

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30 pm, Monday, 20th July, Starbank Inn

Minutes

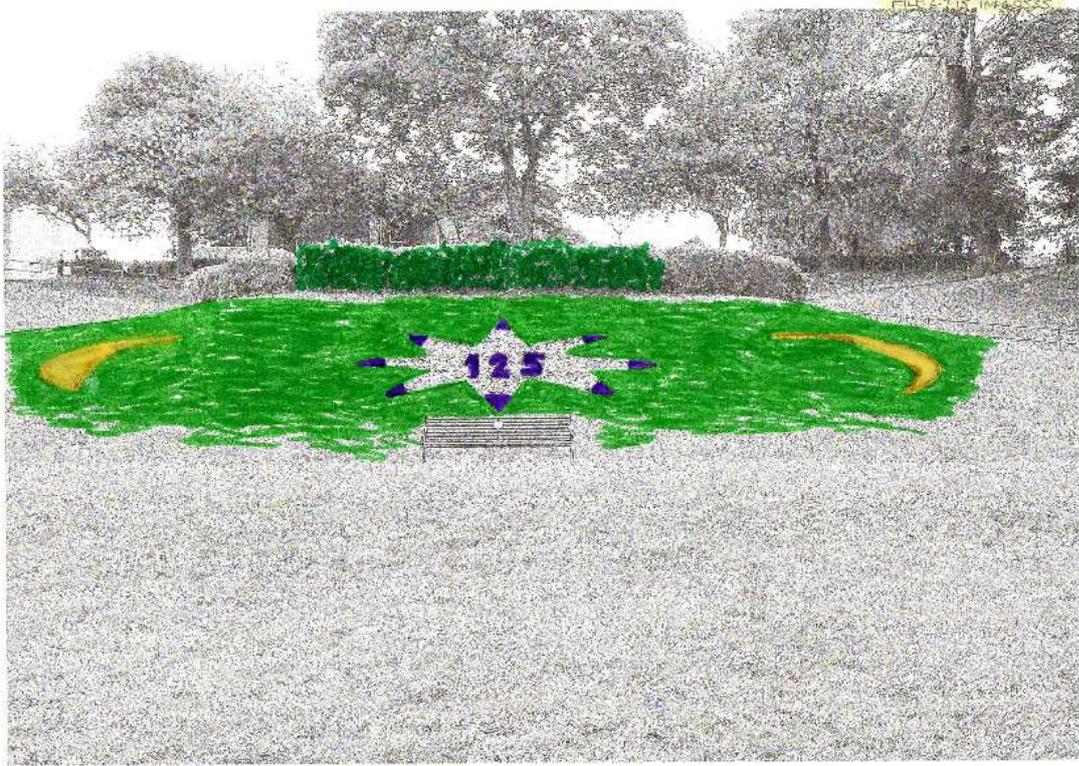
Present: Alastair Robertson (Chair)
Janet McArthur (Secretary)
Graham Buckley (Treasurer)
Vikki Floyd
Sandy Logan
Stan Dunlop
Liz Nicholson

1. *Apologies:* There were no apologies, not even to the chair when some insisted that he should start the meeting and stop watching the very exciting end to the play-off for the Open Championship.
2. *Member's Wine and Cheese Evening, 30th July, 7.30-9.30:*
 - a. We have sufficient wine and almost enough soft drinks. **Janet** will buy some fruit juice.
 - b. **Janet** will purchase the food: cheese, vegetarian cheese, 2 baguettes, butter, grapes, cakes.
 - c. **Alastair** will buy ice.
 - d. **Janet** will set up a plant stall. It will not be manned. All plants will cost £1 and there will be an honesty box.
 - e. **Janet** will ask the violinist to play in the park for up to an hour. Pay will be offered.
 - f. **Alastair** will print 12 copies of the poster with the pale blue text. It will be put in the park notice boards, on the park gates, Asda, Johnston's, News express, Eliot Clark, A & A Stores, Lomond Park and Wardie Church.
 - g. **Alastair** will inform members, where possible, by e-mail.
3. *Keep Scotland Beautiful, Green Flag Announcement, 23rd July:* Members of the committee will arrive from 10.00 onwards to assist as necessary. A brief meeting will be held to discuss themes/words to be mentioned to the press and media who arrive. We need to portray success and commitment but that more volunteers and money would be wonderful.
4. *Trinity Community Council funding for the cold frame:* Alastair wrote to Richard Scott and constructed the cold frame box. Alastair will find out about polycarbonate sheets for the lid and produce plans with the help of other committee members.
5. *Design for the star:* Sandy tabled a design, attached, Appendix 1, which was approved by all. There is a meeting with David Dorward of Princes St Gardens on Wednesday, 5th August (checked!) at 10.00 to discuss possible designs. **All** the committee are welcome to attend.
6. *Park History:* ongoing, Claire and Moyra attended a short course on collecting oral histories.
7. *Minutes and Actions:* The minutes were approved with one correction: 4.iv.a. should read "Alastair will inform all as soon as he obtains formal permission for the events from the Council.
All actions from the previous meeting were either completed or superseded by events.

8. *Treasurer's report and membership*: The bank balance is close to £1200. There is outstanding expenditure on plants and the cold frame. There are 105 members. It was agreed that we should maintain a float of around £400. The rest of the money should be spent on the park. It was agreed that there should be a budget to buy quality tools to replace the existing tools as they deteriorate (**Graham**). Alastair noted that we had three new Wednesday Volunteers. There has also been an increase in Saturday volunteer numbers. Stan and Vikki will ensure that all Saturday volunteers are on the membership list.
9. *AOB*:
 - a. Alastair circulated a note on four options for the bothies (Appendix 2). These range from doing nothing to a major development of the bothies to make a community centre, shop and café. A retired architect and surveyor will look at the park and give a broad brush indication of costs, **Alastair** will progress that. It was agreed that this will be a major item on the agenda of the next meeting.
 - b. A surveyor looked at the wall on Monday 13th July. Alastair and Stan met him. He commented that the wall beside the NE gate to Starbank Road and the wall between the park and Laverockbank Gardens caused him some concern and will get a structural engineer to look at them. The various cracks reported are significant but not in need of urgent repair.
 - c. It was agreed that an electric mower and an electric strimmer would be a good idea. Alastair noted that there are safety and insurance issues as the Friends are close to an employer under Health and Safety law. The next steps will be to seek permission from the Council, via Ritchie, and, if granted, to ascertain whether Friends using these would be covered by Council insurance (**Alastair**) and whether any special training would be necessary. This equipment won't be purchased until the appropriate permissions and information has been gained.
 - d. **Janet** will detail ideas for a Christmas event.
10. Next meeting: Starbank Inn, Monday 24th August, 7.30.

AR
21st July 2015

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Some Options for the bothies

1. Do nothing, continue to use them as storage for the tools until deterioration necessitates renovation or closure.
 - a. *Benefits*
 - No cost, no effort
 - b. *Negatives*
 - Could become dangerous
 - Not very nice or clean places to meet/use
 - Limiting
2. Minimum repair of both bothies to make safe and prevent further deterioration: wiring, lighting, ceiling, plaster, damp course, plumbing. Redecorate to make attractive but primarily a place for Friends storing tools and a base for organising events.
 - a. *Benefits*
 - Relatively inexpensive
 - Safe
 - b. *Negatives*
 - Limiting
 - But still quite costly
 - Not attractive to grant givers
3. Minimum repair and redecoration of one bothy, convert second bothy to community meeting room. Would require higher standard of finish, some basic kitchen facilities. Build additional tool storage area in corner to N of toilet block.
 - a. *Benefits*
 - Worthwhile development, wider application
 - Starts to be worthwhile to grant givers as it widens community involvement
 - b. *Negatives*
 - Quite expensive
 - Management after construction
 - How often would a meeting room be used?
4. Convert bothies into small community centre, with meeting place, community share shop and café. Extend north to get view of the Forth, renovate toilet block and give access from inside only. Build shed for tools.
 - a. *Benefits*
 - Use buildings to full potential
 - Integrate park into community
 - Potential for massive increase in use of the building and the park
 - Attractive to grant giving bodies
 - b. *Negatives*
 - Huge cost
 - Would the Council support this?
 - Would local residents be keen?
 - Who runs the facility?