

**Fairfield Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting held**  
**on: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012**  
**at: Friends' Meeting House**

**Present:** Andrew Brennand (chair), Mandy Bannon (minutes), Dave Brookes, Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh (Membership Secretary), Amanda Jackson, Peg Herrod, David Herrod, Helen Hobbs, Bill Littlejohn, Jane Littlejohn, Hilary Short, Mick Short, Jane Parker (Treasurer), Paula Skidmore

**1) Welcome by the chair**

**2) Apologies:** Graham Brandwood, Helen & Henry Hicks, Michael Sheppard, Ellie Bulman

**3) Minutes of the last meeting:** agreed as correct, with the following amendment:

*Item 11 Items of Correspondence* – Should read “Simon Gershon and Adrienne Wallman”

**Matters Arising:**

*Item 10 Playground* – we will ask for estimates as well as invoices

*Item 5 Future events* – Cross Bay Walk on 30<sup>th</sup> June

**4) Events:**

**The Boiler** - Jean is happy to provide electricity to power boiler and music. The problem with our boilers is ongoing – the electric one borrowed by Sue N. Tony suggested we investigate hiring a boiler to reduce maintenance costs. Ruth said she would ask the marquee people. Simon Gershon has said the LESS boiler can be used but we need to pay for gas. It was agreed that for now we will borrow the LESS boiler and buy our own gas bottle.

**Fun Day – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Arrangements are afoot. Ruth ran through a list of events and activities planned. We are still looking for someone to run the ice cream stall, but enquiries are being made. Andrew to update risk assessment.

**Cross Bay Walk 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Ruth suggested the poster, where possible, should be amended to include information on Fairfield sponsorship. Sponsorship forms are also available on website and Facebook.

**Quick Cricket** – Sept 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> –booked with LGGS .

**Apple Day** has been set for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**5) Cllr Dave Brookes on Aldcliffe Triangle**

Dave explained how he and local residents are working on a project at the bottom of Regent Street, on Aldcliffe Road, near to the canal. It is a triangle of land that was a former boatyard and is currently owned by British Waterway, leased from Lancaster City Council until 2070. The land has been neglected and abused. A group of people have cleared it up and found needles and syringes and a stolen charity tin. The residents want to turn it into green space (it already has trees) and lower the canal wall so there is better visibility. They are speaking with British Waterways and the City Council, who are happy to lease the land to a residents' group. There are two options – either to set up a group and go alone or be a “bolt-on” to another organisation such as Fairfield Association. Dave said it would be operated by local residents and be self-financing – they would be looking at trying to raise 15-20k from grants etc. 30 people turned up to a meeting recently – and Ruth added that there are Fairfield Association members living in that area. Dave did wonder if the only possible downside of this solution would be they would end up competing for funding with F.A. But it was thought not. Oliver said that Lancashire Environment Fund for instance, doesn't have a limit on how many times you can apply. It was felt that this project falls within our remit and that we should support it as a “bolt-on” subgroup. It was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

## 6) Treasurer's Report

### Co-op Account

Balance on 18/04/12	£54,148.94
Balance on 14/05/12	£56,921.17

### Income - significant

Rural Payments Agency	£792.55
The Borough	£250.00
LCC	£4,665.00 (play area)

### Expenses – significant:

Joanna Szuwalska	£1,000.00	(sculptor of FAUNA stones)
Capra Design	£1,200	(FAUNA panel)

More details will be provided at AGM next month. It was agreed that for the AGM, Jane will prepare amounts that each fund-raising event has raised – e.g. Gila's concert.

## 7) Membership Report

9 membership renewals this month.

2 new members

Ruth explained the membership system. There are currently 134 members, a decrease of 12 from last year. Ruth writes reminders to members – and some people donate and gift-aid donations when they join. 37 “members” don't pay but are very active in other ways e.g. fund-raising or organising. Andrew pointed out that membership gives no privileges so F.A has reason to be proud of its strong membership. We should also be aware that membership of the Association is required for event organisers (raised in a FOG risk assessment document). This issue needs resolving. Perhaps we need to redefine what membership entails – one suggestion was to waive the membership fee and ask for a donation. It was agreed to raise this issue at the AGM.

## 8) Fog Report

- a) **Toolshed** - A local architect has drawn up plans and we are ready to submit the planning application. It's proposed to be a stone clad building the size of a garage and will be on the site of the old pig sties next to the boundary of Edenbreck Cottage. Consent is required to resolve the issues of the sycamores which will need removing. Lancaster City Conservation is fine with it informally.
- b) **Toilet** - A door has been included in the plans for the toolshed, so that a partition might be added at a later date for a compost toilet. Mandy reported that the Allotments Association Secretary supports in principle sharing the funding & use of a toilet with ourselves. But because the main F.A need would be for volunteers or events (perhaps only 20 days a year) it was agreed that we would prefer not to build a toilet ourselves, but perhaps share the facility with the Allotments, should they decide to build one – and that we would be very happy to support that initiative with funding. Mandy said she would pass this message onto the Allotment secretary to raise at their next meeting.

### c) FAUNA

Celebration - Mick reported that it went well and raised over £200. Mick asked if people had photographs of the event that the Lancaster Guardian could use as in a feature.

#### *Recent work carried out :*

- i)The celebration event had been preceded by a volunteer session that included putting up pond signs.
  - ii)The Cromwell Road stone has been carved.
  - iii)The Information Board is on its way.
  - iv) The Ragwort poisoning has started.
- d) **Field Acquisition** – there will hopefully be more to say soon.

- e) **Educational Activities:** Tony has been contacting schools and Graham has been doing activities in Storey Garden. Loyne School have asked if we'd be able to provide voluntary work for their pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh awards. Ian Procter to lead.
- f) **Go Wild sessions** - there will be two or three more this summer. Dan Hayward will lead another bird walk, some time in the next four weeks, at short notice.
- g) **Wild flowers** are appearing e.g. yellow rattle which is good as it kills undesirable grasses.
- h) **Loan of Equipment** – Tony reported that FAUNA funding had provided a range of wildlife recording equipment that could be borrowed by F.A members – e.g collecting pots, nets, ID charts etc. It was agreed to add this info onto our Facebook page.

## 9) Playground Report

**The last six-month safety report** - had no fails this time – so the maintenance system must be working well, thanks to Ian M and Sarah. Ian will install the new plaque as soon as weather permits.

**Lighting** - Police Community Support Officer Cath Elliot's concerns about insufficient lighting on the playground: it is a balance between being too dark for the Police and too bright for residents. Adding battery powered lights is a possibility but they are very bright and triggered at 30 yards. Since the lights have been repaired since the incidents that sparked off Police concerns, it was agreed that we would monitor the lighting situation in the winter when the dark nights make it more of an issue.

## 10) Items of Correspondence

- i) The Friends' Meeting House is having a musical event to raise funds for loft insulation and have asked if we can support with publicity. Andrew is happy to send out an email to members but does not want to have any other organisations' posters in the noticeboards.
- ii) The winning of the Green Partnership Award for the Towneley Close link footpath is having an award ceremony on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Mandy agreed to attend to accept the award on behalf of F.A.
- iii) The Boundary Commission has asked us to contribute to the consultation on changing boundaries. No action required.
- iv) Insurers' documents have been given to Jane P.

## 11) Facebook/website/newsletter etc

**Website** -James McDowell is putting together a proposal on how it could be improved.

**Newsletter** - it was agreed to have another newsletter soon to publicise forthcoming events (there hasn't been on since last summer). Ruth is happy to coordinate it and use printers on China Street again.

## 12) Any Other Business

Ruth raised the possibility of having some future meetings in the upstairs room of the Robert Gillow pub. It is free but bookable. Venues for July (49 Wingate Saul) and September (FMH) already fixed, but we might consider it for the autumn.

## 13) Date of next meetings

**AGM on:**

Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Friends' Meeting House, Meeting House Lane.

Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 49 Wingate Saul Rd

Both meetings start at 7.30pm