

**Fairfield Association  
Fairfield Orchard Sub-Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
Monday 2 November 2009, 7.30 pm  
at Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

**Present:** Tony Finn, Oliver Fulton (mins), Helen Hicks, Rebecca Procter, Hilary Short, Mick Short (chair)

**Apologies:** Jon Barry, Simon Gershon

**Minutes:** approved

**Matters arising**

- First Aid: Simon has found a specialist course for people working outdoors, and would like to take it as his certificate will expire shortly. Agreed to cover up to £51 of the cost (which is all the money remaining): **Oliver** to notify **Simon** to get this invoiced as a p.
- Tree surgery: we have received Andy Lee's revised report (including trees previously not included). **Oliver** will put the big ash and old sycamore on the Woodland Trust/Ancient Tree Hunt national data base.
- Towneley Close footpath: Mick and Oliver met the objectors on 19 October. In discussion, Mick and Oliver had made proposals to try to mitigate the possible nuisance that foot traffic through Towneley Close might cause: 1) the FA would investigate the possibility of opening up an entrance at the end of Willow Lane where it abuts the public footpath near Lucy Brook, so as to divert some of the foot traffic coming from Abraham Heights; 2) we could consider raising funds for landscaping work in the Orchard near the new entrance, possibly in concert with Mr Ellison who owns part of the land; 3) once the path is open we should ask the County for, or ourselves organise, a follow-up survey exercise with neighbours to find out whether the feared problems have occurred. (2) and (3) were agreed; however Jon Barry had reported that when a Willow Lane entrance had been canvassed a few years ago, all the nearby residents were very hostile and that other residents, when canvassed, did not see the need for an entrance there either: agreed that we should leave this for now and perhaps reopen it when FAUNA is in place and there may be new interest in connecting up the footpath network.
- U3A presentation: still no reply to Mick's offer to speak.
- Private compost bin: **Oliver** was reminded to place a note on it asking for it to be removed.

**Current developments**

- There has been one small fire near the picnic table – not much damage. The people who lit it were seen and appeared innocent rather than vandalism-intent.

**Breathing Places**

- Hilary has kindly taken over responsibility for coordinating the final stages of spending and for final reporting to the BP office. She reported that she had now got agreement to vire underspent categories, mainly into the information category, i.e. to cover most if not all of the cost of the notice boards including graphic design. There was a small underspend in volunteer support and scientific equipment; otherwise most categories would be fully spent. Every effort would be made to get all invoices in and paid on time.
- Hilary and Helen have kindly taken charge of the notice board design and purchase. The final cost of the notice boards was not yet clear, as discussions were still ongoing with Woodscape about precise specifications and with two different designers (with one more in reserve) to see which comes up with the best design. However, Hilary and Helen expect the final cost to come in, after viring underspent money, at no more than £300 over budget. Agreed to ask the Fairfield Association to cover the overspend if need be. Tony will liaise with Helen about the content for the wildlife information panels.
- Wildflowers/bulbs still remained to be bought and planted: Hilary and Helen were asking Georgina for

advice and would then buy them a s a p.

- School visits: Tony reported that the final Dallas Road visit had been cancelled due to very bad weather. It will be rescheduled for next season. It was agreed that the school visits had been a highlight of the year (and of the BP grant) and that we should aim to repeat them next year, if possible again offering financial support for schools which would need a small grant. **Oliver** to investigate possible sources of funds. The schools section of the website is developing well; although it is a cumulative project there should be enough to show the funders by December.
- Log replacements. Andy Lee had been asked to donate some ash logs, but he and his colleague Roger, who recently visited to inspect the ash tree, have now recommended using oak logs (which Roger could supply) as these would be much more durable. **Hilary** to find out the cost and go ahead if within budget.
- Bug hotels. Will be ready shortly, hopefully for installing at the next volunteer day.

### **Events**

- Wassailing. 16 January. To be organised by Andrew as before, similar programme. Helen suggested that lantern making might be done at Dallas Road School using BP money for materials, rather than as an open event. Agreed that this would be good if it can be arranged. Agreed to ask **Andrew** to report to our next meeting.

### **Orchard management and volunteer days**

- Simon had sent round a list of proposed work, following Steve Edwards' site visit and recommendations. Approved. The bug hotel will need installing either in November or in December, depending on when it is finished.

### **Next meetings:**

7.30 pm, Monday 7 December at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**

7.30 pm, Monday, 11 January 2010 at **Whitegates, Sunnyside Close**