

Minutes of the meeting of the Fairfield Association held on September 13th 2007 at Brookhouse

Present: Andrew Brennard, Ann and Sid Duncan, Oliver Fulton, Simon Gershon, Ruth Haigh, Jude Naish, Michael Sheppard, Shirley Rawsthorne, PJ Butler

Apologies: Hilary Short, Jean Stuart

Amendment to the Minutes of the last meeting:

Fun Day **was** covered by the Lancaster Guardian but they did not mention our sponsors.

Matters Arising:

- i) The Council have said that the fence erected at the end of Willow Lane is too high and needs planning permission.
- ii) Jon Barry does not have a key for the Bollards after all.
- iii) Yellow vests are now in regular use by the volunteers.
- iv) PJ is still working on getting some help to put the signs in. He needs to borrow a plaque
- v) Mick has cut back some of the nettles. Ruth will try to get the Council to cut the rest. The cycle path may be the responsibility of the County Council.
- vi) Hilary will order the wood for the bins. Andrew will pick them up from Woodscape.
- vii) The Teddy Bears' Picnic raised £84.10 (now in our account) and was enjoyed by 15-20 families. PJ has a good photo of Andrew and the bear made for us by the prison. This should go on the website.
- viii) A stall has been booked at the Green Party Fair. Shirley has taken photographs which will be made into notelets to sell at the event.
- viii) Those wishing to go to the carol service in the prison which will be on the 2nd or 3rd Monday in December at 6.30 pm will require security clearance. Shirley has the forms. This will take 2 to 3 weeks. there is also a Guitar Black History Concert in October. Ann and Sid, Ruth, Michael and Mick and Hilary all said they were interested.

Treasurer's Report

£9572.76 in the account and more to come!

Andy Lee's invoice will come to Jude who will pay it on behalf of the Trust.

Membership Update

43 forms were returned on or around the AGM. Ruth has also written to an additional 39 people who were previously members. The membership forms indicate a lot of volunteers for various events. Ruth will give the list of orchard volunteers to Simon. It was suggested that Hilary should send out the minutes to all members who have email addresses, suggesting that people should let her know if they do not want them.

Playground Report

- i) Sid has done a couple of inspections and PJ is now continuing the work. We need urgent repairs to the safety surface around the swings. The wood surrounding the surfaces is shrinking away from the edges and the safety surface is rising. In the toddler area some of the wood surround is rotting. Ruth said she would ask David Howard to come and have a look and give us some suggestions as to the best way forward. For example, should we contact Playdale and suggest they should put things right? If not we will need a price for the cost of repair.
- ii) PJ and Mick will trim the hedge near the substation.

Fireworks at the Castle on November 3rd?

Jude will contact the Council about the arrangements this year.

Hilary will ask, in the newsletter, if anybody can lend us a generator.

FAUNA

LGGS are still going ahead with their plans but this is taking time.

Work will start on extending the allotments in February.

Our project is dependent on the outcome of negotiations between Robin Loxham and LGGS.

Orchard Update

The path leading up to the picnic table has been installed. Mark has supplied the gravel for this path, not to mention tea, beer and biscuits on many occasions. It was agreed that Hilary should write and thank him. Tony Finn has supplied the wood edging.

On Wednesday the 19th, there is a working day devoted to 'blitzing' the orchard.

On Wednesday 26th September Steve Edward will visit.

From October onwards, there will be monthly, rather than fortnightly, work days (on the second Saturday of each month).

Apple Day 20th October

Steve Langhorn and Jennifer Newton will give talks and there will be tea and apple cake. An Apple Day planning meeting will take place in the Water Witch on Wednesday the 19th September at 8 pm

On the day, Mark will supply a hosepipe and Michael will supply a water boiler.

Wassailing 19th January

This will include a bonfire, a lantern procession, pot and pan banging, mummers and pieces of toast hung on the millennium oak.

Trust Meeting update

At the next meeting the document, prepared by Mick, on the pros and cons of a merger between the Fairfield Association and the Trust, will be discussed.

Communications update:

Oliver continues to update the website.

Our web hoster still hasn't done what he agreed.

We need to renew our rights to 'fairfieldassociation.org', for another 5 years, before the 18th September. Oliver will pay and reclaim the money from Jude.

AOB

Simon gave away energy-saving light-bulbs on behalf of LESS

Ruth reported that LSP grants have a deadline of 5th October or 21st of December.

Date of the next two meetings:

16th October, at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close (advance apologies from Ann and Sid, Oliver, PJ and Shirley)

29th November at Thorneycroft.