

Minutes of the Meeting of the Fairfield Association held on 14th May 2007 at Lyndene.

Present: Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Helen and Henry Hicks, Michael Sheppard, Hilary Short, Mick Short.

Apologies: Tony Finn, Simon Gershon, Ann and Sid Duncan, Andrew Jotischky, Jude Naish,

Matters Arising:

- i) The annual audit is in progress.
- ii) A gift aid form is available on the web
- iii) A new account will be opened using the Cooperative Bank as soon as the new treasurer is in place this can be accessed via the Post Office
- iv) £102 has been paid to Steve for work in the orchard

Treasurer's report: The account was closed at the end of April with a balance of £7811.35. Major outgoings were £367.50 insurance. Income includes money donated by Friends of the Orchard which is ring-fenced for the orchard.

Membership: It was agreed that it would be put to the AGM that the new membership fee should be £5 per person and £10 per family (minimum).

Playground Report

The playground repairs are satisfactory. Mark and Sid watched whilst the repair of the safety surface was made and feel competent to do future repairs should the need arise.

The notice board needs cleaning. Helen will put up notices as required. Mick said the plan of FAUNA is now out of date and can be removed.

The commemorative plaques are almost ready to go in. Henry has filled the writing on one of the plaques using polyurethane and will now do the rest. We need to find somebody who can tarmac the plaques in place.

Millennium Orchard and Friends of the Orchard

It was agreed that Mick and Geoff should organise a Quick Cricket tournament on LGGS playing field on either the 24th or 30th June. Mick agreed to talk to Pam Barber about using the field.

Millennium Orchard

The meeting with Marion McClintock did not make as much headway as we had hoped. We did receive a statement, endorsing the idea that the two charities should merge (attached) but it is very vague. Sid has resigned and Alistair is leaving the area so there are now only 4 trustees. It was agreed that Hilary would contact Andrew to welcome the statement and also to propose that at the Trust AGM, Mick, Oliver and Simon should be co-opted as members of the Trust.

It was agreed that at the Fairfield Association AGM, a proposal will be made that the two organisations should merge and also that Mick, Oliver and Simon should be co-opted as Trustees. Feedback from these proposals will be presented at the Trust AGM. If our proposals are sidelined, there will be a proposal of no confidence in the Trust.

Steve and the Orchard

It was agreed that £300 should be set aside to pay Steve next month, if he wanted to work. We also need to ask Steve what needs to be done so that the volunteers can work effectively. Michael agreed to find out what type of fuel is required for the strimmer and there was some discussion of mowers and the possibility of borrowing a sit on mower from somebody who has recently moved into Fairfield.

Ruth and Michael reported back from the Green Partnership Awards that funding and training for work in the orchard, was available. Joy Grayson is a good contact on Lancaster City Council. Funding for the orchard could also be raised from Awards for All.

FAUNA

We have approached Georgina about a new plan but she needs guidance, particularly about the role of the white farmhouse (which is **not** a listed building). Keith Jones, a biologist at the University who has done a lot of work on Lucy Brook, has volunteered to write a letter, on our behalf, to the Environment Agency, to point out that he sees no reason to keep the cows away from Lucy Brook.

Fun Day

Ruth has assembled a Fun Day committee.

Grant applications are ongoing. The CVS is a possible source of funding via the Piggy Bank Fund.

Ray's Marquees are providing a marquee for £530.

AGM

This needs to include a proposal to raise membership fees and a proposal that the Fairfield Association merge with the orchard and co-opt as new trustees: Mick, Oliver and Simon. Henry will not be standing as Vice-Chair since he will be in France next year. This is not a position required by the constitution and therefore not a problem should there be no 'volunteers'.

AOB

- i) John Hare has sent in a letter of complaint about the playground as a response to the Newsletter. This is similar to the letter which he sent last year. Michael will respond.
- ii) There are new things on the website.

Date and time of the next two meetings:

- i) Thursday 14th June, 7.30 pm at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.
- ii) Tuesday, 17th July, 7.30 pm at Thornycroft.