

## **Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Thursday 9 July at Thorneycroft**

**Present:** Andrew Brennan (chair), Oliver Fulton (mins), Ruth Haight, Jude Nais, Michael Sheppard, Paula Skidmore, Jean Stuart

**Apologies:** Hilary Short, Mick Short, Tony Finn

- Paula was welcomed to her first meeting

**Minutes:** approved. No matters arising out with agenda.

**Fun Day:** Ruth tabled a full report, which will be included in the running file for future years. Key points from the report and from others present included:

- Great difficulty in getting people to make advance commitments to help... balanced by -
- Huge support on the day: at least 80 people, not counting cake bakers, contributed help of some kind
- It would be useful to have a small pool of 'floating' volunteers who could sort out unexpected problems, relieve stall holders for a break, etc
- The new urn was fine but couldn't quite keep up with demand: so, if Simon can mend the defective one which was replaced under guarantee, we should hang on to it and not sell or give it away
- The old Fairfield gazebo, which was last seen by anyone present dripping in Mick and Hilary's porch after Fun Day 2008, seems to have gone missing.
- The questionnaire was only answered by 3 people despite Mick, Andrew, Hilary and Oliver's best efforts. Two were members and all three were familiar with the FA and events. One left a name - as a new member not a volunteer.
- The amount of food and drink served increased once again - and a huge amount of cake was sold out by mid-afternoon. Michael and Simon have revised upward the estimates of supplies needed and these will be noted in the file.
- Jude reported that she banked £2,190.98, net of the cash floats. She has written £425 worth of cheques, not yet cashed, and there are a few more bills to come in. Her estimate is that we probably made £1,500 profit (ahead of last year).

Everyone agreed that Fun Day had again been a huge success, and immense thanks were expressed to Ruth and Jean for all their efforts.

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

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Present balances: | 1) Co-op £12,185.15          |
| Credits:          | 2,190.98 (Fun Day)           |
|                   | 12.50 (Babysitting Circle)   |
| Debits:           | 95.00 (Accountant's fee)     |
|                   | 43.21 (Orchard - from Simon) |
|                   | 16.78 (BP Grant)             |

25.00 (Go Wild costs)  
[425.00 (Fun Day exes, cheques not yet cashed)]

2) Nationwide £10,600.53

Credit/debit [270.00 float]  
Credit 6.47 (Interest)

The Go Wild Week net profit was £56.21 .

**Membership:** 2 renewals, 3 new members, possibly 3 more (three people filled in Friends of the Orchard Gift Aid forms on Fun Day, which should probably have been membership applications). Ruth will follow up.

**Orchard:** Andrew is not available to run the Teddy Bears picnic this year. At Fun Day one person expressed a possible interest in running it, but has not yet rung Andrew back about it. It was agreed that if no-one volunteered, it would not be a disaster to skip this year.

Oliver reported a conversation with one of the Towneley Close objectors, who complained that the County had not responded to her objection. Michael has not received the promised revised letter from the County Council. Oliver offered to contact Mandy Bannon and inform her that the process seems to have ground to a halt.

At a site meeting, the City Council acknowledged that it had removed and lost/destroyed our dog mess/litter bin at the end of Sunnyside Lane and offered to donate a bin for the Willow Lane end in recompense. This had been accepted. Helen Hicks has volunteered to empty the new bin (removing the bag and placing it at the Sunnyside Lane end) twice per week for the Council to collect. The Council has given us a key to the bins and a supply of official purple bags: they are now being stored, along with a supply of standard green dog-mess bags, in the Hicks' gas meter box just inside the gate to Edenbreck House.

Concerns have been expressed that the County Council has not trimmed the hedge along the public footpath. However some people think it's not necessary. Agreed to remit this to the Orchard sub-group.

Melanie Forrest (new Castle Ward City Councillor) has written to ask if we would like official signs at Sunnyside and Willow Lane entrances pointing to the Orchard. Agreed that we would: Andrew to write saying Yes please. Also permit an anti-dog-mess signs, if available.

**Playground:** no report.

Melanie Forrest has passed on a constituent's suggestion of an anti-dog fence round the whole playground. It was recalled that this had been considered and rejected when the playground was first installed, mainly for aesthetic reasons. Moreover, dogs are not thought to be a serious problem here. Andrew will write to this effect.

Andrew is getting quotes for installing the plaques and hopes to bring them to the next meeting.

**FAUNA:** Oliver reported that Jon Barry believes he has convinced City Council officers that there is no good reason not to proceed with FAUNA, with Robin Loxham retaining the residential part of Edenbreck Cottage and ourselves taking over the rest of the space. Nick Gillibrand has duly produced two possible designs for buildings - one, a rebuild of (or on the footprint of) the existing outbuildings of Edenbreck Cottage, containing spaces directly related to FAUNA's and the Orchard's needs; and secondly a more ambitious plan for a new building facing out to FAUNA which would incorporate a larger meeting space(s) and so could be used as a community multi-purpose hall which could be rented out for events to generate income. The plans had been exhibited at Fun Day and a number of people had been enthusiastic about the idea of a community hall. However, this would not fall within the Association's charitable purposes, and if it were to go ahead there would need to be careful discussion of how it could be bid for, owned and managed. Lucia Marquart of the County Council, who has experience of this kind, has offered to help us with this. It was agreed that there would also need to be thorough consultation with the community before embarking on a project of this scale.

**Future events:** Teddy Bear's Picnic - see above.

Kwik Cricket: this is being organised by Geoff Orr with help from Mick Short. Ruth asked to be kept informed about baking needs.

**AOB:** despite reaching the last three, we did not win Sainsbury's Local Charity of the Year, which went to the RNLI. We have been invited to come to Sainsbury's with collecting tins or bag-packing - but this is always open to any local charity. Agreed that it would not be a good use of volunteer time, but that we should approach Sainsbury's for donations of food (e.g. Easter Eggs, burgers for next Fun Day, etc).

Paula reported that her partner James Barrott is a bee keeper (but does not at present have hives) and would be interested in collaborating on bee-keeping-related events.

**Next meetings:**

Weds September 16: Whitegates, Sunnyside Close

Weds October 14: Lyndene, Sunnyside Close