

Minutes of the meeting of the Fairfield Association held on 19th January 2011 at Edenbreck

Present: Andrew Brennand, Ellie Bulman, Tony Finn, Melanie Forrest, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Helen Hicks, Henry Hicks, Jon Hill, Jane Parker, Mary Ridley, Hilary Short, Mick Short.

Apologies: Michael Sheppard, Mike Martin, Carol Martin, Tim Hamilton Cox, Jude Naish, Wendy Ford, Shirley Rawlinson.

Matters Arising

- i) Andrew reported that there is no easy procedure for rejoining Just Giving. It was agreed that we should retain our Just Giving page for now and review the situation in September.

Facebook Page: It was agreed that the FA would authorise Jon Hill to create suggestions for a Facebook Page and that he would bring it back to show us at a future meeting. It is hoped that a Facebook page will enable us to reach more people more easily and in particular that it will put us in touch with a younger audience. It was agreed that the site:

- i) will initially be based on our website and contain basic information and photographs taken from it
- ii) will have a link to Just Giving
- iii) will provide a link to our website
- iv) will advertise forthcoming events
- v) Hilary will contact James McDowell to let him know
- vi) Andrew will look into the other two sites which have been set up in our name.

Localism Bill

We have been advised about government legislation which will shortly come into force and will give local community groups a larger say in planning decisions. In particular we may be able to nominate the fields beyond FAUNA as a community asset. We have already consulted the local Forward Planning Team and sent a letter to Mark Cullinan (Chief Executive of Lancaster City Council) but have not received encouragement at this stage.

- i) Melanie Forrest said she would make some enquiries on our behalf. We agreed to provide Melanie with the information that we have received

Treasurer's Report

Balances	9.11.10	19.1.11
Coop	£13,637.49	£28,624.40
Nationwide	£10,601.06	£10,601.06
Income		
£15,000		Lancaster County Council FAUNA grant
£271		Cross Bay Walk (total to date approx £2,700)
£272		Carol Singing on Christmas Eve
£188		Carol Singing in St. Nicholas Arcade
Outgoings		
£359		Maintenance of roundabout
£502		Jobling and Knape for FAUNA searches

There was some discussion about the best way of banking our money at the Post Office and it was agreed that:

- i) Jane would get in touch with the duty manager at the Post Office and ask if he could arrange for us to bank the money in a less public manner.
- iii) Other trustees were happy to take the money if need be.

Membership Report: There have been 4 renewals.

Newsletter: It was agreed that

- i) a newsletter will be circulated before the end of February which will contain publicity for the Ceilidh, an update on the FAUNA/fields campaign and other information.
- ii) Andrew will contact Gabbi
- iii) Other information to go into the newsletter will be emailed to Andrew.

Orchard: i) Carol and Mike Martin have agreed to pay for a hedge at the back of the sycamores which will be planted by the FA. The FA is also negotiating with Marion Lindsay to take the elders down a bit and have the sycamore crown-raised. She will need to pay for any work that takes place on the tree.

ii) Wassailing was cancelled because of atrocious weather.

iii) Volunteer workers in November included nearly 20 students from the university. The student volunteers will be back in March and there will be a longer working day (10.00 – 16.00), during which some hedging may also be planted in FAUNA. Soup will be provided for lunch and the Martins have agreed that we can use their patio and toilet.

iv) Tony is working with the children at Dallas Road School to provide notices for the noticeboards in the Orchard. These may be ready for the beginning of March and we will try to organise a press event to coincide with the appearance of the notices. Ellie Bulman asked why Willow Lane was not also involved in these activities. Tony said that Willow Lane had been emailed and we are certainly interested in working with them.

v) Dallas Road school are also doing a habitat project with Tony and Helen and the Big School Bird Watch.

vi) The mower is being repaired in Kendal at a cost of between £450 and £500. We have a grant to cover £345 of the cost.

FAUNA

i) Our solicitor is now in contact with the legal department at Lancaster City Council in connection with our lease for FAUNA. We have so far paid £502 for searches and hope to have the results soon. We will pay a peppercorn rent for the next 30 years. Our solicitor is also working on the grazing license.

ii) Robin Loxham is close to reaching an agreement on the white cottage.

iii) LGGs have agreed to a 10 year lease on a small amount of their land.

iv) Once we have the lease, our first job will be to fill out LGGs hedge.

v) The Lancashire County Council grant of £15,000 is now in our account. The LEF money is also in place and ready to be claimed. Hopefully we will hear soon about our lottery application for c. £50,000.

- vi) Natural England have recently sent a surveyor round the FAUNA site and we appear to qualify under the new terms. However, we will not have an agreement before April 1st.
- vii) We now hope to begin work in the autumn and are planning for a possible winter opening. Nevertheless, we hope to put some hedging in place during March.
- viii) Andy Lee has been contacted about work on some of the older trees.
- ix) The management of FAUNA and its place in our committee structure will be discussed at the next FA meeting.
- x) The Fields beyond FAUNA campaign has now raised approximately £53,000 in pledges and there are plans to reinvigorate the campaign in the next few weeks.

Playground Report

- i) An Inspection Report from Lancaster City Council was passed on to Henry.
- ii) Two seats have been replaced on the swings and Jones have serviced the roundabout. The wooden strip in front of the toddler swings has been repaired.
- iii) There has been a new spate of graffiti and Andrew will organise a working party to erase it.
- iv) The telegraph poles have been removed as a result of our representations to BT.

Future Events:

- i) **Ceilidh:** A deposit has been paid for use of the Priory Hall and also to the band. It was agreed that tickets would be priced at £8.00 per adult and £4.00 for children over 5. We are hoping to sell 100 tickets. Mick will print the tickets and the flyer and Oliver will send Ellie the format that he used for the concert tickets.
Ellie has received some prizes for the raffle but is looking for more.
We will need a license and Andrew will prepare the paperwork for this but somebody else will need to sign it.
- ii) The venue for the wine tasting is still to be decided. Suggestions should be emailed to Tony.
- iii) The Easter Egg Hunt will be discussed in the Orchard Subgroup.

AOB

- i) A letter of thanks has been received from Making Space.
- ii) The Charity Commission return for 2010 has been sent in by Andrew.
- iii) The Jubilee People's Millions was suggested as a means of raising funds.

Date of next meetings:

February 16th at 49, Wingate Saul Road

March 16th at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close

Fairfield Association Meeting Agenda – 16th February

- 1) Welcome by the Chair
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of the last meeting – matters arising and to be agreed as correct
- 4) Mike Worth from the Moorside Fields Community Association

- 5) Treasurer's Report
- 6) Membership Report
- 7) Orchard Report
- 8) FAUNA Report
- 9) Playground Report
- 10) Future Events: Ceilidh, Easter, Go Wild Month, Anything else?
- 11) Any other business
- 12) Next meetings