

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30 pm, Monday, 12th October, Starbank Inn

Minutes

Present: Alastair Robertson, Chair
Janet McArthur, Secretary
Graham Buckley, Treasurer
Stan Dunlop
Vikki Floyd
Sandy Logan
Liz Nicholson

1.	There were no apologies.
2.	125 Year Anniversary, Design for the Star: The area of the Star is roughly 10m ² and, with packing of one plant every 3cm suggested by David Dorward, it is likely that 10,000 plants would be needed. This would reduce to 4,000 plants if plants were spaced at every 5cm. David Dorward has been contacted to check these calculations and a full reply is awaited. Janet and Alastair are scheduled to meet Ritchie and Jen on 21 st October and will raise this issue then. Alternatives were discussed. Coloured gravel, embedded in a thin layer of cement, could be used to make the display and other options could be part small plants and part gravel. It was agreed that these options could be considered further once we had a full reply from David Dorward and after the meeting with Ritchie and Jen.
3.	Events: a) Halloween: Preparations are moving forward well. There will be a wide range of Activities. Alastair will send Elaine Greig's e-mail address to Janet so that Janet can ask to borrow a PA system. Neil Forest has agreed to carve some pumpkins. It was agreed that the wheel barrows will not be used for dooking apples because of stability issues. Janet will arrange for alternatives. An ice bucket, baby baths and toddler paddling pools were thought to be possibilities. Janet will arrange for a bulb (crocuses etc.) planting stall. Janet will supply pre-prepared plant labels. Naked flames (candles etc) will not be used to avoid fire risks. All (except Liz who is on holiday) agreed to assist on the day. If it rains, Stan will move his car out of the car porch and the Gazebos will be used. Alastair will ask Jen at the next meeting whether the Council would lend the hot drink dispensers used at the Green Flag inspection. b) Christmas: It was agreed that we should hold a Christmas event in the park and ask Newhaven Choir to come along. The preferred date would be the evening of 16 th December but the availability of the choir may change that. Mince pies, teas, coffees and mulled wine would be available. We may put out additional Christmas lights. Sandy noted that battery powered LED lights are cheap and available. Janet to arrange date with choir. Alastair to seek permission from the Council. c) The Cherry blossom event will go ahead. A new insurance policy will be necessary and we will have a plant sale. Preparations for the plant sale will start now (Graham, Janet).
4.	The bothies: Alastair's note on the inspection by Alan Brown was discussed. The Council's budget cuts are likely to prevent funding from the Council but Alastair and Janet will explore this with Ritchie at their next meeting and will report back to the next committee meeting. It seems logical to start with the west bothy. The biggest issue is to define how it will be used in future to attract grant money. This will be discussed at the next meeting (all).

5.	<p>The Park is generally looking good. There is a need for ongoing weeding, tidying etc., but the effects of the ongoing weeding are gradually making weeding easier. The following specifics were agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Compost will be added to the border at the north wall and bulbs will be planted beside the geraniums. b) The remaining summer bedding geraniums will be lifted and grown in the cold frame and in any spare greenhouse space. c) Primulas from the south border will be split and planted where the annuals are currently growing. d) Enmag will be used in the borders, once it is supplied by the Council. e) Alastair and Stan will pursue the possibility of getting more wood mulch.
6.	<p>Minutes and Actions: The minutes were approved. Most actions are covered in the other items of the agenda. The main outstanding actions not covered were. Alastair noted that the senecio genus is very large and a very few specimens are known to be poisonous. There is nothing on senecio serpens and it was agreed that, in these circumstances, these plants should be used if the Council is happy to use them. Alastair wrote to Duncan Bremner, Citizen Curator. It seems unlikely that any joint initiative will go ahead this year. Alastair will keep in touch. No flag raising ceremony has yet been fixed.</p>
7.	<p>Treasurer's report: The Friends have spent roughly £2300 against an income of £2,300. About 75% of expenditure has been on plants and tools, the remainder on the events. The events generated income from plant sales, new members and donations, giving a substantial contribution to the Friends. We have a balance of about £600 which is about ideal.</p>
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The AGM will be held in Trinity Academy, towards the end of November, preferably on a Tuesday as in 2014. Alastair will contact Trinity Academy to make arrangements. It was noted that current office bearers and committee members will stand again for election. There is room for one or two more committee members. b) TCV Volunteers. The TCV volunteers came on Tuesday 29th September. There were 12 volunteers and they did a fine job clearing out the weeds and developing borders beside the walls on the slope. Alastair has thanked them formally and sent photos. It was unanimously agreed that it would be good to encourage them to return and Alastair will endeavour to keep in touch. c) Christmas Lunch. Janet will get menus from C Shack, the Old Chain Pier and the Starbank so that we can book a Christmas lunch. Janet will make recommendations to the committee on the basis of the menus. The general feeling of the meeting was that it would be preferable to support establishments that have supported Friends of Starbank Park. d) Nature Trail: This was raised initially with Victoria Primary in June. There is now some progress. Karen Wade and 2 P2 classes from Victoria visited the park on 7th October. There has been an exchange of e-mails and Alastair and Janet will redraft the initial proposal. There seem to be a range of ways of funding this. Asda are willing donate cash but it is unlikely that this would cover the entire cost. Action Earth may also fund some part. My Park Scotland are also keen us to try crowdfunding for the project. We could also raise funds from events, held with Victoria or on our own. Alastair and Janet will investigate these sources of potential funding and move those viable forward. e) Green Flag: We agreed that it would be appropriate to raise the flag at an informal Friends 2nd birthday celebration on 4th November. Alastair and Janet to publicise.
9.	<p>Next meeting: Monday, 16th November, Starbank, 7.30pm</p>

AR, 13/10/2015