

Minutes of the Fairfield Association held on Wednesday 10th November 2010 at 49 Wingate Saul Road.

Present: Andrew Brennand, Ellie Bulman, Margaret Burtonwood, Wendy Ford, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, Henry Hicks, Jane Parker, Mick Short, Hilary Short.

Apologies: Hazel Harrison.

Minutes accepted without amendment.

Matter Arising:

- Andrew now has a contract from the County Council and if there are no objections he will sign this within the next few days. The cost of the geotextile, which will be paid for by the Fairfield Association is £50.
- The Fairfield Association has made it clear that in order to maintain a neutral stance it will not send a representative to speak in support of the initiative at the public enquiry

Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balances:

Co-op Bank: £13,637.49 (£12,262.63)

Nationwide: £10,601.06 (unchanged)

Main items of income:

£644.89 – Gift Aid from HMRC

£500 Green Partnership Award, Lancashire County Council

Just Giving

There was some discussion about continuing to subscribe to the site now that it is no longer needed for sponsorship money. It was agreed that Andrew would investigate the cost and the time involved in reregistering and that we would review the situation after Christmas.

In the meantime the site may be used for a Fairfield Association donation gift card which will be advertised in the Newsletter. The Just Giving site can also be quoted in future press releases.

Membership Report:

Six renewals.

Orchard Report:

- i) Oliver has written to our neighbours, Andrew will sign the letter and it will be delivered next week.
- ii) The Breathing Places grant has now been spent.
- iii) It was agreed that the additional money needed should be spent on repairing the mower.
- iv) Oliver and Hilary are in the process of choosing tree labels which will be paid for the Green Partnership award.
- v) Green Lancaster volunteers, from the University, will help at the volunteer session on November 13th. Ruth has organised a pool of tools.
- vi) It was agreed that we should contact our local primary and nursery schools and ask them to design posters to encourage people to remove dog poo and also to deter people from lighting fires and camping. Schools suggested were: Dallas Road,

- Willow Lane, the Steiner school, Westbourne Road nursery and Apple Tree nursery. It was agreed that Tony was the best person to approach the schools.
- vii) Helen has written a letter to the head office of Work Space who have both made and maintained our insect houses, to say that we are delighted with their work and general helpfulness.

FAUNA and Fields beyond FAUNA

- i) We now have a letter formally agreeing the lease of the land. We expect to lease the land at a peppercorn rent, but have still to receive a definite agreement on this. It was agreed that the signing of the lease would make a good story for the Lancaster Guardian.
- ii) It has become clear that the FAUNA map which we received from the Council needs to be updated. There is also an issue about Robin's garden, part of which should be part of FAUNA. It was agreed that we should leave the council to deal with this. It may take time to get an accurate map which is needed for our application for Higher Level Stewardship.
- iii) Natural England would also like us to include as part of FAUNA, a pond which is currently on LGGS land. We have asked LGGS whether they would be willing to allow this and in addition whether we can put a footpath across a corner of their land in order not to disturb an ash tree. In addition we have asked for responsibility for the maintenance of the hedges. We expect to hear about these matters next week.
- iv) A cheque for £15000 from Lancashire County Council is now in the pipeline. We also have £30,000 from the Lancashire Environment Fund which we can draw on. We expect to hear the result of our Community Spaces application for £50,000 by January 10th.
- v) Mick suggested a guided walk across the fields could be used as a fund-raising activity.

Playground Report

- i) One seat has been replaced on the big swings, the second seat will be replaced when the weather improves.
- ii) There is still a problem getting carpenters to mend the wood surround bordering the small swings.
- iii) The hedge around the substation will be pruned as part of Orchard volunteer activities on November 13th.
- vi) A letter has been sent expressing our objection to the Telegraph poles that have been sited in the Play Area and we have received an acknowledgement.
- vii) We have an email from our insurers informing us that: Regarding the Bonfire & Fireworks Display you do not need to provide Insurance for this event as you are not responsible for it, the only responsibility you have is to ensure that area is safe and fit for purpose, as you are responsible for the land in which it is held'

Future Events:

- i) **Wassailing** will take place on January 15th between 3 pm and 5 pm. Andrew is making contact with various mummer groups and will contact Jean Laurie; there will be a meeting to organise the event in the Waterwitch at 8 pm on December 15th. Ruth will email round the dates to member.

- ii) **Carol Singing** is already organised for Sunday, December 12th between 1 pm and 3 pm in st. Nicholas' Arcade and 5pm onwards on Christmas Eve, around the streets of Fairfield
- iii) **Ceilidh** Ellie has been to the Priory Hall (£15 per hour) and thinks it will be an excellent place to hold the event and can be booked on the proposed date of 26th March between 5 pm to 9 pm. It was agreed that we should go ahead and book the hall and also Jump the Gun (£280 including caller) It was also agreed that we should book hotpots as £3.25 per portion, sell drinks and have a small raffle. A ticket price of £8 per adult and £22 per family was suggested. Andrew agreed to follow up a Temporary Event License.
- iv) A charity evening and auction, ideally with a celebrity guest, was also suggested as a possible future event and it was agreed that Ruth would ask for suggestions of celebrities who might be prepared to come along. It was also agreed that it would be a good idea to consider the Duke's Playhouse as a venue.

AOB:

- i) We have received a rejection letter from the Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 8th December, at 49, Wingate Saul Road

Wednesday 19th January at Edenbreck.

All meetings begin at 7.30 pm