

**Fairfield Association  
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
Monday 9 March 2009, 7.30 pm  
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

**Present:** Andrew Brennand, Margaret Burtonwood, Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton (sec), Simon Gershon, Helen Hicks, Rebecca Procter, Mick Short (chair)

**Apologies:** Jon Barry

**Minutes:** approved

**Matters arising**

- ? First Aid training. Helen, Mick and Oliver have been enrolled for Beaumont College training on 20 April: Andrew not yet decided. Agreed that they should take the volunteers' First Aid box to be checked by the course tutor.
- ? Apple Day and other accounts: Apple Day now signed off: a very small 'profit' was made. Mick reported that he and Oliver had met Jude as requested. They had sorted out the balances transferred from the Orchard Trust, so it was now clear how much had been spent from the Breathing Places Grant [see below for current status] and how much had been the Trust's remaining unspent funds. They had also clarified the procedure for future spending, all of which would require authorisation from one or more of Mick, Oliver or Jude, and if not 'routine' would also need approval from the FA.
- ? Large trees: the FA has approved Andy Lee's estimate for his survey and Mr and Mrs Martin have made a donation of £100 to the FA and completed a Gift Aid form, which will yield roughly half the cost of the survey. Andy hopes to do the survey in the next 2 weeks.

**Current developments**

- ? The gap in the fruiting hedge still needs attention.
- ? Mick will add Robin Loxham's phone number to the notice board in case of further calf intrusions.
- ? Litter etc: there have been more problems with broken glass. Helen offered to design some notices about glass and dog poo.

**Breathing Places**

- ? The formal grant letter has still not arrived. We will need to extend the time to spend the money, but have notified BP of this and have not been instructed otherwise.
- ? Log seating: agreed to wait for Andy Lee's report to see if logs might be available from his recommended pruning/felling and if not, ask him to quote to supply some. Alternatively, Steve Langhorn may be able to supply or access some: Tony to speak to Steve.
- ? Mini-beast log circles (included under 'habitat boxes' heading): locations were identified at the last volunteer morning. Simon offered to supply some from his front yard stock.
- ? Tony reported on school visit plans:
  - o Dallas Road: planning a first BP-supported visit on Friday 27 March: Year 3 (7 yr olds). Activities on plants. 60 children to visit Allotments and Orchard, 30 at a time in each location for 1 hour: split into 2 groups of 15.
  - o Westbourne House Nursery: already use. Plans for BP-supported visits on Thursday April 16 ('holiday club', former Nursery, now primary, pupils (up to age 10) in holiday care) and a weekday in May (4 year olds, for curriculum work).

- Willow Lane: planning an 'extended school' (family education/involvement) activity on Saturday April 25, including a picnic and family activities.
- Apple Tree Nursery also interested.

Tony recommended that we contract with the RSPB to provide the support and resources (though he will also work on creating resources independently). This would be costed at £70/half day for support and £20/hr for resource preparation. Agreed that Tony should fill in the RSPB booking forms and liaise with them. If possible, we would like the resources which are developed to be available through us (eg on the website) for reuse: Tony to clarify whether they will be copyright or time-limited and whether there would be a cost involved in making them available, with suitable acknowledgments. Tony will work on creating simple maps for use on the first visits. He will also circulate a shopping list of scientific equipment for approval.

Orchard preparation: agreed that mowing should not be necessary before March 27. Helen volunteered to check for glass, Oliver and Mick to check for dog poo on afternoon of March 26 and Andrew early on March 27. Will need further preparation for later visits.

? Notice boards. Agreed to create a small working party: Tony, Mick, Helen, Oliver. Everyone was encouraged to make notes (and if possible take photos) of good examples they came across.

? Spending plans: current position:

Item	Grant amount	Spent	Person(s) responsible	Comments and/or decisions
Mower	999	892	Simon	Mower has arrived at dealers. Old mower has been sold to Allotments Assoc: once they remove it Simon can accommodate the new one and we can take delivery.
Scientific equipment	531	-	Tony and Oliver	For school visit use. Bid list to be revised downwards. Possible savings to be used for maps etc.
Professional support and consultancy	1240	260	Tony and Oliver	£260 spent on late summer surveys with a further £240 (ie total £500) earmarked for an early summer follow up: remainder is for school visit planning / support, costed at £70/ half day visit plus resource preparation costs at £20/hr.
Volunteer support for education activities	360	-	Tony	Sighted assistant for Tony on school visits
Marquee and log seating	1305	939	Simon (marquee) Tony (log seating)	Marquee already bought. Log seating: see above
Volunteer training	275	-	Mick	For first aid training (originally also for skills training e.g. pruning, so far provided free by Lancashire CC). £150 or 200 committed (see above).
Information materials	4695	-	Working party	Tony is collecting ideas for information, Hilary is costing info boards.
Wildflower plugs and bulbs	300	-	Next meeting	To be discussed in context of new management plan. Too late for bulbs for 2008-9.
Habitat boxes	260	-	Tony / next meeting	Agreed to start with minibeast logs

## **Review of Management Plan**

Main item in the 'April' meeting (to be held on March 30).

## **Orchard Management - volunteer mornings**

Tree planting in February: there were enough plants left over to fill gaps in the hedge by the Girls' Grammar School cycle track / footpath, which was done on a later date by Simon and Mick. Thanks to Andrew for hollies and John of Tourist Office for unknown plants. Helen provided photos for the Woodland Trust report. Simon overspent by £20, referred to Jude/FA for discussion.

March morning: Simon's proposals agreed.

Summer evenings: agreed on Wednesday evenings, halfway between the Saturday morning sessions, from April to August. Simon to circulate dates.

## **Website**

Mick has circulated a draft: comments to him, please. All invited to contribute [ideas for] photos, and those designated to finish off their sections, either directly to James or via Oliver (who will follow up).

## **Events**

- ? Easter Egg hunt (Easter Monday, April 13). Planning meeting on Thursday 19 March, Waterwitch, 7.30.
- ? May picnic day: agreed on Sunday 10 May, time to be determined. Next meeting.
- ? Go Wild Week (18-22 May). Simon suggested contributors including Steve Bradley (popular last year); someone to talk about wildlife underground; Simon on the body language of trees, and a bird session. Agreed: next meeting for further details.

## **AOB**

- ? Mick suggested we might need to think about the future name of the Orchard (possible confusion of Millennium Green / Fairfield Green etc; opportunity for simplification following merger with Trust).

## **Next meetings :**

7.30 pm, Monday 30 March at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close** : management plan plus urgent business only  
7.30 pm, Tuesday 5 May at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**