

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 10th June, Starbank Inn

Minutes

Present Alastair Robertson (chair)
 Janet McArthur (secretary)
 Graham Buckley (treasurer)
 Sandy Logan
 Liz Nicholson
 Stan Dunlop

1. *Apologies* were received from Stuart Gardiner
2. *Where we are now and activity log:* the main effort over the past few weeks has been on weeding with the warm wet weather absolutely perfect for chickweed in particular. The Newhaven Heritage Boat has been planted with poppies and some bedding plants at a service on 17th May. The poppies will be thinned out (**Stan, Janet**) and some of the wood will be repaired to minimise the likelihood of injury (**Alastair, Stan, Janet**). Andrew Morton has donated a planter in memory of his late wife and this has now been delivered and planted out. It was agreed that after the compost bags had been cleared that a couple of large pots would be placed on the concrete beside the planter (**Janet, Alastair**). We have started a compost heap in the SE corner. The activity log below details progress since the previous meeting. The park had looked a quite rough but a few good weeding sessions have made a significant improvement.
3. *Plans:*
 - a. *Short term:* Immediate tasks for work parties will continue be largely focussed on weeding. The next borders to be weeded and edged will be the 4 herb borders in the middle of the park. Thereafter, the terrace border, the other borders on the top and the very end of the South border will be weeded. Then it will be back to the North perimeter and the top perimeter border.
 - b. *Requests from the Council:* The Council is very short staffed and there have been a number of requests from the Council for the Friends to undertake specific tasks. These have been inconvenient and not always reasonable. We will document future requests and assess whether we need to take further action.
 - c. *Second boat:* This will be placed beside the NW gate in two weeks and planted in three weeks. We agreed we would not place it as deeply as the first boat planter.
 - d. *Longer term plans:* the council has put together a development plan and a general planting plan. The development plan has virtually the same aims as we drafted in April. The planting plan allows for planting herbaceous plants in the round borders at the top of the park in late summer and the remaining rose borders will be replanted in September. The initial plan was for roses in these borders but Ritchie suggested herbaceous plants and this was the agreed preferred option. **Alastair** will circulate the Council's development and general planting plans. Janet had prepared a deliberately busy herbaceous planting plan for the four circular border and it has been discussed with the Council. It may be

- simplified but the outcome will be four herbaceous borders in the park.
- e. *Miscellaneous*: The Council's grass cutters are not altogether appropriate leaving uncut grass and unable to get into tight corners, for example under the railings. **Alastair** will ask the Council if they could use a Flymo or similar for these tasks. **Alastair** will also write to Ritchie to ask whether the laurel and cypress trees on the East side of the park can be pruned.
4. *Grants, fund raising*:
 - a. CSV Action Earth: Not urgent, defer to next meeting.
 - b. Community Grants, Forth Neighbourhood Programme. It was agreed to consult widely in the next two or three months and put together a considered bid for the Forth Neighbourhood Environment Programme. **Janet** will approach Newhaven Heritage and Trinity Community Council and **Alastair** will approach if they had any ideas regarding a park development project and also put forward a suggestion for a short nature/ woodland walk for small children at the South end of the park.
 - c. Waste Aware: Alastair is meeting Waste Aware on the 12th June to assess whether they will be likely to fund a project in Starbank Park. **Alastair** will report back on the meeting by 19th June.
 5. *Saturdays*: Saturday volunteer sessions have been going for a few weeks. The turn-out has been low but the output has been high. A few previously inactive and new members have volunteered. **Alastair** will contact the University Dirty Weekender group who undertake practical volunteer work at weekends.
 6. *Logo*: This has now been finalised and will be used on all colour documents. A banner has also been bought and this will be used for events at the park, Newhaven gala and other similar events.
 7. *Treasurer*: The bank balance will be approximately £300 once current transactions are complete.
 8. *Minutes*: The draft minutes of the meeting on 6th May were agreed to be a fair representation of the previous meeting and Alastair will place these on the website. The actions were reviewed:
 - a. Janet has reviewed the comments from the Martin Curry Day. She will draft a short summary statement which takes a few positive quotes and notes that all who participated enjoyed a productive day (**Janet**). This could be used to promote future company days.
 - b. Stan had trimmed low branches on the cherry trees.
 - c. Janet had prepared a detailed herbaceous planting plan and submitted it to the Council (see above).
 - d. Nursery beds will initially be at the back of the East border.
 - e. Stan is planting out the Council's winter bedding plants beside the main Laverockbank Road Gate.
 - f. Alastair and Janet discussed the toddler's path with Ritchie Fraser and Jen Johnstone. Ritchie promised to discuss it with the appropriate Council department. The Council has supplied additional tools and mulch is expected shortly.
 - g. Alastair circulated information on the Forth Neighbourhood Partnership (see above).
 - h. Alastair wrote to the Waste Aware group and is meeting them on the 12th June (see above).
 - i. The Saturday sessions were and continue to be publicised by notices in 6 local businesses, notices on lampposts, the website and e-mail.
 - j. The logo has been finished as described and is in use (see above).

- k. The banner has been ordered (see above).
 - l. Alastair wrote again to Ritchie Fraser regarding the wall. It has been checked by a surveyor. The full report is awaited but it is understood that there is no immediate danger but the offending section of wall requires repointing.
9. *Summer Event:* It was agreed, after discussion that a Friends wine and cheese party on 7th August would be appropriate. Graham will check regarding insurance. Alastair will clear this with Ritchie Fraser and Jen Johnstone.
10. *Next Meeting:* Monday 7th July, 7.30, Starbank Inn (location provisional). The summer event will be a major item.
11. *AOB:*
- a. Janet will formally thank Newhaven Heritage for the funding for the boat.
 - b. Andrew Morton is very happy with the planter.
 - c. Stan suggested that we should purchase a couple of cultivators to aid weeding and planting. **Alastair** will cost these.
 - d. **Alastair** will ask Ritchie Fraser about better signs outside the park, especially near the Laverockbank Road gate.
 - e. The committee agreed that the purchase of a 100m hose would be sensible so that all areas of the park could be watered. It is understood that these cost around £40. Prices will be checked and the decision whether to purchase will be made by the next meeting.
 - f. Some sporting activities and training have been seen in the lower part of the park. Means of exploring encouraging these activities further will be discussed at the August meeting.

AR
11/6/14

Friends of Starbank Park Activity Log: 7th May to 7th June

Date	No present	Activity	Locations, comments	General comments
7/05/14	12	Hoeing	East perimeter border, southern 1/3 Crescent borders	Pruning demonstration by Julie of the Parks Department
		Edging	Star Crescent borders 5 borders by entrance drive	
		Paths	Weeds removed from main EW path between Starbank Road gates	
		Trimming	Lower cherry tree branches	
9/05/14	3	Planting	8 bay trees, central borders	Additional planting
14/05/14	13	Planting	5 shrubs, donated by Gillian, one herbaceous.	
		Edging	14 flower borders south of entry gate	
		Hoeing	10 borders south of entry gate	
		Boat	Moved to bottom of park	
		Paths	Weeds removed from part of main path south of fountain	
14/05/14 pm	5	Boat	Hole dug, boat filled with ballast and compost	Afternoon
		Edging	North border	
		Hoeing	North border	
17/05/14	5	Hoeing	Perimeter borders beside gate	First Saturday session
		Paths	Weeds removed from rest of main path south of fountain	
17/05/14 pm	3	Planting	Boat: poppy seeds, nasturtiums, ivy	Formal event with, mainly Wardie Church, around 30 attended, led by Justin
21/05/14	6	Tidying	Re-organising two ton bags	
		Spreading compost	Over area to north of Laverockbank Rd gate	
		watering	Boat, north border	
		Weeding	Half west border	
		Rescuing robin	Bothy	
24/05/14	2	Weeding	Terrace Border West Perimeter border, N of gate	
		Tidying	Organising waste bags	
26/05/14	2	Planting	12 geraniums in boat	
		Meeting	Julie, Council gardener	

Date	No present	Activity	Locations, comments	General comments
28/05/14	8	Weeding	West Border from 5m from gate south to last large tree Fountain Border near gate – thistles	Chickweed
		Other	Started compost heap on SW corner.	
31/05/14	5	weeding	West border from large tree to 10yards along S border	More chickweed
		Tidying	Organising waste bags	
4/06/14	7	Weeding	West border from sacks to top of hill South border from 10 yards from w border to 10 yards from South border	Even more chickweed
		Edging	5 borders with bedding plants	
		Planting	Helping Julie with bedding plants Planter near Stan's house Primulas in South border.	
		Meeting	Ritchie, Jen, Janet & Alastair	Separate note in preparation
6/06/14	2	Planter	Unwrapped and positioned Andrew Morton's planter	
		Planting	Magnolia and 6 petunias in planter 4 obedient plants, 1 hellibore, 1 keria in west border, N of gate 2 kolkwitzia in east border Primulas, west border	
		Weeding	Front of east border Round large tree in centre of park	
7/06/14	3	Weeding	South border to bedding plants	
		Planting	West Border near gate, primulas	