

Fairfield Association
Minutes of the Meeting held
on 23rd April 2014 at: the Robert Gillow pub, Lancaster

1) Present

Mandy Bannon, (minutes), Andrew Brennand (chair), Dave Brookes, Graham Brandwood, Tony Finn, Ruth Haigh, Geoff Oliver, Ian Procter, Shirley Rawsthorne, Hilary Short, Mick Short, Pamela White

2) Apologies Jane Parker

3) Minutes from the last meeting were accepted.

4) New Faces

- **Sue Nieduszynska** will be formally co-opted as a trustee at the AGM in June, bringing the total number of trustees to six. Sue has already done an outstanding job organising the lecture series.
- **Shirley Rawsthorne** – a returning face who has volunteered to take over as secretary from Mandy Bannon, who has carried out the role for nearly three years.

5) Task Directory update

- 1) Newsletter compilation – Mandy to take over from Ruth
- 2) Distribution of newsletter – Rachel and Eddie agreed to coordinate
- 3) Notelets – Carole Martyn to coordinate for Fun Day
- 4) Ice cream seller for Fun Day – post still vacant**
- 5) Ploughing has now happened, so this task no longer needs doing.
- 6) Public consultation work – post still vacant**
- 7) Post plough field walk – postponed til Autumn (Sue Holden and Sue Nieduszynska to coordinate)
- 8) Research concrete wall – post still vacant**
- 9) Boundary Stone repair – ongoing (Ken & co)
- 10) Volunteer Team leader – possibly Rick Gould**
- 11) Tool maintenance – Ken has offered
- 12) Website design – Matt Roberts offered to help, if required.

It was agreed to compile a shorter list for the next meeting

6) Notelets & Calendar reprise

Ruth reported that notelets need to be printed for Fun Day.

It was agreed

- to order 1500 cards at £160 (11p each) (plus 7/6p each per envelope).
The cards will cost us 18p each but can be sold for 50p each or in packs of 6 for £3.50
- to order cellophane packs minimum 500 at £24 (Dave initially opposed cellophane, on environmental grounds, but Ruth checked and later confirmed cellophane is biodegradable)
- not to include an insert showing all pics (cost would be too high at £20 per 250)
- wording on back – the F.A. square logo that says “protecting green spaces in Lancaster”

Mick wondered why the “save our park” logo wasn’t being used, but it was agreed to postpone the discussion of logo.

7) Treasurer’s Report

Bank balance

March 17th £21,769.39
April 18th £17,047.32

Significant income received:

RPA £7,322 flora grant claim

Few final grant claims to come in April (last bank statement received 31st March 2014) as well as the one from HLF later in the year.

Significant expenses:

Hanafins £5,272 re flora hedging

£1,920 fauna retention

£2,004 allotment hedge

Huddleston £3,172 flora fencing

Donations from Friends

Geoff Oliver reported on the up-to-date income from friends of Fairfield Association.

- by cheque £ 2,270

- by S.O. £ 3,351

TOTAL £ 5,621

Geoff said that the standing order form has been rejected by some banks, so it is better if Friends use their bank's own form. Mick said the £3,351 a year needs to be doubled or trebled.

8) Membership Report

Ruth was pleased to report there have been ten membership renewals, (five of the fourteen who hadn't renewed by last month), two new members plus £110 in donations. Ruth is liaising with Geoff re communication with Friends. Ruth has sent membership forms to Friends, to thank them and to ask them whether they want to volunteer.

9) Website

Unable to discuss Julia's project section as she was not at the meeting. Mick said there were things that needed to be added to the website e.g. Fairfield friends page, Will/inheritance information, Flora updates.

10) FOG Report**a) Ripley signs**

As part of a project with their pupils, Ripley School has offered to make a wooden stand for the Nose Pump and three wooden fingerpost signs for the nature reserve. We therefore need clarity on what we will be calling the nature reserve in the future. There was some discussion whether to call the combined Flora and Fauna areas Fairfield Nature Reserves (plural) or Fairfield Nature Reserve (singular). The latter was agreed unanimously, and it was also agreed that website and other materials will have to be updated.

b) Camper in Little Wood

Graham raised this issue. Cath Elliot, (Community Support Police Officer), has said the police do not have the power to move the camping man on, but will try talking to him tonight. Graham has spoken to him recently. He says he's working and doesn't want to move from his pitch in the woods. It's an important issue, as there are environmental health/sanitation issues. He has visited Hilary and Mick at their home and has since threatened to take criminal action on their house, if his belongings are removed. As he's trespassing on our property, we have the right to remove his possessions, if his tent is left open – to be confirmed. To evict him through civil courts may be expensive.

It was agreed

a) to wait until we hear from Cath Elliot

b) Tony to email his solicitor friend for advice

c) seek help advice from Homeless Action Centre etc

d) Remove camper's possessions (after checking with Police). Graham happy to do this.

e) Ian suggested putting up barbed wire after he has gone.

11) Other FOG items/FSG

Mick reported that the arable field has been ploughed, harrowed and seeded with wheat (best crop to start with) and the lynchets have been protected and wide margin left for wildflowers. We didn't use all the wildflower seed (both bee-friendly and bird-friendly mixes), so it was agreed in the meeting to give the extra mix to the farmer. Two other issues:

- a) we have agreed to let the farmer use herbicide on the arable field, as on farmer in the district was prepared to farm it without herbicide (the farmer's agronomist said if cattle ate the resulting silage, their manure would contain seeds which would cause more weeds).
- b) couldn't afford for crop to be just composted

We need to encourage more people to put entries on the wildlife blog (Natural England's interest covers the Orchard, Flora and Fauna. Ruth agreed to put something in the next e-newsletter.

12) FOTT Report

- Dave reported that they had removed three problem trees and had planted seven.
- May 17th BBQ and treasure hunt) could use up extra bags of Easter eggs.
- Noticeboard will be ready soon.

13) Playground Report

Andrew reported that the playground was being well-used now the sun was out.

- **The wall** is continuing to erode. We did not receive a Children in Need grant – we're waiting for feedback. Hilary has submitted an Awards for All grant, but we may have to use our own funds for part of the cost. £3k is needed in total, and it was agreed to organise the work, regardless of grants. It would be good to have the work done before Fun Day.
- Graham suggested the little playground needs a sign to deter older children. He has observed and challenged teenagers playing football in there. Hilary asked whether we really need another sign. Andrew agreed to investigate cost etc.

14) Events

- **Easter event** was splendid. £120 profit made and have saleable assets (sweetie bags) are worth £70 or more.
- **Blossom Picnic** 10th May – Ruth to publicise on email.
- **Fun Day** – Saturday 5th July.
Sarah Dawson has offered to coordinate 3rd party stall holders, Elaine will do cakes stall, Adrienne will organise fire engine, Michael to do the BBQ, Emily will do the book stall. Nick Gebhardt will coordinate music. A local charity rents out a sound stage for £400. We agreed to say no at the moment, unless we get a grant, an arts grant, perhaps?
Still need someone to organise games.

15) Correspondence - to be discussed at next meeting.

16) Items for Website/Facebook - see under website, para 9.

17) AOB None.

18) Next Meetings - Both meetings starting at 7.30pm.
Wednesday May 21st – Robert Gillow pub
Wednesday June 18th AGM – Friends Meeting House