

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at Thorneycroft

Present: Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Jude Naish, Mick and Hilary Short, Michael Sheppard,

Apologies: Andrew Brennand , Ann and Sid Duncan, Henry and Helen Hicks, Shirley Rawsthorne, Jean Stuart, John Lambert.

Matters Arising:

- ? Mick will contact Jones about the securing bolts on the roundabout.
- ? Screws are still needed on the climbing net. Henry will be asked to deal with this.
- ? The Council have agreed to pay for the tree which they cut down in the hedge at the end of Sibsey Street. Simon will arrange the plating.
- ? Hilary will email Simon about contacting the utility services about possible problems with the Cedar of Lebanon.
- ? Michael is waiting for better weather before contacting his friend at Harbour and General about a tarmac base for our plaques.
- ? Mick has given a talk at the Castle. As a result we will have a stall at Fun Day which will display work done by prisoners. Among other suggestions were joint games and a page on the Fairfield Association webpage. It was agreed that suggestions arising from Mick's talk should be discussed at the next Fairfield Association meeting when Shirley is present.
- ? A letter listing the Fairfield Association's objections to land suggested for housing at Aldcliffe, Arna Wood and the Giant Axe have been sent off and an acknowledgement received.
- ? Ann and Sid have written us a letter of thanks for the flowers we gave them.

Treasurer's Report:

CO-OP Account

Deposits

Wassailing event 141.37

Orchard Trust 9692.49

Woodland Trust Grant 100

Interest 0.46

Donation for tree survey from Martins 100

Other donations 10

Membership 30

Total 10,074.32

Outgoings

Donation towards stools for Andrew and Marion 20

Photocopying card 40
Total 60

* cheques written but not yet cashed
Expenses wassailing 19.05
Lakeland Lawnmowers 891.49 (Breathing Spaces grant)

Actual total 11,178.45

Nationwide
10457.94 + interest 126.12
Total 10584.06

Membership Secretary's Report:

Ruth reported that things were still quiet.

Orchard update

Saturday's volunteer day was used to plant trees in the floral and fruiting hedge and other hedges around the perimeter of the area. It was a good event which attracted new people, notably a number of students from the canalside residences.

Notices have been put on the trees which are due to be felled. It was agreed that it was a good idea to provide this kind of information.

The Orchard Subgroup is currently organising the expenditure of the Breathing Places grant on educational material, map, seats etc. We have not had official permission to extend the deadline on the Breathing Places grant. Hilary will contact Rachel Byford again.

Tony reported that all the primary and nursery schools he has contacted are keen to be involved in activities in the Orchard.

A number of events are planned: The Easter Egg Hunt on April 13th; a Jacob's Joint in early May which will be primarily for volunteers and those who have contributed to the Orchard in other ways; Go wild Week 18 -22 May. Ruth will send out an email to advertise the Jacob's Joint.

Maxine Knagg has inspected the sycamore trees at the back of the Orchard and ruled that they can only be removed or pruned if diseased or a danger. She also suggested that the Orchard needs an annual survey of major trees for health and safety purposes. It was suggested that Andy Lee should do a survey since he is qualified to provide the necessary recommendations. Andy Lee estimates the cost of the survey will be £258 and the Martins have already paid a contribution of £100 towards the bill and agreed to contribute to the cost of any work required. If necessary, the Fairfield Association will organise tree surgery and ask the Martins for a contribution to the bill since this means we retain control which is important for insurance purposes. Any contribution from the Martins will benefit from Gift Aid. It was agreed that an annual survey of the Orchard is not necessary.

Playground Report: Henry was absent and so there was no report. There was also no report from any other source of any problems. It was agreed that we would ask Henry if we can put him as a contact number on the notice board, for anybody wishing to report damage.

Request from Allotment Association

The Allotment Association have been given a grant to improve access at the end of Sibsey Street. This involves moving and angling the gate and, as a result, the use of some land which is currently leased by the Fairfield Association. John Lambert has asked for our agreement to a change in the lease. If we agree, Ann Wood will draw up a deed of variation to the leases. It was agreed that the Fairfield Association has no objection to this change provided: i) we don't have to pay for any change to the lease, and ii) access to our notice board is unimpeded. We also agreed to the bollard keys being lent to the Allotment Association so that the contractors will be able to put in fencing. Michael agreed to contact John Lambert.

FAUNA

We have had a meeting with the Director of Policy for Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Tim Mitcham. Although he did not offer a partnership because he is currently busy with other projects, he wished us well and also offered helpful suggestions as to how we might proceed. In particular he suggested we should try for a number of small, phased projects. He suggested we begin by drawing up some plans and that after that we should try and raise money for an office /meeting room conversion of the white farmhouse. We have arranged a meeting with Nick Gillibrand, of Mason Gillibrand, a local firm who are known to do a lot of environmentally-friendly building work, on March 6th at the white farmhouse. The architects may also be able to put us in touch with possible sources of funding. Robin Loxham has been contacted and is happy with this arrangement. However, it is not ideal for Naomi and Gary, who currently rent the cottage, since Naomi is expecting a baby on that day. If access is not possible, it was agreed that the architects would look at the outside of the buildings. The Council is currently doing a structural survey of the buildings.

FUN DAY July 4th

The marquee has been booked. Jean Stuart is willing to help and has met with Ruth. Ruth has contacted regular helpers via email. Hilary agreed to put in some grant applications to cover the cost of the marquee. The Community Fund, Marks & Spencer, The Yorkshire Building Society, the Galbraith Trust and the Skipton Building Society were suggested.

AGM

It was agreed that the AGM should take place during the first week of June. Hilary will book a room at the Meeting House.

AOB

- i) The Easter Egg Hunt will have the same format as last year. Tony will buy Easter eggs.
- ii) Next two Orchard Subgroup Meetings: March 30th and May 5th at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.

iii) Next two Fairfield Association Meetings: April 1st, Lyndene, Sunnyside Close and May 6th,
Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.

All meetings begin at 7.30 pm