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Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30pm, Monday, 15th September, Starbank Inn

Minutes

Present: Alastair Robertson (Chair)
Janet McArthur (Secretary)
Liz Nicholson
Sandy Logan
Stan Dunlop

1.	Apologies were received from Graham Buckley.
2.	The Wine and Cheese Evening on 7 th August was a great success, with around 50 attending on a perfect evening. The minutes of the meeting held on 28 th July to discuss the evening event require minor corrections to the date of the meeting and it was agreed that after these were made it was a fair record of the meeting.
3.	<p>The Friends of Starbank Park have won a waste action grant for a composting facility. The Friends also have exemption from Paragraph 12 of the Waste Management Regulations Scotland 2011.</p> <p>The sketch plan for the facility is attached. It was agreed that Janet would order the compost bins defined in the application as soon as the grant was paid into the FOSP bank account. The payment is expected any time and Graham is monitoring the account for this. Alastair agreed to put together a draft action plan for building the facility. The committee will give comments with a view to completing the plan within a week (All). Minor changes to the layout may be possible, depending on budget.</p> <p>Alastair pointed out that there are several conditions that are attached to the grant and the Exemption. In particular, it is <i>essential</i> that we record the amount of material put in and the amount of compost removed, <i>every week</i>. The volume in terms of numbers of wheelbarrows-full will be sufficient. The Council logo will be required on <i>all</i> promotional materials. We need to contact Changeworks (Alastair) and local schools regarding possible educational benefits of the composting area. Alastair will report on the Changeworks contact before we contact the schools. Formal reports in defined formats to the Council are necessary after 6 and 12 months. All terms, report formats and other information on the grant had previously been circulated to the committee.</p>
4.	The activity log had been circulated previously. Special thanks are due to Stan for the new heather border made with the logs that came with the mulch and for spreading most of the mulch. Trinity Community Council noted that they were very pleased with the condition of the park at the most recent Community Council meeting.
5.	Janet and Alastair noted that they had a very positive meeting with Jen Johnstone (Park Ranger). Herbaceous plants are to be planted in the 4 round borders on the 8 th October. Various issues were raised and Jen will take action where she can. These include a new sign on Laverockbank Road, dealing with weeds in the new path, more

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	mulch, trimming trees, painting the railings at the bottom of the park, re-siting the boats and the current state of Starbank House and the associated outbuildings. The children's play area was discussed and it was agreed that fixed wooden toys would be OK but not more live trees/willows close to the walls nor swings etc. Alastair and Janet will explore what will and will not be suitable with the Council. Wild flower areas are unlikely in the foreseeable future.
6.	<p>Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Short term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The remaining roses in the round central borders would be removed and the ground forked over in the next two weeks. ii. Weeding, including the mulched areas iii. Edging iv. Clearing leaves v. Dead heading b. Autumn/winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Building the compost facilities ii. Creating a fern garden, in the south border. Janet and Liz to initiate, including plans. iii. Moving plants: phygelia to be moved closer to the walls and clumping together plants of the same type in the South and West perimeter borders. iv. Weeding v. Cleaning benches, possibly simple repairs and varnishing? c. CSV Action Earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Grants are available ii. Possible ideas include fern garden and a cold frame beside the compost area.
7.	First birthday: Lunch on Wednesday 22 nd October. Janet to arrange location, Alastair and Janet to invite active volunteers.
8.	2014 AGM: It was agreed to try to hold in Trinity Academy again in the week beginning 24 th November. Alastair will arrange. Alastair will draft an agenda for comment.
9.	Minutes and Actions: The minutes of the meeting on the 7 th July were approved. All actions had been completed.
10.	Risk assessment for gardening work: it was agreed to roll out the risk assessment as it stands (Alastair).
11.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Alastair has written to David Jamieson to confirm his visit on 8th October. Teas and coffees will be available (Janet). It was noted that David should not be exposed to continuous complaint and that we should give him our customary hospitality. b. Alastair will write to George Neilson to let him know that we will spend his donation on ferns for a new fern garden. c. Asda support community organisations and we can nominate Friends of Starbank Park for this support. A form was previously circulated. Alastair and Janet will draft our response and circulate it to the committee for comment. It should be submitted by mid-October. d. There are 34 benches in the park. Most belong there but around 6 do not. Alastair, Jen Johnstone and the Friends of Pilrig Park are looking into transferring these to Pilrig Park. The condition of the wooden benches is variable and

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	<p>restarting maintenance has been raised with the Council. Alastair and Janet will keep the Committee informed of progress.</p> <p>e. Andrew Morton's planter has become dirty at the bottom despite Stan's efforts to keep it clean. Andrew and I agreed that it should be varnished. His son will do this.</p> <p>f. It is understood that the east wall, at the lower level of the park is to be repaired.</p> <p>g. Alastair will ask Jen Johnstone about the state of the steps at the east gate on to Starbank Road.</p>
12.	Next Meeting: 7.30, 21 st October 2014, Starbank Inn

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17/09/2014

