

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday 14th July 2010 at 49, Wingate Saul Road.

Present: Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Ruth Haigh, Henry Hicks, Jude Naish, Jane Parker, Mick Short, Hilary Short.

Apologies: Helen Hicks, Mary Ridley, Michael Sheppard, Elaine Weedy..

Matters Arising

We have not heard back from Lancashire County Council on the cost of geotextile for the proposed path through the Orchard.

Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balances:

Coop £8,355 (balance 30 April 2010 was £3602)

Nationwide balance unchanged at £10, 601.

Income:

Fun Day £1918

Go Wild Week £148

Kwik Cricket £184

Field Donations (4) £2624 including £625 from Sue Neiduszynski's Garden Party.

Membership Report:

20 renewals and 11 new members recruited at Fun Day. The article on the fields campaign in the Lancaster Guardian was mentioned by a number of people.

Playground report

There are a number of minor issues, e.g. rusty nuts on top of big slide, which do not need immediate action. Issues requiring action:

- i) Henry advised that some of the wood around the swings in the toddler area needs replacing and that this should be done. Henry will contact Walker's Woodworking who estimate that it will cost between £20 and £100.
- ii) Henry will contact G. L. Jones to ask them to let us know when they are likely to be in the area and can service the Ability Whirl roundabout. It had been agreed at a previous meeting that the roundabout should be serviced annually.
- iii) Ruth will ask Paul Cocker if the Council will cut the hedge that borders Sibsey Street and the play area.

Orchard Report Including Abraham Heights

- i) The mower has been repaired at a cost of £95. Unfortunately, it has a bent crankshaft. Lune Valley mowers suggest using it until it gives hopefully not before the end of the summer. Our options then are either to replace the engine or the crankshaft. The

- estimate for replacing the engine is £500 and Hilary is submitting a bid for a Green Partnership Award to cover the cost and to pay for children's activities on Apple Day.
- ii) The letter to the houses neighbouring the Orchard still needs to go out.
 - iii) Apple Day is being coordinated by Helen and is in hand.
 - iv) Dave has taken on the responsibility for organising the volunteers at the end of July.
 - v) Henry will help with tool sharpening.
 - vi) The boards provided by the Breathing Spaces grant have almost reached the Orchard! Woodscape will contact us about delivery at the beginning of August
 - vii) The tree labels still need to be specified and ordered. It was agreed that it would be good to have these in place by Apple Day.
 - viii) It was agreed that the calendar is over full and that the Teddy Bear's Picnic will not take place in September this year. It was also agreed to look at the possibility of holding the event earlier in the year, at a future meeting.

FAUNA

- i) The City Council and Robin Loxam are almost in agreement about the deal which will be done to compensate him for giving up his lease.
- ii) The Fairfield Association lease will not now go to Cabinet in July. It will be decided by a Chair's action taken by the leader of the Cabinet Committee.
- iii) The lease close is now close to completion. There was some discussion as to whether or not we should appoint a solicitor to check it for us, even though it is a very simple document. Stuart Hinnigan has offered his services pro bono with respect to the fields and may be willing to check it for us, otherwise Mick suggested Jobling and Knappe on the advice of the Law Department at the University.
- iv) The engineer's Report on the bridge over Lucy Brook suggests that we may only need us to hire some steel plates – 2 plates hired at a cost of around £30 week for approximately a month. This money will come out of the FAUNA budget.
- v) We plan to start the FAUNA project in September although this is still dependent on the lease.
- vi) Green Lancaster at the university has agreed to send volunteers to work on FAUNA and in the Orchard. They suggest a one day event which gets all volunteers down there. The details will be sorted out in September when the students return. They may also be able to buy some tools for us. A similar exercise at Warton Cragg produced 60 volunteers and hopefully some volunteers will become FA regulars.
- vii) Green Lancaster will also email us a list of all student volunteers which will enable us to publicise our fundraising for the fields.

Fields beyond FAUNA

- i) Mick has contacted Mr. Brownsord who now says that the auction will not take place before the spring.
- ii) It has been confirmed that field 1 is owned mainly by Gleesons. Mr. Brownsord says that this field is not in the bundle that will be auctioned.
- iii) The details of the Pledge forms still need to be finalised.
- iv) It was agreed that there should be a meeting of those people who have pledged money in September.

Fun Day Review

- i) Fun Day was generally agreed to be brilliant with many thanks to Elaine and all those who helped. We obviously had a very high turnout and this may have been simply down to our growing reputation and the good weather, or it people may have been influenced by our recent high profile in the press.
- ii) Health and Safety. The accident with the Tug of War indicated that we need to be more careful in future about health and safety. However, as Jude pointed out it did also make clear our ability to react quickly and well to address the problem. It was agreed that:
 - a) in future we need to nominate somebody who is responsible for the event.
 - b) It is some time since we reviewed safety procedures and we need to review them before our next event.
 - c) Particular issues that we need to look at are: cars and bikes on the field during Fun Day, responsibility for the tea urn and ensuring that we not only had a health and safety document but that we took steps to ensure that people read at least those parts relevant to the activity they were involved in. It was suggested and agreed that in future stall holders should be given instructions from the document relevant to their activities.
 - d) It was agreed that in future the marquee needs to be in place earlier and that more people were needed to set up the tents. We also needed more chairs.

Future Events

- i) LRGS *Make, bake, Sow and Grow* takes place on 19th September between 10am and 4pm at the school. The Fairfield Association will share the profits with the Friends of LRGS. We are asked to provide:
 - a) Biscuits or slices for the tea stall.
 - b) A presence in reception area of the Old Hall. There will be space for three of our display boards and we will have a table to put leaflets on.
 - c) People to help serve tea.
 - d) People to help take tickets etc
 - e) Ruth agreed to put an email round asking members for help at LRGS and on Apple Day within next month.
- ii) Apple Day is September 25th.
- iii) Music in the Park will now take place at a later date since we missed the deadline for the music license. This is still to be fixed.
- iv) The Cross Bay Walk is on August 21st and we hope that we will get both publicity and sponsorship from this. Tee shirts have been designed and are being sold for wear on the day.

Newsletter

It was agreed that we would ask Gabbi to produce a newsletter to publicise the upcoming events and to report back on those that have taken place and also to publicise progress on the Fields Fund. It was agreed that we should again double the circulation and that it should go out in mid august. Hilary agreed to forward the template to Gabbi in case she wants to use it and the committee agreed to email suggestions as to what should be included.

AOB: Andrew has had an email from a family in the Preston area asking if we know of a similar organisation in the Preston area. It was agreed that he should contact Lucia who may know of something.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 8th September, Andrew's House at 49 Wingate Saul Road

Wednesday 13th October, Friend's Meeting House.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm.