

Minutes of the Meeting of the Fairfield Association held on 23rd January 2007 at Brookhouse.

Present: Ann and Sid Duncan, PC 3212 Mark Finch, Oliver Fulton, Simon Gershon, PCSO 7158 Cath Griffiths, Helen and Henry Hicks, PCSO 7463 Andrew Reay, Hilary Short.

Apologies: Ruth Haigh, Jude Naish, Michael Sheppard.

Treasurer's report: Our balance is £9890.48. Major income came from the carol singing which raised £443.32 and also from Building Society interest of £108.36. Subscriptions and donations amounted to £17.50. Major outgoings were £586.33 for the website.

The Newsletter

Simon will send Hilary the information he would like to see included. The Newsletter will also include information about Police concerns over lighting on Fairfield Green. The call for subscriptions will include a call for donations and dates of future meetings will be given. It was agreed that meetings would take place at approximately two monthly intervals, on the last Tuesday of the month. It was also agreed that we would only give dates in the next three to four months since the dates of meetings need to be responsive to ongoing events.

Playground

i) One police officer and two community police officer were present at the meeting to discuss ways of dealing with the large number of young people who sometimes congregate on the play area, particularly in the summer months. The police said that it would be easier to catch those involved if there was better lighting. The whole of Fairfield will shortly become a Prohibited Drinking Area, however, drinking is not always the issue. It is more the fact that large numbers of young people meet up and that this is intimidating for others and likely to result in vandalism. The police asked if we would include in our forthcoming newsletter a piece which outlined the problems and asked for suggestions.

Members of the committee pointed out that those living in the immediate area had been very unhappy with the high level, high powered lighting that the Council had initially installed along the footpath and had campaigned for the low level lighting which we now have. More powerful lighting at the same level was suggested and it was also pointed out that it is often the case that not all the lights are working. Security lights were also suggested but it was difficult to know where these could be sited. It was also pointed out that damage in the play area and orchard has been minimal. It was agreed that the newsletter would carry a piece outlining police concerns and asking for suggestions.

ii) Henry reported that a square of the safety surface has been removed near the roundabout and that some of the climbing net has been melted so that one side of one square has lost its plastic covering although the metal core remains. This is not seen as a safety risk but Henry will contact Playdale about the net and Mr. Butt at Briscoes about the safety surface and our options for repairing it.

Fauna

Mick and Oliver have spoken to the Planning Department about changes to our planning application which will make it possible to terminate the agricultural lease.

- i) We need to make a minor revision which involves taking out words such as 'grazing' and makes clear that the Fairfield Association will become the tenants and any grazing provided by Robin Loxham would be commissioned by the Association. We need to consult Robin Loxham on this.

- ii) We need to make a new planning application for the paddock and the white farmhouse which makes it clear what the building will be used for when it becomes part of the nature reserve. This application should include provision for parking.

Our next steps are:

- to ask Georgina to review and draw up new plans as necessary.
- to ask the allotment holders for their views
- since it seems likely that the farmhouse is a listed building, ask the City Council if this is the case and how this might affect plans.

The biologist, Keith Jones will talk to Graeme, Oliver and Mick about his research on Lucy Brook.

Communications update.

Darren has been paid, since the bulk of the work on the website is now completed. Oliver will ensure that anything else that requires doing is done.

AOB

- i) Michael thought that Ruth would be happy to be Membership Secretary but we need to check this.
- ii) Ruth will help with Fun Day but needs an assistant. We will advertise in the newsletter for a co-organiser for Fun Day.
- iii) Simon pointed out that the Energy forum are currently doing a home energy survey and are looking for surveyors and surveyees.
- iv) Simon asked about access to the path just past the orchard and will contact Jon Barry about this.
- v) There was some discussion about the financial difficulties the orchard is facing.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 20th March at Edenbreck (Helen and Henry's House)

(The following meeting will be May 22nd at Michael's House)