

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday 12th May 2010 at Edenbreck.

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

Apologies: Michael Sheppard, Elaine Weedy, Tony Finn.

Matters Arising: None.

Treasurer's Report:

The end of year accounts have been prepared.

The claim for Gift Aid has been submitted, thanks to Jude and Ruth. We may be able to reclaim as much as £600.

Membership Report: There have been no renewals.

Orchard Report Including Abraham Heights

a) Abraham Heights

- i) Mandy Bannon was consulted about the possibility of asking people in Abraham Heights to contribute to the cost of proposed foot path from the end of Towneley Close through the Orchard. She believes we need to wait until it is certain that the path will go ahead.
- ii) Andrew asked the County Council whether or not the geotextile membrane, which they agreed verbally, was included in the costs that they will fund. This is not the case. They will provide us with a costing for the geotextile. We are still waiting from an agreement with them on the proposed path.
- iii) There have been problems with some householders who border the Orchard. These include keeping compost bins in the Orchard, bleaching the ground, cutting a gap through the floral and fruiting hedge and most seriously sabotaging an oak tree. Steve Edwards was consulted and recommended a general letter. Oliver and Mick will take care of this.

b) Events

- iv) The Blossom Picnic attracted around 25 people and was a happy and relaxed event. It was suggested that we should hold another, later in the summer.
- v) Go Wild Week is next week and already advertised in the Orchard.
- vi) Helen has been in touch with Felicity Smith, the organiser of Local Food Fortnight, about plans for Apple Day, but she has not had a reply.

c) Work in the Orchard by the volunteers

- vii) Replacements for the stumps in the circle were free from Andy Lee and a couple of the stumps have already been replaced. The Insect Hotel has been filled. The Alder has been removed from the public footpath.

d) Grants

- viii) The Breathing Places boards should soon be installed. A future unveiling is planned.

- ix) The Gateway Grant failed and as a result there is no funding for educational activities in the Orchard this year. Tony has spoken to the schools that took part in 2009 and parents will be asked to pay for these sessions. A newsletter is going out to schools informing them about activities in the Orchard and the materials available on the website.

FAUNA

- i) We have successfully completed Stage 1 of our Community Spaces application for £50,000 of Lottery money and have been given a facilitator, Tom Fyson, who is optimistic that we will get the money if we produce a satisfactory plan that ticks the required boxes. We need to submit our Stage 2 application by October 19th. However, providing that we can show good progress, they will extend this if we run into difficulties. Our insurance policy will need to include FAUNA. Jude has already phoned Zurich who need the details of the project in writing. Tom Fyson has agreed to find out exactly what we will need to cover in terms of the items we acquire. In the case of FAUNA these would be fences and footpaths. The Community Spaces grant will provide the money for the insurance for the first year.

Fields

a) Legal Issues

- b) Oliver has permission from the current tenant to walk on the fields. Barbara Mauthe is putting in touch with legal expert at the University who specialises in charities. She will approach him on our behalf. Amongst other things, we need a document for people to sign up to when they pledge money.

c) Money Raised

We have now banked £18,000 of promises and are hoping to get up to £30,000 before the AGM. We are also putting in grant applications; Nathan, Dave and Sam are working on this.

d) Fund-raising

Anabel Orr is quite keen on getting involved in the FA and is volunteering to ask local schools, in particular Dallas Road, if they will support our efforts with a non-uniform day. The involvement of schools and other individuals, who are giving rather than pledging money, means that we need to discuss what happens to the money if we are unable to buy the fields. For example, we might use it to install a pond-dipping platform on FAUNA.

Anabel is also thinking of organising a Cross Bay Walk and Sue Neiduszynski will have a garden party on June 26th to raise money for the fields and also to help us to contact others who would be interested in helping to buy them.

Oliver will organise a concert.

Local businesses will be targeted and these will include Booths, the Yorkshire Bank and the Coop Bank.

e) Publicity

Part of the AGM will be dedicated to publicising and raising money for the fields and a leaflet will go out a week ahead of the AGM publicising the event.

A Lancaster Guardian campaign is also possible but we need to talk to Haverbreaks about this. It was agreed that it would be good to have the date of the auction before we go to the Lancaster Guardian. Oliver is going to see the Haverbreaks representative on May 13th. Information will be sent to the Allotment holders so that it can go out in their newsletter.

Playground Report:

a) Play equipment

In response to a Council report which highlighted wear on the restraining straps of the small swings, Henry has inspected them and believes that they do not need replacing at the moment. He also suggested that the Ability Whirl roundabout is beyond our maintenance capabilities and that it should be serviced by the company once a year.

b) Trees

A discussion about the trees against the fence of the toddler area, resulted in a decision that the trees should be moved next winter, when it can be done without causing them damage.

c) Lease

The Lease of the play area needs to be updated in line with a small change to the boundary to accommodate the swing of the new gate to the allotments. It was agreed that Jon Barry should ask the allotment holders if they would be prepared to pay the £50 required to register the new lease with the Land Registry.

d) Plaques

Andrew has assembled a team to install the plaques using Nathan's suggestion of encasing them in blocks of concrete. There was some discussion about location and it was finally agreed that they should be set into the grass between the Ability Whirl and the Twister and that the safety surface surround should be green. It was also agreed that the cost of installation should be added to the Awards for All application and Andrew agreed to send Hilary the quotation he had for the cost of installing them.

Events:

a) Kwik cricket on Sunday June 6th: The field has been booked and Mick is liaising with Geoff. We now have an umpire. It was agreed that we would use one marquee and the boiler with a table for serving drinks, sandwiches and cakes.

b) Fun Day

Planning is going well. There were queries about:

- i) The Silent Auction which will run.
- ii) The Portaloo which Jude will book.
- iii) The Tug of War. Andrew agreed to get the rope.
- iv) Risk assessment. It was agreed to ask Michael about this.

c) Sewing, Growing And Baking

Andrew has had a meeting with Mrs. Jarman who is putting together a high quality fair at RLGS which will be covered by the media. The proceeds will be split between the

Friends of the Grammar School and the FA. The event will take place on Sunday 19th September and we will need to man a display stall between 10 am and 4 pm. It is possible that we may also contribute cakes for refreshments. The event will be advertised at Apple Day.

AOB:

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 14th July Andrew's house which is 49, Wingate Saul Road.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm.