable of which was the finalising of FAUNA and the campaign to buy the fields beyond FAUNA. The FA expects FAUNA to be open by spring 2012 and Andrew thanked Oliver Fulton and Dave Brookes for all the work they have put in to make this possible. He thanked Mick Short for the energy which he had brought to raising money to buy further fields and for his remarkable success in obtaining pledges that will enable us to put in a realistic bid when the time comes. Andrew also thanked those who gave their time freely to enable the Fairfield Association to maintain the local resources for which it is responsible, in particular the Orchard Volunteers and those who have spent their Saturday mornings removing graffiti from the play equipment. Andrew noted that we have had a full fun and fundraising calendar during the past year and run a total of nine events. He particularly thanked Ruth Haigh for her work in organising volunteers to give of their time and their cakes and also for her work in attracting new members. A full report is appended.

Treasurer's Report

Jane Parker highlighted the main features of our income and expenditure over the past year. She commented specifically on the growth in our income, from around £3,500 to £10,000 net, and the difference that this money made to the local community. In addition to the summary sheet, Jane provided a detailed breakdown of our restricted and unrestricted funds and the money spent and raised in the course of our fundraising activities. She thanked Alan for his support in auditing our accounts.

The accounts were accepted without amendment.

Membership Report

Ruth Haigh reported that our membership has risen from 120 to 146. She believed that we gained new members as a result of the Fields Campaign and the publicity which it has generated. During the year we attracted 52 new members, many of whom had also made donations.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees of the Fairfield Association can simply be coopted by the other trustees. However, the trustees believe that it is useful to ask the AGM if they are in favour of the decision that they make. In this spirit, Andrew Brennand was proposed and made a trustee with no objections. It was also agreed that in future notification of changes to the trustees should be a standard item on the agenda at the AGM.

Amendment to the Constitution to state that the land that we own should remain green in perpetuity.

Numerous issues were raised including the fact that we may at some point in the future want to build on some part of our land. For example, the FA might want an education centre or even a toilet. It was agreed that we need to think ahead and in particular to clarify the statement 'for public benefit'. It was decided that the trustees would draft an amendment to the Constitution and bring it to the next AGM.

Election of Officers

The following were re-elected unopposed:

Chairman: Andrew Brennand

Treasurer: Jane Parker

Membership Secretary: Ruth Haigh

Mandy Bannon was elected as Secretary, also unopposed.

Orchard Update

Mick Short reported that it had been a successful year for the Orchard.

- i) The number of regular volunteers had increased and we had also benefited from large volunteer groups from the University.
- ii) The new footpath from Towneley Close through the Orchard had been agreed and was welcomed.
- iii) A new management plan has been agreed which, among other things, will establish a wildflower meadow in the circle surrounding the millennium oak.
- iv) The mower had finally been repaired.
- v) The Orchard had hosted a full calendar of events although Wassailing had to be abandoned because of atrocious weather.

There had been some problems with fires and damage to trees in the Orchard but these had not been insurmountable. Mick announced that we are currently looking for a new secretary for the FAUNA and Orchard subcommittee (FOG).

FAUNA

Oliver confirmed that all our grants were in place and that qualifying for Higher Level Stewardship from Natural England gave us a small income for the next 10 years (£1500 pa) as well as additional capital. Our Lottery grant will largely be spent on paths, fencing and gates and the community aspect of FAUNA continues to be priority equal to our plans to promote the development of FAUNA as a nature reserve. Oliver reported that there have already been organised walks into and around FAUNA.

In terms of developing the area as a nature reserve, we have received a lot of help from both the RSPB and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Oliver thanked both of these organisations for the support that they have provided. We will need to record the flowers, birds and animals in the area and Oliver reported that we have already recruited a number of groups interested in doing this and are still recruiting. He also thanked Robin Loxam for his support, advice and willingness to help, particularly with respect to his cattle which play a crucial role in our plans. Oliver thanked Dave Brookes for his management of the grant expenditure and Jon Barry was thanked for coming up with the original idea for the nature reserve.

There was some discussion of names put forward for the new nature reserve and a show of hands indicated that the most popular of those put forward was Fairfield Nature Reserve.

Fields Update

Mick Short reported that the sale has been postponed yet again and that it will now be some form of sealed bid rather than an auction. Working in conjunction with other individuals and groups we should be in a position to put in a reasonable offer, in terms of the current value of agricultural land locally, for the whole package of around 30 acres and,

should we succeed, we would expect the Fairfield Association to manage the area on behalf of other interested parties. We do not yet have the conditions of the tender, nor do we know if there other interested parties. Thanks were given to Mick Short for his successful efforts in raising money for the project.

AOB

- i) It was announced that the Fairfield Association will be serving tea, scones and cakes at National Open Garden event in Robin Loxam's garden. This will be a two day commitment which will replace Fun Day in 2011 and there was a call for volunteers.
- ii) Consultation on the Local Development Framework was raised by Philip Turner and it was agreed that the Fairfield Association should make sure its views were well represented. It was agreed that Ruth would circulate the details and encourage local people to record what they wanted to see in the local plan.
- iii) A vote of thanks to Andrew and Jane was proposed.
- iv) The dates of the next meetings of both the Fairfield Association and FOG were announced.