

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on Wednesday 13th October 2010 at the Friends Meeting House.

Present: Sheila Beven, Andrew Brennand, Dave Brookes, Steve Bullen, Ellie Bulman, Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Wendy Ford, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, Henry Hicks, Jane Parker, Mick Short, Hilary Short, Pamela White.

Apologies: Nathan Burley, Hazel Harrison, Gabbi McDougall, Sue Neiduszynski.

Minutes accepted without amendment.

Matter Arising:

- Negotiations have restarted with the County council about the path from Towneley Close which will run through the Orchard.

Ceilidh

- Following the success of Summer Daze, Elli Bulman suggested that the community should get together in March for a Ceilidh fundraiser.
The proposed venue is the Priory Hall (£15 per hour) and the proposed date and time is the 26th March, 5 pm to 9 pm. Jump the gun (£280 including caller) were suggested at a Ceilidh group.
It was generally thought to be a good idea and should be explored. Elli agreed to take it forward and the FA agreed to provide organisational support if and when she needed it.

Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balances:

Co-op Bank: £12,505.94 (£9,917.71)

Nationwide: £10,601.06 (unchanged)

Main items of income:

The Cross Bay Walk - £2, 323.53 (including money from Just Giving)

Apple Day Concert £235.89 net with money still to come from VIC.

Donations: £125 from the Concert and £200 from LRGS

Apple Day £532.10 net

Summer Daze £191.70

Payments:

Playdale for new seats for the swings £113.72

Distinctive Landscapes for installing the noticeboards £446.50 (Breathing Spaces Grant)

FAUNA expenses £434.75

Land Registry £50

Membership Report:

Four renewals and four new members.

Orchard Report:

- i) Thanks to Helen and Oliver for organising events on Apple Day.
- ii) The insect hotels have been repaired and are back in place, thanks to Helen and Henry.
- iii) The new noticeboards are now in place.

- iv) There has been a successful Green Partnership Award which paid £155 to employ Hannah Ehlert on Apple Day, £50 expenses for the Apple Day Concert, and has provided £345 towards the repair of the mower.
- v) Volunteer work has been very successful over the summer with good numbers of volunteers. The picnic table has been removed and gone to the new allotment area on the Ridge Estate.
- vi) Roe deer have been seen in the Orchard and may have been responsible for some of the damage to tree bark.
- vii) Green Lancaster are sending volunteers in November. We are currently unsure of the number but we may need extra tools. Ruth will liaise with Jonathan and put out a request for extra tools.

FAUNA

- i) The lease has almost been agreed. We are in a period of pause for objections which will shortly end.
- ii) The deadline for submitting the Community Spaces application is Monday, 18th, although a few details will be held over.
- iii) Our solicitors have looked over the lease and grazing license.
- iv) The tender for contractors has been postponed until we get approval for Community Spaces. We will go out to tender again in December and award contracts in early January. It is hoped that work will begin in February. In order to be disability compliant we need further advice on the ramp.
- v) We have applied for and in principle received Higher Level Stewardship of around £26,000 and revenue of around £3,000 for the next ten years for the maintenance of FAUNA and the Orchard. The Higher Level Stewardship would like to include a small pond area which is currently on LGGS land and we negotiate the school on the matter.
- vi) Lancashire County Council has agreed to lend us money to cover cash flow problems if necessary.
- vii) Tony Finn asked about the educational element in Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Oliver said that the scheme includes a fixed sum toward a Teacher's Information Pack and funding for up to ten visits.
- viii) An archaeological survey of the site was a bonus of the scheme.

Fields beyond FAUNA

- i) We now have about £53,000, not including Gift Aid. Recently most of the money has been raised through fundraising rather than through donations.
- ii) We now anticipate that the auction will take place in spring and Mr. Brownsord has told us that the field bordering Lucy Brook on the opposite side of the footpath to FAUNA will be part of the package. If this is the case, we will target fundraising efforts on Abraham Heights and Aldcliffe village.
- iii) We hope to retain some of the grant money for FAUNA so that it can be spent on the fields should we manage to purchase them.
- iv) We still need to formalise the pledge agreement.

Playground Report

- i) There has been a problem getting carpenters to mend the wood surround bordering the small swings.
- ii) New seats have been purchased for the big swings.

- iii) The hedge around the substation needs pruning. It was suggested that this could be part of Orchard volunteer activities.
- iv) Telegraph poles have been installed in the Play Area. It was agreed that we should object since they are a) close to the Cedar of Lebanon, b) coated in creosote and c) the wires runs over the site of the bonfire.
- v) The issue of the bonfire will be discussed with our insurers since we are not sure what our responsibilities are with respect to this event which is on our land but is not organised or encouraged by the Fairfield Association.

Recent Events:

- i) Summer Daze was agreed to a relaxed and happy event that was a spectacular success.
- ii) RLGS Make, Bake, Sow and Grow was successful despite the weather and we hope that they will run it next year and we will again be involved.
- iii) Apple Day was our most successful ever.

Future Events

Bonfire Stall on the Giant Axe. It was agreed that we would not have a stall this year.

Carol singing is on Sunday, December 12th between 1 pm and 3 pm in st. Nicholas' Arcade and 5pm onwards on Christmas Eve, around the streets of Fairfield.

Wassailing will be held on Saturday 15th January. This now an official entry in the Calendar of Folk Customs. Helen suggested that Common Ground might also include the event in their literature.

AOB:

- i) Tony finn suggested a wine-tasting evening to raise money for the Fields. This would require no outlay and tickets would be approximately £10. It was agreed that Tony should explore it further and that the event might take place at the end of January or beginning of February.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 10th November at 49, Wingate Saul Road

Wednesday 8th December, Edenbreck.

All meetings begin at 7.30 pm