

**Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday May 6th 2009
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.**

Present: Andrew Brennand , Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Henry Hicks, Shirley Rawsthorne, Michael Sheppard, Mick and Hilary Short.

Apologies: Ann and Sid Duncan, Helen Hicks, Jude Naish, Jean Stuart.

Matters Arising:,

- ? The Martins have accepted our decision not to allow service piping to cross the Orchard. There was no bad feeling over the matter.
- ? Michael will put Henry 's phone number on the noticeboard in the playground

Treasurer's Report:

Nationwide : Present balance: Nationwide - £10,594.06; Coop- £8,858.86 (£570 of cheques yet to be cashed).

The Coop Bank will reimburse £1280 which was fraudulently removed from our account when a cheque book, which we had not ordered, went astray. There were three other attempts to remove £1500 from the account but these were blocked.

Expenditure: £250.75 to Bowland Tree Services (£100 of this was paid by the Martins

£100 for First Aid training for 3 people

£396.90 – Zurich Insurance

Income:

The Easter Egg Hunt made a profit of £83.24. £202.30 was taken on the day and costs were £119.06.

Membership: £10

End of year membership report for May 2008 to May 2009:

73 membership forms were received of which 56 were from previous members and 17 from new members. Members who have not renewed will be followed up.

An integrated database which can be accessed by both Jude and Ruth is being developed.

Orchard update

Money is still available for First Aid training which was reported to be good. It will be possible to train 2/3 more people in the autumn. The First Aid box needs upgrading and expenditure for this was authorised.

More people now seem to be removing their dog poo though there are still people who don't. Oliver will contact the Dog Warden and see if he/she will have a word with one suspect. We have a clean-up policy before school visits.

There has been more vandalism to the pear trees and fires near the picnic table. It was agreed that we would contact our Community Support Officer, Cath Griffiths, again

There have been 3 school visits and another 3 are planned. A group of girl guides will also visit the Orchard to do volunteer work. Schools who have visited the Orchard have been enthusiastic in their response and have expressed interest in continuing educational visits, using their own resources.

Helen has produced photos for the website.

Andy Lee has completed a report on trees in the Orchard. Major trees are now tagged and numbered, however, two large trees were missed. An estimated £150 has been set aside for work required on the trees and Andy Lee will be asked to have a look at the trees which were omitted from the report when he comes down to do the work. The removal of branches on willows belonging to Martins will be paid for by the FA, if the Martins agree.

The Breathing Places paperwork has arrived and an extension has been agreed. This means that the money will need to be spent by December 16th. We can vire money between headings up to a total of 10% of the grant or £200, whichever is the lower.

This weekend the volunteering session will be followed by a Jacob's Join, beginning at 12.30 pm.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success and there are some wonderful photographs on the website. Next year we will try to get cheaper Easter Eggs. However, the boiler wouldn't work on the day and needs to be fixed before Fun Day.

Go Wild Week is scheduled for the week beginning 18th May. There will be events each evening starting at 7.30 pm, except for Friday when the session on bats will start at 9.00 pm. We will collect a fee/donation of £1 and all proceeds will go to the FA.

Piccadilly Gardens have asked if they can borrow our marquee and have offered us a load of manure in exchange. It was agreed that this is an organisation which deserves support and that on this occasion we should agree to lend out the marquee. However, it was also agreed that in general we do not lend out our equipment and also that our equipment should never be lent out without express

permission. Any request should go to the next meeting of either the Fairfield Association or the Orchard subgroup, whichever is meeting soonest. In addition it was agreed that our equipment should only be lent out to organisations relevant to our own charitable purpose and that there must be a person in the organisation who knew how to erect the marquee or operate other equipment on loan. The organisation borrowing our equipment must accept liability for any damage.

We now have the new mower. The old mower is to be sold to Fairfield Allotment Association and the matter will be pursued as a matter of urgency, otherwise we will sell it elsewhere. It was agreed that the new mower should not be lent out.

Playground Report: Henry reported no problems. He has fitted the bolt on the roundabout and recruited a local parent to keep an eye on things. We have had an engineer's report from the Council which picks out minor problems and one recommended action: that the cradle seat centre strap on one of the swings should be replaced.

The Castle Diversity and Racial Equality Action Scheme

There is now a sign shop which will do signs for the FA. The shop is particularly good at temporary peel-off signs and would be happy to do signs for Fun Day. Ruth will liaise with Shirley on the matter. The scheme also has a book-binding shop, which also produces blotters and ledgers. The prison would be happy to sell embossed notebooks on Fun Day to raise money for the FA. These might carry both the Castle and the FA logos. There will also be art work donated by prisoners which will be sold to raise funds for the FA on Fun Day.

Mick reported that the Prison were keen to engage in a sporting event with the FA and Shirley agreed to find out more. She reported that at a tea in the prison in November there will be a Scottish homecoming pipe band.

Mick drew attention to the new web pages which describe our links with the prison.

Open Towneley: There have been 3 objections, none of which appear to be from Mr. Ellison. Lancashire County Council needs our consent for any new footpaths to go ahead. We have already verbally agreed the footpaths subject to minor modifications but have received no further correspondence from Lancaster City Council. Michael will get back in touch.

FAUNA

Oliver has spoken to Ann Wood about the difficulty of spending more money on plans when we have no firm commitment from the City Council. She put the case that Council would make little out of selling the white farmhouse to Robin and hence plans from the FA that included the lease and the use of the cottage would be very welcome.

It was agreed that Nick Gillibrand should go ahead and draw up plans. Oliver believed it was very likely that Lancashire County Council would pay for these if he provides a more precise specification. Oliver will do this.

Oliver has also spoken to Charles Wilson who told him that the new fencing had been put in by Robin Loxham at LGGS expense and that the fencing will go when the hedge, which is mainly hawthorn, grows up. Robin and LGGS have agreed compensation though not the amount. At the moment LGGS have no immediate plans for the land and Robin will continue grazing his cattle. One possibility is that LGGS will build an assault course.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea if members of the FA also met with Robin in order to gauge his views on our plans and in particular plans for the white farmhouse.

FUN DAY July 4th

We now have a grant for the marquee and Bill Roberts and Geoff Orr and friend will provide the music. It was suggested that the Diffenthals might also be willing to help out with the music. Regular stallholders have been contacted and we have volunteers for almost everything. The prison has agreed to print fliers advertising the event.

AOB

- i) Everything is in place for the AGM, which will be advertised in the forthcoming Newsletter.
- ii) The Newsletter will also include pieces on: Fun Day, the dog poo campaign in the Orchard, reports on recent events, Lancaster Castle HMP, and educational activities in the Orchard.
- iii) Next Orchard subgroup meetings:

Monday 1st June and July 14th at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.

Next Fairfield Association Meetings:

June 17th, Edenbreck and July 9th (Thursday) , Thorneycroft, Fairfield Road.

All meetings begin at 7.30 pm