

## **Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Edenbreck**

**Present:** Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Henry and Helen Hicks, Shirley Rawsthorne, Mick and Hilary Short, Michael Sheppard, Jean Stuart.

Apologies Andrew Brennand , Ann and Sid Duncan, Steve Langhorn, Jude Naish.

### **Matters Arising:**

- ? **Playground Report:** The securing bolt on the roundabout still needs replacing, Mick will contact Jones. Screws are still needed on the climbing net.. Whilst cutting back the hedge at the end of Sibsey Street, Council also cut down one of our trees. Simon has asked them to pay for a replacement.
- ? **Cedar of Lebanon:** Hilary will email Simon.
- ? 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.
- ? **The Breathing Places grant** has been successfully transferred and confirmed by email. Because of the time taken to transfer the money, we have been assured that we will be allowed to extend the period during which the money needs to be spent.
- ? It was agreed to carry forward the suggestion of a deed of governance. to the AGM.
- ? Mick and Oliver gave a presentation at the LSP Local Sustainability Partnership event on 12<sup>th</sup> December at The Platform in Morecambe.
- ? About 12 lanterns have been made for the Wassailing
- ? The Castle is still keen to have a short talk by a FA member about the aims of organisation. The last Wednesday in March was suggested and Mick agreed to do this.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

We have £11,097.99 in the Nationwide and £784.97 in the Coop bank.

Carol Singing was very well attended, especially on Christmas Eve when there were 35 people at one point. We raised a record-breaking total of £513. Stephen will book the same slot in St Nicholas Arcade for next year.

Our stall at the Green Christmas Fair raised £85.

The newly-formed Fairfield baby-sitting circle – will contribute £2.50 for each new member to the Fairfield Association

Our current lawnmower will hopefully be sold to the allotment holders association. Simon is liaising with them on this. Jude will let Marion know which account to put Breathing Places grant into.

### **Membership Secretary's Report:**

Ruth reported that things were very quiet. A number of committee members have not paid their subscription!

### **Orchard update**

The floral and fruiting hedge was pruned on volunteer day . It was agreed that the Orchard subgroup should have a separate page on the website and Helen agreed to provide photographs for four virtual tours of the Orchard at different times of year. Helen will email Tony details of the Nature Diversity Network.

Open Townely: At a committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> of January LCC approved the Creation Order for a path from Townely Close, through the Orchard, to the long pads . The Fairfield Association has received a document to sign agreeing the details of the path. Although we have no objection in principle we have queried the width of the path and the material to be used. We also asked for a geotextile sub-base to prevent weeds growing through. Michael has had discussions over the phone and the routing of the path either side of bench has been agreed. The trustees plan to sign the amended document when we receive it.

### **Playground Report: Nothing to add**

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 and 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. It was agreed that Sid and Ann should receive a bunch of flowers, in addition to our thanks for all their work over the years..

Sid has agreed to replace the glass on the notice board – again!

### **FAUNA**

Jon Barry, Mick and Oliver have met with the head of the regeneration programme at the Council. In order to proceed with FAUNA we may need to take responsibility for the white farmhouse and its surroundings as well as the area originally proposed and the use of the farmhouse may not be able to be primarily residential. Ideally, we would like to use the farmhouse to generate some income so that we could employ warden for FAUNA . The plan is to redevelop the buildings as eco-friendly sites for offices/workshops etc for eco- friendly

organisations and premises for local and educational uses. We have been encouraged by the City Council to simplify our original proposal and to produce a more formal proposal on two sides of A4. We are now looking for others who would like to be involved and have contacted the Lancashire Wildlife Trust who have done something similar in Bolton. One of our problems is that the departments of planning, property services and regeneration do not act as one. Our next step is to get architect drawings and LCC may not pay for these. Jon Barry has suggested the architect who worked on the Marsh Community Centre.

Mick has already spoken to Robin Loxham and agreed to talk to Gary and Naomi who currently rent the white cottage. Our management plan will involve having cattle if and when we have the lease.

LGS are planning something that will require much less earth moving and are not in a rush.

### **Areas put forward for possible new housing at Aldcliffe, Arna Wood and the Giant Axe.**

It was agreed that the Fairfield Association should object and Tony and Oliver agreed to write the letter. People also agreed to send in individual protests.

### **FUN DAY July 4th**

A forward-planning group is being organised. Ruth will contact those who said they would be willing to help. Michael and Tony will also be involved and it was agreed that Sue Holden and the baby-sitting group would also be a good source of volunteers.

### **AGM**

Michael intends to step down as Chair in the summer because of work commitments.

### **Communications**

It was agreed that a newsletter should go out. This will give details of our recent fundraising activities including the Christmas Fair, Wassailing and Carol Singing. It will also advertise for volunteers to help organise Fun Day and the newly-formed baby-sitting Circle. It will also direct attention to our letter on the website objecting to the proposed new housing at Aldcliffe, Arna Wood and Giant Axe.

### **AOB**

Next two Orchard Subgroup Meetings: 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.

Next two Fairfield Association Meetings:

March 4<sup>th</sup> Oliver's house, Thorneycroft.

April 1<sup>st</sup> Michael's house, Lyndene.