

## FAB Minutes

**Time and Date:** 09/12/2020 7.30pm

**Venue:** Online Meeting

**Present:** Joy Nicolson, Norma Alari (chair), Sarah Davidson (minutes), Laura Rigon, Meg Sloan

**Apologies:** Rob Brodie, Louise Harvie

### **Matters arising from previous – please see attached resume of FAB actions during lock down.**

#### **A review of FAB activities over 2020**

This has been a difficult year for all. From the start of lockdown in March, FAB meetings have been held on Skype. These meetings have helped to keep FAB members in contact. No minutes were taken during these meetings. This document is a record of FAB actions taken over the six months we have been in lockdown.

1. Community Orchard Millgate – Summer pruning was done as usual on the spindle fruit trees. In summer scything by FAB volunteers maintained the orchard floor. The fruit harvest this year was very good. During the autumn FAB volunteers planted cowslip plants that were donated to the group. Maintenance work was done around the pond in November and pruning will start in January. The orchard has been highly appreciated during lockdown by many people as a place to meet friends or simply a lovely place to be out of doors. One of the benches needed repair as it had rotted slightly and a local woodworker helped us out. Once that was done, all the benches were oiled by a FAB volunteer.
2. Elmwood community fruit cage – maintenance on the fruit cage was done all summer by FAB volunteers. Lots of soft fruit was harvested and in the autumn the fruit cage was mulched with bark.
3. Westfield Nurture Centre orchard – unfortunately Fife Council staff used a hedge cutter on the orchard causing terrible damage to the trees. FAB is in conversation with the council re this situation and along with the Nurture Centre staff we are trying to find a way forward as to how we can manage the orchard in a more coordinated way.
4. The Wassail has to be cancelled this winter but plans are afoot for a pack to be available for people to use so they can wassail a favourite fruit tree.
5. This year the group was involved with actions to help control the invasion of Himalayan balsam along riverside walk and FAB intends to continue this work

<p>next year.</p> <p>6. FAB is working towards an information board about the wildlife in the Orchard pond. A local person has kindly donated photographs of wild life in our pond, these will be used on the board.</p>	
<p><b>1. Millgate Community Orchard</b></p> <p><b>New Trees</b> Discussion re possibly planting a six more trees in the orchard. Sarah to send out email asking for suggestions for fruit or nut trees. At the meeting Bramley, Cox's Orange Pippens and Russet all suggested at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Pruning</b> 9 volunteers so far for pruning. 5 experienced pruners (Joan, Sarah, Nicky, Rob and Joy) and 4 volunteers (Meg, Norma, Lindy, Debbie) wanting to work alongside them in two household groups as per covid regulations. Rob will lead at Bell Baxter, Sarah at Westfield, Nicky, Joy and Joan will focus on the community orchard. Joy usually does the pears, Nicky often does the trees on the walk and we will all help with the pruning in the community orchard. Joy has found an online calendar that we can all use to input when the experienced pruners can prune – this will enable other volunteers to pair up when possible. Joy gave a demo of the site and she will email it to everyone in FAB. Pruning will start in January through February.</p> <p><b>Liming</b> Sarah to check acidity of the orchard soil. Aiming for the weekend 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Jan. This action will be done in relays of two household groups throughout the weekend. The pruning calendar will also be used to organise this event. Sarah and Norma will bring the lime.</p> <p><b>Board for the pond at Community orchard</b> Stan – council worker has given FAB many photographs that can be used to illustrate the wildlife in the pond on an information board. Norma to contact Johanna Willi Fife Council Biodiversity officer re pond board. Sarah to ask Cupar Development Trust how they organised getting their boards put up recently in Cupar and how much they cost.</p> <p><b>Wassail Pack</b> Joy will finish online pack which will be distributed by email to all the FAB group and</p>	<p><b>Sarah</b></p> <p><b>Joy</b></p> <p><b>Sarah</b></p> <p><b>Norma Sarah</b></p> <p><b>Joy</b></p>

<p>this will also be put on the web site. Laura will write a press release about FAB activities in January. This press release will publicise the Wassail pack and encourage people to wassail in their own gardens on the full moon in January.</p> <p><b>Feeding the birds in the community orchard</b></p> <p>Sarah to email FAB members asking them to hang bird feeders in the community orchard.</p>	<p><b>Sarah</b></p>
<p><b>2. Elmwood College</b></p> <p>Thanks were given to Debbie and John for their work on re-mulching the fruit cage. Pruning the fruit cage will need to be done by middle of March. Calendar will be used to organise this.</p>	
<p><b>3. Westfield Nurture Centre</b></p> <p>Sarah and Norma to meet Colin Davidson Team Leader of Ground Maintenance for this area. Various issues were highlighted in the FAB meeting that will be raised – tree planting, more orchards, the grass cutting consultation, council involvement with schools and access for community groups to Fife green waste.</p>	<p><b>Sarah/Norma</b></p>
<p><b>4. Next meeting</b></p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm on Skype – Joy to send out invite. Joy will chair and Norma will do minutes. February meeting – Joy will do minutes and Laura will chair.</p>	<p><b>Joy</b></p>

**Meeting closed at: 20:30 pm**

**Next meeting date: 13 Jan 2021 19:30 (online)**

**Signed: ...ISDavidson..... Date: ...22/12/2020.....**

**Group Coordinator**