

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30 pm, Monday, 1st June, Starbank Inn

Minutes

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

1. **Apologies** were received from Graham Buckley.
2. The committee congratulated Janet on her gold award and cup won for her display at Gardening Scotland.
3. **Coffee Morning:** The member's coffee morning will be held on 3rd June. We expect up to around 15 members. Alastair has circulated all members with e-mail addresses and it is on the website. It is understood that Sue Garbett will supply biscuits from Asda. We have enough tea and coffee.
Actions:
 - i. **Janet** will purchase brochette from Lidl.
 - ii. We will **all** arrive at 9.45 on Wednesday morning to set up tables etc. in the park (the forecast is remarkably good).
4. **Other events:**
Midsummer Evening, Sunday, 21st June
 - i. An application to hold the event is with the Council.
 - ii. The evening will have:
 - a. Three speakers: on ferns (Heather McHaffie), a bee keeper and some aspects of gardening (Julie). Around 10 minutes for talks, a little longer for practical demonstrations. (A bat expert may be able to step in if one person is unavailable.)
 - b. Guided walks
 - c. Wine, soft drinks and finger buffet/snacks
 - d. Cellist
 - iii. A poster based on the "police box map will be used. It will be scanned and posted in the park and in selected local businesses.
 - iv. Actions
 - a. **Alastair** will inform all as soon as he hears back from the Council.
 - b. **Janet** will ask the bee keeper and Heather McHaffie if they are able to talk on the evening.
 - c. **Alastair** will ask Julie if she would be able to participate.
 - d. **Alastair** will organise simple guided walks aimed at showing what we have done.
 - e. **Alastair** will ask Sue Garbett for a contribution of finger buffet foods.
 - f. **Stan** will access the wine from last year
 - g. **All** will contribute two bottles of wine each.
 - h. **Alastair** will ask Graham to release some funds for more wine and snacks.
 - i. **Janet** will ask a cellist.
 - j. **Janet** will draft the poster and **Janet** and **Alastair** will print and distribute it.
Wine and Cheese Evening
 - i. Excess wine will be used in the wine and cheese evening
 - ii. Other arrangements will be made at the next committee meeting
 - iii. **Alastair** will draft and circulate a poster for the wine and cheese based on a full page photograph. Alastair has little artistic talent and needs help and constructive comment from **all**.

5. **Cold Frame:** Alastair reported that he had purchased wood and had it cut to shape to complete the cold frame box. This will be done in the next 10 days.
- Actions:
- i. **Alastair** will co-ordinate this construction and arrange for the detailed design and materials for the lid.
 - ii. **Alastair** will write to Richard Scott of TCC to inform him of progress.
6. **Design for Star display:** Alastair noted (rather too grumpily) that there had been little progress. While it seems that there is a lot of time, orders for plants will need to be placed by this autumn. Various ideas were discussed. It was agreed that simple diagrams of possible designs would be submitted to Janet. Arrangements would be made to meet the Council expert (based at Princes' Street Gardens) to discuss the different ideas and assess what is practicable. Alastair noted that change to appearance of the star bank would require consultation with and, probably, permission from Ritchie Fraser.
- Actions
- i. **All:** send sketch diagrams of ideas to Janet
 - ii. **Janet** to collate and arrange through Julie (julie.milne@edinburgh.gov.uk, 07702400792) for a meeting with the floral displays expert.
7. **Park History:** Claire and Moyra have met several individuals since the election and progress is being made. David Jamieson (Head of Parks and Green Spaces) noted that there was no money this financial year for topping a grant but that it is worth putting a grant proposal together for the following year.
- Actions:
- i. **Alastair** will put some simple ideas together for future discussion.
 - ii. **Alastair** will ask a neighbour if he could give a ballpark cost for simple refurbishment.
 - iii. **Alastair** will identify possible sources of **grants**.
8. **Green Flag:** Still no word. The inspection seemed to go well.
9. **Treasurer's report:** The bank balance is healthy and it is proposed that plants are bought for the empty borders. We should inform Ritchie Fraser and Jen Johnstone before purchase to ensure that there is no duplication.
- Action:
- i. **Janet, Graham, Alastair** to assemble list of plants to be bought and inform the Council.
10. **Actions from previous minutes:** Most are covered above. The remainder are:
- i. The fernery has been completed.
 - ii. The routine maintenance plan is posted beside the bothy door.
 - iii. Alastair and Janet mentioned the Inch to Ritchie Fraser, Jen Johnstone and Julie Milne during their meeting in April. The response was unclear and there has been no progress. **Action:** **Alastair** will write to Ritchie and Jen to clarify.
 - iv. Extra tools: no progress. **Action:** **Alastair** will ask Ritchie Fraser for sharp small spades, shears and watering cans and will enquire about getting a water supply to the bottom of the park.
 - v. The plaque has been removed.
 - vi. Janet prepared a description of the midsummer event and Alastair incorporated that into an application for approval to hold the event.
 - vii. Janet has confirmed that the Friends would take a stall at Wardie Church Fair.
11. **AOB:**
- i. Janet brought forms and subscriptions for new members. **Action:** Alastair will post these at Graham's house.
 - ii. Alastair met the headmaster at Trinity Academy (Alec Morris) about the school making bird, bat and grub boxes. The response was positive. **Action:** Alastair will follow up if he does not hear in the next 10 days.
 - iii. Janet and Alastair are meeting the Headmistress (Laura Thomson) at Victoria Primary School on 11th June.
 - iv. Poster design was discussed under "Other Events", item 4.
12. **Next Meeting:** Monday 20th July, 7.30, Starbank Inn.