

## **Fairfield Association Meeting Minutes – 15th October**

Attending: Geoff Oliver, Ken Capewell, Sue Nieduszynska, Peter Callingham, Dave Bookes, Anne Murphy, Mandy Bannon, Mick Short, Hilary Short, Jane Parker.

Apologies – Ian Proctor, Shirley Rawsthorne, Ruth Haigh

Minutes of the last meeting – corrections:

- 1) to financial report “Significant items of income from grants and sales were £5849.50. Significant payments for repairs, legal fees and Fun Day expenditure were £2899.80 resulting in a closing balance of £30,296.”
- 2) to FOTT Report “Dave reported that a *lean-to building* at Fairfield Triangle had been demolished and funds were being raised to build a replacement.”

Andrew mentioned his research concerning Section 61 Notice to Evict. It is geared towards larger groups, requires a minimum incursion of 2 persons or more and so would not have been applicable for the recent camper in Little Wood.

**Nature Reserve Name.** Mick’s paper was discussed. Andrew noted that the name being used on the new maps in town and on Google Maps is “Fairfield Nature Reserve” and that regardless of what we decide to call it, that will be the name in common use. However since we have grant awarding bodies to keep happy, and the correspondence received from members on the topic was in favour of retaining the Flora and Fauna elements of the name it was decided unanimously that the full official name should be “The Fairfield Association Flora and Fauna Nature Reserve”. This does not affect previous decisions made about signage.

**Newsletter.** Mandy said that in order to have the newsletter ready by the Green Fair we need to get that underway now. Geoff suggestion that we acknowledge the fact that the reserve has most likely prevented the land being included in the local plan. Other items for inclusion were discussed and Mandy agreed to solicit brief articles to be sent to her by Friday 14th October. This will ensure we have enough time to compile, print and distribute prior to the Green Fair on Saturday 22nd November.

### **Treasurer’s Report.**

Significant income: £1800 Admiral Insurance cheque to pay for damaged wall, £186.56 from Kwik Cricket, £450 Green Partnership Award for FOTT tools.

Significant expenditure: £1486 for wall repairs, £444 for tools, £801 for haymaking.

Starting balance on 10/09/14 £30296.83

Closing balance on 14/10/14 £29818.86

Geoff reported that so far the Friends of Fairfield scheme has been very successful with 54 friends signed up for a total of £6137. £3567 of this is in annual standing orders. The Association’s gratitude to Geoff for such a great result was noted.

**Membership Report.** Ruth submitted her report by email. Since the September meeting we have 19 new Members and we have also received Membership donations from 12 existing members. The total in donations from the 31 is £210. However it is noticeable that since the changed wording of the Membership forms and accompanying letters there are about 2/3 less long term existing Members responding to Ruth's letters with a completed form and donation. So overall Ruth felt that potential income from Membership donations is substantially down. This was discussed by the meeting and we agreed that it was not a cause for concern. Firstly because not charging for membership was the recommendation of the Charities Commission from whom we adopted the new membership clause in the revised Constitution, and secondly because we are clearly doing very well from the Friends of Fairfield scheme as noted above. The meeting decided that overall member donations are clearly up, but the Friends scheme is now accounting for the bulk of them.

**Website.** Julia has proposed a new navigational structure which puts "Support Us" near the top. Andrew agreed to circulate this to Sue, Geoff, Dave, Mick and Hilary.

**Education.** Formally noted that Education needs to shift from the FOG agenda to the FA one. Tony's paper which described ongoing costs for continuing to provide school visits was briefly discussed. Anne suggested investigating corporate sponsorships. To be discussed at future meeting.

**FOG Report.** Mick recently facilitated a visit from 12 Finnish ecological advisers invited by Richard Storton, and it was judged to be a great success. The broken wall has been repaired after the drunk driving incident. Mr Edwards also repaired walls near gate and coping stones near Sowerholme. There are problems with the mower, which has hit a tree stump and now has a bent camshaft. Still getting quotes on repair, might be better to buy a new one. Proposals afoot to purchase a larger sit-on mower or possibly a quad bike with attachments, since the area we need to mow has increased dramatically. Need to resolve by Spring. Quad bike would also require training. Graeme Skelcher reports that wild flower meadow is doing well esp yellow rattle and red clover. Installed nose pump for cattle. Dave mentioned we need to keep an eye on it since when we get a frost it will need to be removed. Arable field wildflower margin will be mown soon - HLS prescriptions require it. Flora Steering Group has come to an end, even though HLF funding has not all gone. Approx £1500 left, which we intend to vire onto other items in the HLF budget eg. new display boards, Georgina's maps, more tools, first aid training. Possibly put out an appeal in Ruth's regular email to see if anyone who regularly attends events would like to be First Aid trained. There will also be suggestions from November's FOG meeting as to how the money can be spent. Everyone agreed that the educational aspects of Flora project had gone particularly well - both lectures and school visits - and thanks to Sue and Tony were noted. There was a plea for people to post on the website's wildlife blogs. John Carter from RSPB pointed out that we are the most significant spot in North Lancashire for Snipe. The last volunteer session had 32 people attend, which is very impressive!

Flora exhibition - 290 attended, new volunteers also came forward. There were 3 people who came in using mobility scooters who said that they already enjoy the accessible paths eg Fauna and orchard and would be happy to advise on accessibility issues of the paths to the canal and Pony Wood. In addition there were 2 staff members from Beaumont College who will now bring students, who use wheelchairs, to the play area and nature reserve and who would also like to help with the access consultation. Ruth will pass all their contact details to Mick when needed. £100 credit for photocopying large items like posters remains. Event was slightly over budget, but lots of useful assets (posters, leaflets, paper cups, stickers, postcards etc.) remain. There is the possibility of using one of the graphics produced as a new logo, and that will be discussed at a future meeting. It was decided to formally congratulate and thank Ian, Sue, Hilary, Mick and Laura Conerny for their efforts in making the exhibition happen, and everyone who did a stint at the exhibition explaining our work to the public.

**FOTT Report.** Recent campers left of own accord. Visit from C&RT adviser who was positive and helpful. Assembling quotes for big grant applications.

**Playground Report.** New baby swings have been ordered and will soon be installed. This has been made possible because of a generous donation from Helen Easton's family to mark her birthday. A "No Dogs" sign for the toddler area has been acquired. Andrew and Ken agreed to take another look at the wobbly board on the climbing rope tower.

**Events.** Forthcoming events were briefly discussed. Green Fair on November 22nd, Carols on Xmas Eve and Wassailing on January 17th. Ruth had mentioned in an email that some volunteers had expressed an interest in singing in town again and it was agreed that she should ask them to try and arrange something with the Association's blessing.

**Correspondence.** Hilary had received a phonecall from the Single Payment Scheme agents to confirm that a decision would need to be deferred until November pending further details.

**Website and Facebook.** Notify events as above and perhaps put a link to the next newsletter.

**AOB.** The imminent calendar print run was discussed and we agreed with Ruth's recommendation that 150 should be printed and sold for £8.

Mick suggested that agenda items for next meeting should include: FOG new name, consider new surface for orchard and rest of fauna footpath, sinking fund.

**Next meetings.** November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Robert Gillow. December 17<sup>th</sup> venue tbc.