

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

8.00 pm, Tuesday, 14th April, Starbank Inn

Minutes

Present Alastair Robertson (Chair)
 Janet McArthur (Secretary)
 Graham Buckley (Treasurer)
 Stan Dunlop
 Sandy Logan

1. Apologies were received from Liz Nicholson and Vikki Floyd
2. The 6 month report was sent to Waste Action.
3. The Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Grant has been received. Ferns have been purchased and delivered. Additional ferns, logs and stones have been donated. Planting has started and it is intended that it will be largely complete by 15th April.
4. Trinity Community Council have donated £150 for the construction of a cold frame. This work will commence shortly after the completion of the fernery.
5. Little progress on 125 anniversary design had been made since the last meeting. It was agreed that 2 outline designs would be drafted. One would be a simple 125 in the star, the other a design incorporating the star but with an extra message above and below the star. It was agreed that the planting would be simple and the 125 needed to be clear. Janet agreed to prepare these. Once prepared, we will meet the person who prepares the floral clock and other displays at Princes Street Gardens.
6. Park History was discussed. Moyra is progressing the collection of information but this is being slowed down by the election. The outline proposal on renovating a bothy to use as a display area was discussed at length. There was concern that it would be too diverting for the group. Alastair made it clear that the intention was not to do much work ourselves but to get a grant to pay for tradesmen. The other issue that needs to be considered is what to do with afterwards and who would be responsible for managing the renovated bothy. The next stage was to discuss the outline with Ritchie Fraser on 15th April. It was agreed that this should be done. **Alastair** and **Janet** will report back to the committee. It was agreed that any development of the
7. The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success, over 200 people attended and more £300 (net) was raised. Janet was formally thanked for her gargantuan efforts by the Committee. **Janet** and **Alastair** will write to Waitrose and Asda for their donations. It was agreed that this event will be repeated in 2016.
8. Green Flag: The inspection will be in late May or June. Ritchie will let the Friends know as soon as he knows. The Park will need to be as tidy as possible for the inspection. All planting will need to fit in with planting plans and agreed in principle with Ritchie and Jen.
9. Plans
 - a. The spring summer routine maintenance plan was agreed and Alastair will post that near the bothy door.

- b. In previous discussions, Jen Johnstone had suggested that the East border should be replanted one bit at a time. This appears to be a sensible approach.
 - c. Janet and Liz have made some progress with planning for the empty borders. The Council have been working on a planting plan. In the event that the budget cuts mean that perennial planting will not take place this year, it was agreed that annuals will be planted. The Friends will approach the Inch directly to see whether there are extra plants there. **Alastair** and **Janet** will discuss this with Jen and Ritchie on 15th April and report back to the committee.
10. Minutes: The following items were not addressed previously in the meeting. The Flymo has been delivered and is in the west bothy. **Alastair** will approach Ritchie about extra tools before the next meeting. Alastair sent detailed comments about the Park Management Plan. It was agreed that formal comments from the Friends on the unusual park management structure described in the plan were not really appropriate at this stage.
11. AOB
- a) **Janet** will ask Gavin Gall to remove the plaque beside the maple, noting that we had been asked to ask him by the Council as tree plaques are against Council policy.
 - b) Events. It was agreed to hold:
 - Volunteers coffee morning: 13th May. No permission is necessary.
 - Garden demonstration: 21st June. **Janet** will prepare a few lines describing what she has in mind so that **Alastair** can seek formal approval from the council. Insurance will be necessary.
 - Wine and Cheese: 30th July. **Alastair** will seek formal approval from the Council. Insurance will be necessary.
 - c) Janet is scheduled to give a joint talk on the Starbank Fernery at a Fern Society public meeting on 24th October.
 - d) We agreed that we should take a stall at the Wardie Church Fair in September. **Janet** will confirm arrangements and seek help from committee members (**all**) nearer the time.
 - e) Keep Scotland Beautiful have Beautiful Scotland awards. It was agreed that we should apply next year. We will register for the "It's your neighbourhood" scheme.
12. Next meeting: 7.30pm 5th May. Venue to be arranged.

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16th April 2015