

# Friends of Starbank Park

## Committee Meeting

7.30 pm, Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, Starbank Inn

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

1. Apologies were received from Liz Nicholson, Christine Shepherd and Rhona Else.
2. Alastair welcomed Anna Dobie to her first Committee Meeting.
3. *2015 AGM*: This was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015. Alastair had previously circulated minutes. No comments had been received. It was agreed that Alastair will wait for comments from committee members (all) until 8<sup>th</sup> February, incorporate any suggested changes and post the minutes on the website by 15 February.
4. *Nature trail*: Janet is leading and co-ordinating the work in the Nature Trail.
  - Fundraising: £2800 has been raised in cash and in kind by the Friends. This has come from cash donations from Asda, an Action Earth Grant, a donation of wood chips, cash donations from Asda and profit from the Halloween party. Our main efforts at the moment are directed towards the MyParkScotland crowdfunding site and events (see item 5). It was agreed that **Alastair** and **Janet** would run co-ordinated weekly stories relating to crowdfunding on the website and the Facebook Page. **Alastair** and **Janet** will place notices in the Starbank Inn, the Old Chain Pier, Porto and Fi's, Asda, Johnstone's, David Lloyd's, Victoria Primary School and park notice boards.
  - Action Earth Grant: Alastair has submitted a report to Action Earth, noting the delays and is awaiting a response. Insect hotels have been purchased and **Sandy** is drilling holes in the wood for the bird boxes, ready for assembly. The sawing for the bat boxes will be undertaken in the next 2 weeks. **Alastair** will arrange.
  - Path: 70 stepping stones have been laid, 5 patterned stones have been purchased, up to about a further 30 stones will be purchased. It was agreed that different stepping stones could be used in the loops if necessary. There will be some excavation alongside the stones and a wood chippings will be used to make a path. Alastair will contact TCV regarding possible labouring assistance for the path and planting.
  - Planting: Planting lists for all six stories have been prepared with help from Jen Johnstone and Louise McLachlan of the Council and passed to Karen Wade at Victoria Primary School. Karen, together with her class, will select six plants for each story. Planting plans are in preparation. **Janet** will circulate the plant lists to the committee for information. The Snow Queen will be the first story area to be planted. The soil beside the nature trail is not very good and will be improved with compost/ leaf mould, area by area.
  - Noticeboards: Two will be needed for the nature trail. Much of the material for these will be prepared by Victoria Primary. The **Friends** will ensure that the noticeboards are clear. **Alastair** will ask the council if they have spare noticeboards.
  - Sculptures/Statues: Janet has approached the Sculpture Workshop and has had a response noting that sculptures will probably be loaned, that insurance would be needed. Sandy suggested that we could use cut out figures with printed pictures on them. Tom Stewart may be able to cut out the figures. The feeling of the meeting was that this was the best approach and Janet will pursue that.

- Little Free Library: Sandy feels that we could easily build something similar to the library in the Botanics. **Sandy** and **Janet** will look into how something suitable for the park could be constructed. One option would be to have a library with plants growing on the top. Gavin Gall is going to cut the logs into shape for the children seats. Further work sanding and varnishing (**Janet** to organise as necessary).
5. *Events:*
- Easter Egg Hunt: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 or 11.00. This will be publicised as a fund-raiser for the nature trail (**Alastair & Janet**). We will order 5 more tables, preferably heavier duty than purchased previously, if we can afford them. Graham set a budget of £150). Janet will look into how best to make the Easter Egg Hunt more complicated and consider different levels of difficulty for different age groups within the 3-8 range. The event will include, but not necessarily be restricted to, face painting, planting, cake decoration, refreshments (tea, coffee, juice, water) and snacks (hot cross buns etc). **Janet** will write to Sue Garbett at Asda with a view to getting some food. **Alastair** and **Janet** will consider how best to spread the organisational load a little off Janet's shoulders.
  - The Cherry blossom tea party will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a plant stall and Graham will purchase plug plants for this. Janet will contact friends who have lived in Japan to get ideas about what we should include in the event. (*As this event was a suggestion from Neil Forest, we should contact him for advice on this too.*)
  - Starbank Fair: It is proposed to hold this on 18<sup>th</sup> June. It will require considerable organisation. **Alastair** will contact Wardie Church about the need for a trader's licence. **Janet** will start preliminary planning. (*This event could double as the 125 year celebration.*)
- Alastair** will seek permission for these events from the Council, following usual channels. **Graham** will ensure we have appropriate insurance, either by event or for the year, as he sees fit.
6. *Park History:* It was agreed to invite Moyra and Claire to the next Committee meeting to discuss progress and how to take their work into a display. If they cannot make that day we can, we will arrange a separate meeting to discuss these issues. (**Alastair**)
7. *The Park:* Broadly, the top part of the park is good for the time of year but the grass at the lower level is shocking, mainly mud. There are two or three areas where remedial work in the spring will be essential. Janet and Alastair will discuss this with Ritchie, Jen, Louise and Julie at their next meeting.
8. *Minutes and Actions.* The Draft minutes were accepted without comment. The actions were all completed.
9. *Treasurer's report and membership:* There are 140 members but not all have paid 2016 subs. Alastair will write to remind all members to pay, if they haven't already done so and to inform them about the MyParkScotland fundraising for the nature trail. The bank balance peaked at £2500. *Several subs were paid at the meeting (Vikki, Sandy & Carol Logan, Alastair & Heather Robertson, Janet).*
10. *AOB*
- Janet and Alastair are due a meeting with Ritchie, Jen, Louise and Julie. Alastair will arrange. Items for the agenda include general park condition, the grass, the nature trail, Green Flag inspection, events, star and future prospects for the park following implementation of Council cuts.
  - The Council are ordering plants for the star.
11. *Next Meeting:* Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm, Starbank Inn.

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2 February 2016