

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 6th May, Starbank Inn

Minutes

Present Alastair Robertson (Chair)
 Janet McArthur (Secretary)
 Graham Buckley (Treasurer)
 Stan Dunlop
 Stuart Gardiner

1.	Apologies were received from Sandy Logan and Liz Nicholson.
2.	<i>Committee:</i> Richard Scott has resigned from the Committee. We thank Richard for his help, particularly during the initial phase of the Friends. Stan Dunlop has been invited to join the Committee.
3.	<i>Where we are now:</i> Considerable progress has been made in the past 4 weeks. This is summarised in the attached activity log. Five volunteers from Martin Currie came on the 30 th April and huge steps forward were made with over 600 plants planted. The four central borders now contain box hedging, lavender and rosemary. The new border at the north wall has been planted with 100 geraniums. A satisfaction questionnaire was completed by all volunteers and Janet will summarise the findings for the next meeting.
4.	<p><i>Plans:</i> It was agreed that edging, weeding the terrace border and using the compost in the borders adjacent to the compost pile would take priority. General weeding and tidying would take place. Stan will trim low branches from the cherry trees that are making access to grass cutting and borders difficult. The short term maintenance plan is giving useful guidance. Janet will prepare a herbaceous plan for the four circular borders on the top section. If practicable, she'll consult with Gillian Charles.</p> <p>It was agreed to use the area behind the plantings in the east border as a plant nursery area. Other areas beside the walls on the top part of the park may be useful as nursery beds for some types of plants and may be used in the future. We will formally define all nursery beds (Alastair and Janet).</p> <p>When the summer bedding plants arrive, it is normal for the winter bedding to be composted. Stan will ask Julie (of Edinburgh Council) if we can keep these plants for use in perimeter borders.</p> <p>Alastair and Janet met Ritchie Fraser and Jen Johnstone of the Parks Department on 24th April to discuss long term aims and objectives for the park, together with various practical issues. It was a broadly satisfactory meeting with general agreement, particularly regarding long term aims.</p> <p>The ground in front of the east and west walls on the slope and to the north requires attention. It is understood that the Council cannot cut grass up to the wall and it was agreed that there should be a narrow border in front of the walls on both sides of the</p>

	<p>park. The Friends do not have the resource to prepare and maintain that yet and this situation will be reviewed in the winter (All).</p>
5.	<p><i>Grants & Fund Raising:</i> Alastair attended the “Meet the Funders” exhibition on 1st May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSV Action Earth call for grants up to £250 is out. AR has spoken to Robert Henderson and we need to define a suitable project for this sum. Ideas included mulch, a mobile water barrel, toddlers’ path at the south wall and general upgrading of tools and plants. Alastair and Janet will firm up on a couple of ideas. • Forth Neighbourhood Partnership fund community projects. It is not known whether funding is likely in the Trinity Area, whether we can do anything to fit in the local plan or whether the meets all the criteria defined as necessary for funding. Alastair will find out more. • The Waste Action Group would probably fund a compost facility in the park. The Friends/Park produce large amounts of compostable material which is presently removed from site. A composting facility would need agreement from Ritchie Fraser and Jen Johnstone. Alastair will write. • CSV Action Earth noted that we might get funding from Paths for All. A further check on the Paths for All website suggested that Starbank Park would not qualify. Alastair will confirm. <p>Alastair will circulate a note describing the meeting to the committee.</p>
6.	<p><i>Saturdays:</i> Saturday sessions will start on 17th May. Time will 10.00-11.30. The scope of Saturday work in the first place will be weeding, edging and general tidying. Facebook, website, Posters and e-mails/letters to members and contacts will be used to publicise the start of this. Alastair, Janet and Sandy will undertake the publicity work. Sandy and Stan will supervise the work.</p>
7.	<p><i>Minutes and actions:</i> The minutes were accepted as a fair record of the previous meeting.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are working roughly according to the routine maintenance plan • Alastair drew up and is maintaining an activity log • Alastair and Janet met Ritchie Fraser and Jen Johnstone on the 24th April (see item 4 above). • Alastair attended the Meet the Funder Day at the Assembly Rooms. • Saturday working was agreed with the Council, but the consultation resulted in a short delay. • Alastair has approached Newhaven Church regarding possible youth/Sunday school work in the park (see AOB, item 9). • The on-line Calendar has not yet been set up (Janet). • Stan Dunlop was approached by Alastair and has joined the committee.
8.	<p><i>Logo:</i> Janet circulated a draft logo design.</p>



It was agreed to be very appropriate. **Janet** will check that the anchor in the logo is clear when printed in black and white. If not, **Janet** will ask Gordon to increase the contrast between the anchor and the tree trunk. If the logo is OK in black and white, or after the changes have been made, **Janet** will make appropriate arrangements for the logo to be adopted and used by the Friends.

9.

Any Other Business:

- It was agreed that **Janet** should order a banner with the new Logo, Friends of Starbank Park and the website address. The cost will be under £50.
- Starbank Park featured in a Greenspace Video supporting its proposed MyParksScotland programme
- A photo of Starbank Park taken by Tor Sodergren appeared in the Evening News on 30 April.
- It was agreed that we should hold a park event in August. This may be supported by the Starbank Inn. We considered whether or not we should serve food and drink, hold a plant exchange/sale and theme it around Britain in Bloom or theme it around the centenary of the start of the First World war. There may be support available from Dobbies. A date and theme will be agreed at the next meeting **(All)**.
- Alastair remains concerned about the east retaining wall at the foot of the hill. One stone has come out, it is in poor condition and it bowing. **Alastair** will write again to Ritchie Fraser.
- Boat: We are currently arranging poppy seed planting in the boat planter with Wardie and Newhaven Church for the weekend of 17th May.
- Wallflower seeds will be bought and planted for future distribution in the park.
- Alastair will ask Ritchie Fraser/Jen Johnstone if they have a particular use for the extra box hedge plants.
- The various sections of the park will be numbered to simplify descriptions.

AR
11/6/2014

Friends of Starbank Park Summary Activity Log

Date	No present	Activity	Locations, comments	General comments
9/04/2014	10	Hoeing	East perimeter border, southern 2/3 South perimeter border from SE corner to primulas Two SE corner rose borders	
		Pruning roses	Two east rose borders, removing dead wood and dead roses	
		Tidying	Paved area to east of Starbank house	
16/04/2014	10	Hoeing	North perimeter border Terrace border, large numbers of thistles Four primula borders near Laverockbank Road entrance	Difficult access as paths being laid, Work generally restricted to lower part of the park.
		Edging	Terrace border (90% complete)	
23/04/2014	10	Hoeing	South Perimeter border from primulas to corner West perimeter border, from corner to second cherry tree. Rose border, SW corner Rose border, West beside centre EW path Herb borders NE and 2/3 NW (turned over with fork)	Grass very long, spoils look of park, discouraging
		Edging	NE and NW herb borders Finishing terrace border	
		Planting	Sweet peas in East border, daffodils in W border.	
24/04/2014	5	Edging	Trimmed west circular border – 10 mins.	Extra day in park.
		Hoeing	West Perimeter Border: Finished area between 2 nd Cherry tree and gate. Finished NW herb border	
		Meeting	Julie Proctor, Greenspace Scotland. Discussed Mypark Scotland proposal, some filming of volunteers.	

Date	No present	Activity	Locations, comments	General comments
30/04/14	13	Hoeing	West perimeter border, north of Laverockbank Road gate Five primula borders, between Starbank House and main gate, west palm border, primula border near bothy entrance.	Martin Currie Volunteer day, 5 MC volunteers all day + Stan + Alastair
		Edging	NW central border	
		Planting	4 Central borders, each border contained approximately 25 Rosemary, 40 lavender and 50 Box hedge. North perimeter border: 100 geraniums 4 half Barrels, partially completed SW corner, one donated hebe.	
		Tidying	bottom path, east third: removing weeds from edges	