

# Friends of Starbank Park

## Second committee Meeting, 7.30pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Old Chain Pier

### Minutes

**Present:**        **Alastair Robertson (Chair)**  
                      **Janet McArthur (Secretary)**  
                      **Graham Buckley (Treasurer)**  
                      **Sandy Logan**  
                      **Liz Nicholson**

1. Apologies were received from Stuart Gardiner and Richard Scott.

2. Plans:

*Short term: immediate tasks for work parties*

- Tidying, edging, weeding, etc
- Planting plants as delivered by Gavin Gall
- Wild flower seed planting
- Measuring borders (**Janet**)
- Poppy planting, including at north wall if soil is good enough

*Longer term improvements: park and facilities*

- Developing a planting plan for the borders in the centre of the upper part of the park (**Janet** to draft).
- Dogwoods perhaps for the shaded perimeter borders
- Approach Ritchie Fraser to find out if there is a diagram/plan of the park

Possible ideas for the longer term were discussed. These would require both approval from the Council and separate and substantial funding. They may, in any case, not be practical. It was agreed to arrange the next meeting in approximately 1 month and devote it to long term planning.

3. Heritage Lottery Fund First World War grants:

Grants are available from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) from £3,000-10,000 which we may be able to apply for. It should be possible for us to ask for funding for a monument or a memorial garden under the HLF "First World War: then and now" grants. Ritchie Fraser of the Council thinks it is worth doing and reckons we will have a chance of success. The majority of the funding should go to a programme of associated educational and/or community activities. It will take quite a lot of work consulting locally and setting up a programme that satisfies a range of local interests and the HLF. The HLF guidance on First World War grants is in

(<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/FirstWorldWarThenandNow.aspx#.UvA9zM-YZ1s>). There was not a huge amount of enthusiasm for this as the application would be for a project outside where the committee had expertise. Alastair agreed to contact Ritchie Fraser to discuss whether he had particular ideas when he discussed it previously and, depending on the outcome, friends and relations with a view to getting external help.

4. Calendar of Events and Activities:

**Alastair** and **Janet** will set this up.

5. Insurance:

Council literature clearly states that insurance is needed by Friends groups undertaking work in parks. **Graham** will complete the TCV Application form for insurance as it appears that they offer the cheapest available at around £200 per annum. Other quotes were in the region of £300 per annum. Alastair had discussed this with a recently retired insurance broker who thought that we would be likely to pay £300 on the open market. The TCV insurance also includes membership of TCV. TCV are The Conservation Volunteers ([www.tcv.org.uk](http://www.tcv.org.uk)).
6. Volunteers:

Over 20 volunteers have helped in the park and, on average, 12 have attended since the Daily Record article in November 2013.
7. Publicity:

An open "planting" day was arranged for the 15<sup>th</sup> January as part of our CSV Action Earth Grant. Alastair had contacted the Daily Record, the Evening News, Mark Lazarowicz MP, Malcolm Chisolm MSP and all Forth and Leith Councillors. The Daily Record published a second article on the Friends of Starbank Park on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Councillor Jackson attended and helped plant a fruit tree. Councillor McVey came the next volunteer session on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The website and Facebook page have been maintained and notices are posted in the park and in local businesses before each volunteer session.
8. Treasurer:

The treasurer reported that there were 36 paid up members. Janet and Alastair had completed the appropriate forms and the Friends of Starbank Park bank account was on the point of being opened with Barclays bank. £100 had been received as a donation from the Institute of Occupational Medicine, the Chair's previous employer. The CSV Action Earth grant will be paid on submission of the report and receipts in February (**Alastair**).
9. Minutes and Actions:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. All actions from the previous meeting had been completed and are covered in the notes above.
10. AOB:

Leanne Vennard of Asda suggested that Asda and Friends of Starbank Park might have a joint presence on Easter Sunday at the traditional Easter Egg rolling at the park. This appeared to be a reasonable idea although there were some reservations about public reaction to having such an event at Easter. It was agreed on balance that **Alastair** would write with specific ideas.

**Janet** will contact Beechgrove Garden about a project to improve the park with the Community and Corporate Groups involvement.

Alastair had discussed the paths with Ritchie Fraser. Ritchie was not sure if the resurfacing would go ahead this year but remained optimistic.

Alastair had been approached by Michael Blair about his employer (Martin Currie) holding a volunteering event at the park. **Alastair** agreed to write with ideas.
11. Next Meeting: 7.30pm, 4<sup>th</sup> March, venue to be arranged.

AR  
25/2/14