

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday, January 20th at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.

Present: Andrew Brennand, Oliver Fulton, Simon Gershon, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, Jude Naish, Hilary Short, Mick Short.

Apologies: Tony Finn, Henry Hicks, Michael Sheppard.

Matters arising:

- i) Andrew has emailed Lancashire County Council to ask for a record of the meeting between the Fairfield Association, Jane Elliot and Steve Edwards and an update on progress but there has been no reply.
- ii) The installation of the plaques in the play area remains on the agenda.
- iii) The Charity report still needs the Chairman's report from the last AGM.
- iv) Actions on Fun day were postponed till January and still need to be taken.
- v) There is still a small amount of graffiti to be removed.
- vi) More notices will be posted to advertise the FA meeting at the Meeting House on February 24th.

Treasurer's Report

Income since the last meeting, £562.76: £444.76 (Carol Singing), £25 (membership), £93 (Wassailing).

Expenditure including cheques still to be cashed £899. Money out of the account since the last meeting: £365.50 (Graeme Skelcher for FAUNA), £101.07 (£83.82 from the Breathing Places grant and £17.25 tools for the Orchard).

The balance in the Coop Account is £5718.85

Membership report

1 new membership since December.

Orchard Update

Breathing Places.

The grant has now been signed off. We still need to pay for the new signs, installation of the new noticeboards and adaptation of the noticeboard at the north end of the Orchard. Pictures of the boards were circulated for comments which will be forwarded to Capra Design. Tony will discuss wording with Mick and Hilary.

Volunteers: About half of the apple trees have now been pruned. Some soil has been moved in preparation for the installation of the insect houses.

Mick will contact Andy Lee about the work which needs to be done to the trees. This includes pollarding the lime, major work on the large ash tree and inspection of the sycamore tree.

Decision on easement through the Orchard requested by the Martins. The Martins have decided to try other approaches rather than putting service pipes through the Orchard.

Bid for money: a Gateway Grant will be submitted, requesting more money for more school visits – Hilary will discuss the details with Tony.

FAUNA

Public Consultation: Those who came along were very much in favour of the FAUNA project. The only issue that emerged related to the balancing the needs of local animals and birds with those of the desire for access by local people. James is still trying to get the full results of public consultation on to the website. Steve Edwards and the representative of Natural England in the North West (which deals with higher level stewardship) are also believe there should not be too many footpaths. A bid has been submitted to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for £30,000 and we will soon submit a £50,000 bid to the lottery. The Ramblers and the RSPB have provided warm letters of support. Lancashire WLT, who promised to do the same, have not yet sent their letter. However, they now need letter from us and Oliver will chase the matter up. Robin Loxham is getting a valuation for the White Farmhouse, Ann Wood has already had it valued and they plan to meet to discuss the matter.

Georgina is in contact with planning department, to determine whether or not we need to reapply for planning permission. Since the initial planning application included the allotments, who have completed their work, it is possible that we still have planning permission. Lancashire County Council has promised us £15000 for the project + £2000 for expenses.

Playground Report

Nothing to report

The hedge-cutting still needs to be done. Otherwise, there was nothing to report.

Events

Stephen Hoyland is booking next year 's carol-singing in the shopping centre. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Liam and Sonia, thanking them for their hospitality on Christmas Eve.

Andrew's mince pie party on December 19th went well and attracted a few people who don't always come to our events.

Wassailing went really well and the Mummers and the Gladly Solemn Sound choir were excellent. Jean Laurie has come up with some good ideas for next year. The Mummers would like to have a dance workshop in the Orchard, followed by dancing, on a Thursday evening during the summer and it was agreed that we would try and organise this event. It was also agreed that we would send round a bucket for the Mummers next year. Thanks to Simon for clearing the snow before Wassailing.

Future Dates

Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th which is Easter Monday.

Fun Day on Saturday, July 3rd.

Go Wild Week, 17th – 21st May. Simon will not be around and will ask Rebecca and Jonathon to organise it.

Blossom Picnic in the Orchard on May Day – Saturday 1st May. There will be a volunteer session in the morning and we will invite the Steiner School to do some maypole dancing. If this cannot be arranged, it was suggested that we should try and borrow the maypole. The picnic will consist of shared food and hopefully some music.

Kwik Cricket will follow the same successful format and take place on the weekend of 5th /6th June

An Apple-Grafting Workshop will take place in the Orchard on Sat 20th March. This is an event organised by Lancaster Transition City.

AOB

A Newsletter, encouraging people to come along and also to volunteer, will go out ahead of the February meeting.

A Potato Day poster will go in noticeboard.

The FAUNA group needs to be enlarged. Sue Neiduszynski, Sarah Nutter, Catherine Haines, and anyone suggested by Jennifer Newton will be contacted.

Next Meetings

Wednesday February 24th at the Friends Meeting House.

Wednesday March 24th at Thorneycroft, Fairfield Road.