

Fairfield Association
Minutes of the meeting held
on 22nd May 2013 at: Robert Gillow pub, Lancaster

1) Present

Mandy Bannon, (minutes) , Graham Brandwood, Andrew Brennand (chair), Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Oliver Fulton, Ruth Haigh, Julia McDowell, Jane Parker, Sue Nieduszynska

2)Apologies

Tony Finn, Hilary Short, Mick Short, Jean Stuart

3)Minutes

Accepted as correct. Note: the North West brown hare survey is back online.

4)Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance (Co op)

17.4.13	£32,106-62
30.4.13	£44,670-74

Restricted funds £39,752

Includes: £20,057 net grants
 £ 228 FOTT
 £19,468 Flora & Fauna
£39,753

General funds £4,921

Payments after 30/4/13:
Better roofing £4,135
Zurich Insurance £ 152
Playdale £ 420
Total £4,709
Balance left £ 214

Shed

- **Total cost in 2012-13 accounts = £26,899**
- Further £4,135 paid 2/5/13
- Donations of £1,450 for shed
- £5000 funded from LCC Fauna grant agreed in April 2013
- Grant received of £9,960 – further £500 to come
- So at the moment, £14,124 funded from General Funds

Concerns over cashflow were expressed. Oliver, Jane and Dave to put FAUNA spreadsheet together.

£13- £14,000 expenses before shed – asbestos etc. We went over budget on shed, which had been agreed at a trustees meeting.

Jane has to go the accountant next week.

We are committed to £38, 000 for the Gleeson's field

So we need to fundraise for 'nuts and bolts'.

5) Membership Report

Over the last year, membership has increased from 134 to 189, the highest ever membership rise.

There have been 130 renewals and 55 new members.
30 pay by standing order.

6) Website

Julia said all is going fine. Oliver said the Flora page wasn't up-to-date.

Sue said the auction stuff was a bit buried, even though it's on the news page. Julia agreed to put it on the front page.

Julia reminded us that Twitter is a fantastic tool for promoting the auction etc.

Thanks were expressed to Julia for revamping the calendar.

7) Amended Constitution

Andrew explained we would be voting for the amended constitution at next month's AGM. It is a vast improvement on the old version. It is based on the charity commission's model and is currently on the Fairfield website (we have given 21 days' notice before AGM).

Graham expressed concern that there is little time to discuss the revised constitution before the AGM. He was particularly concerned about transparency surrounding who the trustees were, their decision-making process and how that relates to the business meetings – ie this meeting. Which is the governing body, and why aren't trustee meetings minuted? He would like to see more transparency and that's not covered in the new constitution.

Andrew explained that the F.A meeting is a business meeting and that we are planning to put trustee details on the web. He also stressed how hard all the trustees had worked to get the new constitution right and acknowledged that it is still not an accessible document.

Oliver invited Graham to voice specific concerns about the constitution, but Graham said he'd only had time to glance at it.

Oliver offered to create a document to complement the new constitution and to highlight the changes in an accessible way. If concerns were still expressed at the AGM, then an extraordinary meeting could be called to create a revamped constitution.

8)FOG Report

Oliver chaired the last FOG meeting. They have made progress on DBS checking – it's in hand. Volunteers have been busy. Graham said Ian wants to do research into why people aren't turning up after first session. We will need more regulars as the association expands. When new volunteers turn up, Tony is the official greeter and tea-maker.

Helen Hicks sent a written message via Mandy re notice-board repairs: "The back-board of the north end notice board in the orchard is under way. The new board has been painted with Sadolin weather proof stain (2 coats) both sides and edges. We just await a day when it is dry enough to take off the decrepit board in readiness for new hinges to be fixed without weather dampening the interior."

9) FOTT Report

Dave reported that negotiations are progressing on the lease. Andrew has passed the schedule of conditions to Dave.

They are getting the lease – repairing workshop building.

Take Pride pays out in quarterly in arrears (£9,975) but they need to see we've spent the money.

We will place orders for £6 - £7 k of work. Peter will let Andrew know how much it is. Dave to chase remittance advice.

Dave, Peter and Andrew need conversations with insurers re dangerous buildings.

They will have a fund-raising event on 6th July. Need to borrow some equipment e.g. football game.

Peter says Andrew needs to sign change of use forms.

10) Flora Report

Oliver said sheep have gone from one side. We can't fence it off until we own it. Glenys thinks the problem of sheep mess means we won't be able to have a Jacob's Join. Perhaps we could have the event in the orchard and have a procession through Flora.

Stewardship needs extending from Fauna and Flora. Richard Storton will submit a proposal re conservation landscaping. Needs to finish before end of Feb.

Public consultation plans need submitting. We won't be presenting a fait accompli – we want to ask what people prefer – this or that footpath etc. .

Flora steering committee is concerned with HLF grant, completing purchase, pathways etc dealt with here.

The F.A meeting will have a Flora report each month.

11) Playground Report

Andrew reported that Playdale has repaired the slide and it's safe again. Ken had fixed the spring again. They gave us a safety inspection which coincided with Lancaster City Council safety inspection. We didn't fail; there are just some faults and warnings. One item is urgent – U bolts on the swing. The items have been ordered and Ken will put them up. Will cost £153.72

The noticeboard lock broke but a locksmith will repair tomorrow.

12) Events

Hum Holler and Sing concert is this Friday: 7.30pm Friday 24th May, Friends Meeting House.

Go Wild – bioblitz is in hand

Auction – Sat 8th June - Sue has tickets and a great catalogue printed in colour. Arteria Gallery has presented an excellent display in the window. They have sold over 20 tickets and received a first bid of £50 (for tea with guinea pigs!)

The Loxams' Open Garden: 15 – 16 June, 10.30 – 4pm. Sue brought leaflets and posters for people to circulate. Ruth to send out email asking for volunteers: bakers, servers and Ian's volunteers to set up on the day. Oliver to ask about power source and plants for sale (we haven't prepared for this).

13) Correspondence

Neil and Val have done a Just Giving page.

14) Items for Website/Facebook

Julia to update auction info on website.

15) AOB None this month

16) Next Meetings

June 12th AGM (Friends Meeting House), July 17th at Robert Gillow pub.

Both meetings starting at 7.30pm.