

**Friends of Starbank Park, First Committee Meeting, Old Chain Pier, Wednesday,
December 18th 2013, 7.30pm**

Present: **Alastair Robertson, Chair**
 Janet McArthur, Secretary
 Graham Buckley, Treasurer
 Richard Scott
 Stuart Gardiner
 Liz Nicholson

1. Alastair Robertson welcomed all to the committee meeting.
2. An apology for absence had been received from Sandy Logan.
3. Actions are in bold.
4. A discussion on the next steps for the Park took place. The Committee agreed a planting programme would be the best way forward. Stuart provided sketch of a plan which helped us visualise planting ideas. We all agreed that clear responsibilities divided between the Council and the friends should be put in place. The ideas put forward were a woodland wildflower area (Bluebells, anemones, foxgloves, poppies and Pulmonaria) in the West border, beside the wall running along Laverockbank Rd. Fruit trees (Victoria plum and figs (Brown Turkey)) will be planted to enhance the Park around the East and South borders. Alastair will contact Ritchie with the plans discussed to check if the friends can go ahead with the suggested planting.

Further planting in the rose borders in the Park will be discussed by the committee in the New Year.
5. Janet to Tweet her Homebase contact, Scott, to ask for donations of wheelbarrows and other supplies.
6. The Council has cleared away most of the fallen leaves which were piled the sides of the park next to the gate, however, it was suggested that next year it would be useful to have Compost Bins in place to collect and mulch the leaves. The area next to the wall with the concrete base was suggested as the most suitable place. There are many environmental grants in place for Composting and reducing the Carbon Footprint which the friends should tap into.
7. The Friends of Starbank Park have won a grant for £250 from CSV Action Earth. The Friends need to arrange an event at the Park and an associated press release in the New Year. The Botanics has a new Regis Keeper and it was suggested that he would be a person to contact with regards to the Press Release for the grant that the friends has just been awarded. The press, BBC, local councillors and MPs should be contacted. Alastair and Janet will make these arrangements in consultation with the Committee.

The grant must be spent by mid-January. Discussion took place on which Fruit Trees and equipment would be most useful to purchase first. The Treasurer (Graham) confirmed that the fruit trees and equipment could be purchased. Janet will lead on this.
8. Alastair reported that Ritchie Fraser had said that there is a possibility that the Edinburgh North Edinburgh Partnership (NEP) may be willing to provide a grant towards resurfacing the paths in the Park. The decision will be made in late January. Before the NEP meeting Alastair will write to Cammy Day and Allan Jackson to say how important

resurfacing is for the Park and to offer to meet them to discuss the paths and the progress that has already been made the park. Alastair will circulate a draft to the committee for comment prior to sending it out.

9. Over 20 volunteers have helped in the park. In each of the previous 6 weeks around 12 volunteers had turned up for the weekly gardening session.
10. There are approaching 30 paid up members of Friends of Starbank Park. Graham Buckley reported that we had received 27 subscriptions. One or two additional subscriptions had been received and these will be passed to Graham. **Graham** will open a Barclays bank account for the Friends after **Alastair** and **Janet** have completed and returned the appropriate forms.
11. Insurance was discussed. Alastair had two quotes, one for £200 and the other for £300. **Graham** will obtain a quote from the bank. **Alastair** will ask a recently retired insurance broker about the need for and likely cost of insurance.
12. The Constitution and draft minutes of the public meeting, subject to some agreed minor changes, will be posted on the website,
13. Next meeting to take place on 4th February 2014 at the Chain Pier 7:30pm.

Janet McArthur
Secretary of Friends of Starbank Park