

**Fairfield Association
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 5 May 2009, 7.30 pm
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

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

Apologies: Jon Barry, Andrew Brennand

Minutes: approved with two corrections [Rebecca was present, Margaret sent apologies]

Matters arising

- ? Boiler: Jude contacted the suppliers who have replaced the faulty boiler under guarantee, and told us not to bother returning the old one. Simon will see if the old one can be repaired.
- ? Dog mess campaign. The dog warden has been seen patrolling. Helen offered to contact her and discuss further visits or other steps that could be taken. She will also ask if we can have some of the Council's permanent metal signs. No response re the missing bin, but the statutory 3 weeks for a reply may not yet have elapsed. Agreed that Oliver will check with Hilary and once 3 weeks have passed, ask Melanie Forrest (presumptive new Councillor) to chase it up for us.
- ? Vandalism. Some 8-10 year old boys have been seen with a penknife, and have been spoken to by Helen. No further knife damage so far as we can tell. Rebecca has also successfully confronted young girls swinging on branches near the playground, so it looks as if most of our vandals may be young and unaware of consequences. No further fires.
- ? Mower: the Allotments have now paid us £200 for the old mower. Mrs Ridley has kindly agreed to let us store our (new) mower in her garage, to enable Simon to store the Allotments' one: Simon and Mick to be in charge of her garage key(s).
- ? First Aid: Simon will email volunteers to offer training. If money is available he would like to take a course on Safe Use of Power Tools at Myerscough College. The new first aid box is now fully equipped except for extra saline solution, which has to be special-ordered from a chemist.
- ? Tree survey: the Martins have agreed for us to remove the willow branches as recommended. Oliver has written to Maxine Knagg but she has not yet replied: Oliver will chase up. Mick has told Andy Lee we will want to go ahead with the recommended surgery subject to Maxine's approval. Steve Langhorn has written to say he is qualified for most forms of tree work and would like to tender: however, he is not qualified for aerial work, which is what is required. Oliver to write to thank him and explain.

Current developments

- ? See above re vandalism

Breathing Places

- ? The first tranche of equipment has been ordered.
- ? Tony is preparing a newsletter for teachers, chasing up outstanding school visits etc. He is assembling material for the website but the plan is to finalise it in the autumn after the current round of visits is complete.
- ? Tony will inform the **next meeting** of total grant-related expenditure to date (equipment, visits, etc).

- ? Notice boards and information materials: the working group has not yet met and needs to do so soon. Simon will give Oliver the map of apple varieties for possible use.

Events

- ? The May picnic was enjoyed by those present and seemed well received: attendance was approx 12. Agreed to repeat it next year.
- ? Go Wild week was also successful: attendance ranged from 8-16. After some discussion of school half term and its possible impact, it was agreed to schedule it a week earlier next year.
- ? Girl Guide visit (June 3): Mick, Tony and Oliver, with Simon's help, will organise, respectively, an orchard tour, an orienteering game and grass seeding on worn paths. Guides to be split into 3 groups and do each activity in turn.
- ? The Teddy Bears picnic will probably be on Sunday 30 August: Simon to check with Andrew.
- ? Apple Day will be Saturday 26 September.

Volunteer days

- ? Simon's list for upcoming events approved: grass cutting (on high setting for newly sown grass); removing grey alders; tying up fruit bushes.

AOB

- ? Helen has collected gooseberry bush trimmings and now has several plants from cuttings.
- ? Simon reported that local schools are being asked, through the Transition City group, to plant and/or adopt fruit trees. LGGS has been contacted and may be interested in liaising with us. One possibility would be to hold a fruit tree grafting day: Middlewood runs grafting courses and might support this.
- ? Simon reported that Lancaster Green Spaces has been given £900 by the LSP to purchase equipment which groups could share. We should consider if we have any suggestions for equipment which we could use occasionally but could not justify purchasing ourselves. Simon suggested a heavy-duty strimmer / brush cutter.
- ? Helen has been talking to the Storey Institute about possible collaboration(s) which might include an art exhibition in the Orchard and collaboration on Apple Day, in which the Storey would like to get involved. Workspace (a local disabled charity) might also be interested in selling [apple and other] wood products (bowls, carved wooden fruit, bird/bat boxes etc). Agreed that Helen and Simon should discuss further with Suzy Jones of the Storey and with Workspace.

Next meetings :

- 7.30 pm, **Tuesday 14 July** at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close NB changed date!**
- 7.30 pm, Monday 7 September at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**