

**Fairfield Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting held**  
**on: 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012, at: Friends Meeting House, Lancaster**

**Present:** Mandy Bannon (mins), Andrew Brennand (chair), Dave Brookes, Val Burnett, Peter Callingham, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh (Membership Secretary), Helen Hicks, Peg and David Herrod, Julia McDowell, Matt Homewood, Jane Parker, Mary Ridley, Hilary Short, Mick Short, Roy Stephenson, Philip Turner, Maggie Willan, Ann Woodfine.

- 1) **Welcome by the chair**
- 2) **Apologies:** none
- 3) **Minutes of the last meeting** were accepted as correct.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

Jane presented the following:

**Co-op Account**

Balance on 16/11/12	£48,452.59
Balance on 17/12/12	£45,514.44

**Income - significant**

Donation	£2,786
Workshop MA students	£ 440

**Expenses – significant**

Lancaster City Council re Abacus bill for play area (£4915 grant received already)	£5,953
Haymaking (income from sale of hay to come)	£ 300

5) **Membership & Newsletter**

Ruth reported that we have 6 renewals and 8 new members.

The newsletter announcing the fields campaign was delivered to over 1200 households.

6) **Website**

**Calendar** - Andrew reported that the Google calendar is working well, thanks to Julia McDowell.

**Photographs** - Julia asked for some background photographs that could depict the changing seasons. Helen and David Herrod, and Oliver said they would send her some.

**FLORA website** - There was a lengthy discussion over whether FLORA should have its own separate website: Advantages relate to funding & publicity. Dave said we could apply for funding specifically for the website if it was separate. Julia confirmed that the FLORA website could still have a link to the main Fairfield website. It could have its own design but also be part of the same overall design as the Fairfield website. It was thought that we could start FLORA with its own website, and eventually it could be "sucked back" into the main Fairfield website. Mary reminded us of the importance of sending out information on our successes, whether it's on the website, or newsletter etc.

**Blog** - Julia asked if we still wanted blog (s), on the website. Not easy to add, but she will look into it. Oliver suggested the blog should be accessible to anyone so it could relate to fundraising, wildlife, birds, local history etc. (James has added a Tweet facility but no-one has tweeted yet, though Jonathan has said he may).

**FOTT** - The Fairfield website needs a link to the separate FOTT website.

**PhD** Julia explained that her PhD proposal has been accepted by Lancaster University. It is to look at how mobile devices can be used in outdoor visits by schoolchildren. Working with Tony Finn, she will be looking at how visits to the Millennium orchard can be followed up with classroom activities, and which activities are best used in the classroom etc.

## **7) FOG Report**

Mick reported that:

Work has been done to the pigsties in preparation for the large storage facility about to be built there. They have removed trees and tidied the area. Two builders are currently tendering for the work and it's hoped building will begin in February. It needs to be finished by the end of March. There may be a £5,000 shortfall, so we may need to think about applying for new grants.

Other work carried out: clearing the footpath and collecting wood for wassailing.

Mick reported that he and Hilary will be away for a few months next year, so there will need to be a new Chair for the FOG group. It was thought the best solution may be to share the role between Oliver, Dave and Andrew – each chairing one meeting each.

Andrew asked if the carved stone near Cromwell Road had been damaged. But Mick explained it just needs cow pat and yoghurt rubbing into it to encourage the lichen to grow!

Dave said we're doing work on the boundary between the paddocks and FAUNA. The hedge needs layering (Natural England say it's currently too high).

## **8)FOTT report**

Dave reported that as of their last meeting, FOTT are now officially “wedded” to the Fairfield Association. The terms of reference has been ratified. The application for the lease will be decided at Lancaster City Council's January cabinet. It may take 3-4 weeks. Dave suggested we ask Jon Barry to ask Ann Wood to chase it.

## **9)Playground Report**

Andrew reported that lots of work has been done.

Resurfacing – edgings have been made good. And the roundabout has been serviced today.

Ian and Ken have both smoothed out the sharp edge on the slide – but it may need rewelding in the long run. So far, re the playground appeal, £90 has been donated from Just Giving, and there have been £72 donated in cheques. Hilary will apply for QE11 funding.

## **10) Events**

Carol Singing – Xmas Eve, 5pm at Edenbreck Cottage. In the past it has raised £500.

Wassailing – 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 3-5pm – to include FLORA event beforehand. Andrew will do a new poster explaining about the FLORA preview to wassailing. Can we use Wes's kitchen? Tony or Andrew to investigate.

## **11) Items of Correspondence**

Thank you to Jean Stuart for sending in £17 as a percentage of selling some pictures.

## **12)Website & Facebook**

Covered above.

## **13)Date of next meetings**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013, Robert Gillow Pub, 7.30pm – 9pm

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013, Robert Gillow Pub, 7.30pm – 9pm