

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Fairfield Association held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 49, Wingate Saul Road**

**Present:** Andrew Brennand, Ellie Bulman, Tony Finn, , Wendy Ford, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Henry Hicks, , Jane Parker, , Sue Rennie (Moorside Fields Conservation), Hilary Short, Mick Short, Mike Worth (Moorside Fields Conservation).

**Apologies:** Helen Hicks, Jude Naish, Mary Ridley, Shirley Rawsthorne, Michael Sheppard.

**Minutes of the last meeting** were accepted without amendment.

### **Matters Arising**

None

### **Moorside Fields Community Association**

The Association was founded in 2008 to protect Moorside Fields as an environmentally important resource and also to protect the right of way across them which has been blocked by fences. The fields belong to Lancashire County Council and are also used by Moorside School, who have fenced off a part of the area. The Community Association is registered with the CVS and has applied for Town Green Status for the fields between Barton Road and and Bowerham Road.

Mick suggested that a positive proposal was always the best way forward in a dispute and that the organisation should talk to the new headmaster who will be in post at Easter.

Jane Parker suggested that they should get involved in 2020 Eco Schools and contact Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB for help in establishing educational links with Moorside School, based upon the possibilities for environmental work on the fields.

Hilary suggested that the group should explore the possibility of getting Charitable Status, as this would help them to secure grants.

It was also suggested that the group should explore the possibilities offered by the Localism Bill and should get in touch with Lucia Marquart at the County Council.

It was agreed that we would forward:

- i) Details of the Localism Bill
- ii) Contacts for the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and Lucia's email address.
- iii) Details of the Charity Commission Website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

<b>Balances</b>	<b>16.02.11</b>	<b>19.1.11</b>
Coop	£28,134.58	£28,624.40
Nationwide	£10,601.06	£10,601.06
<b>Outgoings</b>		
491.69	Lawnmower repair	

With respect to the best way of banking our money at the Post Office, Jane reported that the Post Office had not been helpful. She will follow her visit up with a letter to both the Post Office and the bank.

**Membership Report:** No change.

**Orchard:** A written report was delivered ahead of the meeting:

There was no Orchard meeting in January and so there is little formal to report. Hilary has put in some bids for extra tools for volunteers to use (fingers crossed). The February volunteer day had Simon plus 10 others, in spite of the fact that neither Mick nor Oliver could be there. Generally, work has gone well over the winter period, though there is plenty left to do. We are hoping for a productive session on 12 March, when we will be working from 10 am till 4 pm and the Green Lancaster students are coming to help again. Soup and bread will be provided at lunchtime. In April we will begin the summer programme of two volunteer sessions per month, one on the second Saturday morning and the other on the last Wednesday evening of the month.

There were no questions.

### **Joint meetings of the Orchard and Fauna subgroups**

It was agreed that:

- i) The Fauna subgroup should be combined with Orchard subgroup under the new name of FOG.
- ii) This arrangement will be reviewed in a years time
- iii) There will be separate meetings of FAUNA environmental experts as needed
- iv) Meetings will move from Monday to Wednesday
- v) The Chair and Secretary of FOG will be Mick Short and Oliver Fulton respectively.
- vi) When FAUNA is in place, it was suggested that Dave Brookes should be asked to take on one or other of the positions.
- vii) The first FOG meeting will be on March 9th
  
- viii) Thereafter, FOG meetings will take place in the first week of the month and FA meetings in the third week of the month. FOG and FA meetings will be advertised on posters in our noticeboards.
  
- ix) The FOG group report will be circulated with the FA minutes
- x) The next meetings of FOG and the FA will be as follows:  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March (FOG), Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March (FA), Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April (FOG), Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April (FA).

### **FAUNA**

- i) Dave Brookes will coordinate invoices and payments and will work with Jane and Oliver. There will be a report on expenditure as a standing item on the FOG agenda.
- ii) The Community Spaces Grant of £50,000 matching funds has been finalised.
- iii) However, we need the lease from the Council before any of this money can be spent.
- iv) The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) money *can* be spent and work will be used on hedge restoration. This money will give us capital and also revenue for ten years.
- v) Higher Level Stewardship involves conditions on how the land is managed which will be integrated into our management plan. We will have targets

which will include our success in creating a wildlife meadow and an environment which will encourage wetland birds. Richard Storton of the RSPB will advise us. The HLS conditions will involve lowering and pruning the hedges and this will be explained in a newsletter nearer the time. We will arrange a meeting with Robin to discuss these conditions with him.

- vi) A draft of our lease from the City Council is currently with our solicitor and we are hoping to have a signing ceremony to which we will invite our neighbours on Cromwell and Aldcliffe Road as well as FA members and Councillors.

### **Fields Campaign**

A written report was delivered ahead of the meeting:

Pledges raised are still at £53k + Gift Aid (total c. £65k?). We are about to launch a new campaign for more pledges (flyers advertising local meetings with us of interested people living close to FAUNA/the fields - from Aldcliffe Road, Cromwell Road, Aldcliffe village and Abraham Heights) will go out with the Newsletters at the end of February. The meetings will take place in the houses of volunteers. Mick and Hilary went to the City Council 'planning game' evening in the Storey Institute on 9 February. A general pattern among the groups was to prioritise brownfield sites for development and none proposed building on the fields we are interested in (which the SHLAA had advised against developing in any case).

It was agreed that flyers, advertising meetings to explain the campaign and to ask for donations, should go out with the Newsletter.

### **Playground Report**

- i) Henry said there was little to report, apart from the fact that the big swings are a bit noisy.
- ii) The graffiti removal team, organised by Andrew, will be working on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March from 10 am onwards. Sanders are needed.
- iii)

### **Future Events:**

#### **a) Ceilidh:**

- i) Ruth is the license holder
- ii) The event will be advertised in the Newsletter and Ruth will also email members asking for help. We will also try to get publicity in the Lancaster Guardian, Radio Lancashire etc
- iii) Ellie is contacting shops and businesses for raffle prizes.

**b) The Easter Egg Hunt** will be on Easter Monday which is the 28<sup>th</sup> April. It will be discussed in FOG and advertised in the Newsletter.

c) **Go Wild Week** will be discussed in FOG

d) **Fun Day:** Elaine will be asked if she wants to organise Fun Day, otherwise the Newsletter will announce that Fun Day will not take place this year because of the pressure of other events.

e) **Kwik Cricket** may take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in July if Fun Day is cancelled.

### **AOB**

- i) The renewal for the insurance has arrived. It was given to Jane.

- ii) We are in the process of reregistering the lease for the Play Area but there are problems with respect to who should pay to register the land (as opposed to the lease).
- iii) With respect to the planting of trees in the Play Area, it was agreed that:
  - a) Fairfield Green is primarily a play area and not a planting area
  - b) No more trees should be planted without agreement at an FA meeting
  - c) Any trees planted without agreement should be removed.
  - d) The cherry trees along the fence of the toddler area should be removed as agreed in May 2010. It was suggested that they should be put in the Orchard.

**Date of next meetings:**

March 16<sup>th</sup> at Thorneycroft, Fairfield Road.

April 13<sup>th</sup> at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close.