

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2008 at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.

Present: Tony Finn, Henry and Helen Hicks, Mick and Hilary Short, Michael Sheppard.

Apologies Andrew Brennand , Margaret Burtonwood , Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Shirley Rawsthorne, Mary Ridley, Jean Stuart, Jude Naish.

Matters Arising:

- ? **Playground Report:** The securing bolt on the roundabout still needs replacing, Mick will contact Jones. Screw are still needed on the climbing net.
- ? **Cedar of Lebanon:** Hilary will email Simon.
- ? **The Parkin Stall** is now a well-worked plan with a crew who work well together. The lighting was better than last year even though we did not have a generator.
- ? It was agreed to carry forward the suggestion of a deed of governance.
- ? Over 60's tea party at the Castle was a great event.

Treasurer's Report:

We have £10,317.94 in the Nationwide account and £784.97 in the Coop Bank. The invoice for the apple juice (£118.44) has still not been presented. Our total before deducting the price of the apple juice is £11,102.91 and after subtracting the cost of the apple juice is £10,984.47. The final account for Apple Day is still not clear since Simon has underwritten over-ordering, although he was advised he not to do this. It was emphasised that FA members who undertake projects are not expected to carry the loss in this way and that this is not the way we work. The cartons of juice left over from Apple Day may be used at Wassailing. It was agreed that Jude should approach Simon and suggest that he offers any leftovers for sale and that he passes on all costs.

The stall at the Castle made a profit of £208.58. £255.30 was taken on the night and from this there were deductions for tent rental (£35.25) and sundries (£11.47). All but one ginger cake and one parkin were sold and these can be used at Christmas Fair. Tasters were offered on parkin which made it more popular. However, chocolate cake remains the most popular cake. Geoff and Anabelle's lamp was useful.

Membership Secretary's Report:

No new members.

Green Christmas Fair : The Castle will provide cakes , Helen will provide some Christmas cards. We will also have wassailing and Carol singing fliers. Ruth will contact bakers and provide membership forms.

Carol Singing has been requested in Fairfield Road

Orchard update

Although the Charities' Commission agreed the merger and revised constitution, the Council had indicated that a Deed of Variation should be attached to the lease. The lease is vested in Charity Commission. At a meeting with Ann Wood to discuss this issue the Council Solicitor suggested that a simple document recounting the history would be sufficient and agreed to draw up such a document.

The Breathing Places grant has been successfully transferred and we have been told over the telephone to go ahead and spend the money. Hilary will write to Rachel Byford to confirm the conversation since Breathing Places have computing problems and are unable to send out a letter. Mick reported that the Orchard Subgroup may need to ask for money from the Fairfield Association for signage because the original grant had to be trimmed to get the bid within the limit.

The Orchard Subgroup had discussions with the Martins who had already been given instructions from Maxine Knagg to do work on trees, some of which were within the Orchard. The Martins seemed to be cooperative and had already joined the Fairfield Association. The Orchard Trust will invite Maxine Knagg down to look at the sycamores with a view to thinning them and also to offer advice on thinning other trees.

Oliver is updating the management plan which will form a guide for the volunteers . Simon has contacted Steve Edwards to come and give a bit more training on hedge layering and he has agreed to come on the next volunteer day.

Simon's future role will be to organise the volunteers and do practical work.

Woodland trust bid will be put in for £100 for tree planting.

Playground Report:

The hedge did not need cutting, since the Council had already done the job!

Mick pointed out that the roundabout needs servicing and, in particular greasing , on a regular basis. Mick will email the chart, sent by Jones, to Henry. Henry will resume weekly inspections and repairs, as long as Sid is happy with this. Thanks were given to Sid for his work whilst Henry was in France. Michael will speak to Sid about the matter.

The screw will be replaced on the climbing net

The glass on the Noticeboard is broken. Hilary will contact Woodscape about the dimensions and ask Sid if he will replace it – again!

Henry's plaques are underway but slowly! Michael will pursue his friend at Harbour and General who agreed to put the plaques in for free. Otherwise, we will use some of our funds to pay to have them set.

FAUNA

At the meeting with Ann Wood we were told that the Council had now decided not to sell the white farmhouse to Robin Loxham and that the Fairfield Association would have to put in a planning application for the buildings as well as the land or consider subletting from Robin Loxham. The implications of this seemed to be that, after four years, we were scuppered. However, Oliver contacted the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Jon Barry. Jon Barry said that this was not a decision for Council Officers. At a subsequent meeting with Jon Barry, he suggested that we rebrand the project as a regeneration project. This would mean that we would work in cooperation with the Council and we would aim to get EU funding for a bigger project which would involve both buildings and land. FAUNA would become an environmental hub. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged at the beginning of December with the Council Officer responsible for regeneration projects, Ms McManus and that we should make a presentation at that meeting. The project would aim to improve leisure facilities, green and environmental information. It would raise the profile of Lancaster as an environmentally friendly city: 'The green heart of Lancashire'. Bolton is a precedent and Mick agreed to email their website to others present at the meeting. Helen said that Shropshire has similar sites and Tony will look for similar activities in the NE. Michael suggested a kind of green necklace similar to the one in London, which would include the Lancashire Wildlife site in Freeman's Wood, the canal corridor, the estuary etc. Helen suggesting including art projects and linking the plans to work at the Storey Institute.

AOB

- LSP Local Sustainability Partnership have contacted the Fairfield Association and we will give a presentation at their event on 12th December at The Platform in Morecambe. Mick is looking for photos of the picnic table which they funded.
- Wassailing meeting on Wednesday 26th November at 8pm in the Robert Gillow. All welcome.
- Tony and Helen would like to run a lantern-making workshop at the Friends' Meeting House a week before Wassailing. Willow and tissue lanterns will be made at workshop for accompanied children. Tony and Helen will work out the cost and ask Andrew Brennand at the Wassailing Meeting.

Next Orchard Subgroup Meeting Mon 8th Dec, Whitegates, Sunnyside Close

Next two Fairfield Association Meetings: January 14th Helen and Henry's house, Edenbreck.
March 4th Oliver's house, Thorneycroft.