

Friends of Starbank Park

Minute of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 6th June 2017

Present: Graham Buckley, Jenny Dixon, Anna Dobie, Stan Dunlop, Rhona Else, Vikki Floyd, Janet McArthur, Christine Shepherd

1. Minutes of meeting on 28.3.17

The following sentence to be added on Item 9: Volunteers: While we welcome volunteers in the category of vulnerable adults we cannot be responsible for supervising and caring for them. With this amendment the minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 2: Easter Egg Hunt

Once again a very successful event. Points to note for next year: more plastic eggs; a clipper for recording number of people coming into the event; people not to be let in until we're ready; multiple stations; queue control; no car parking near Laverock House

Item 3: Plans for Viewpoint

Alastair had received feedback and, although he took on-board the Committee's idea that the terrace at the top of the park would be the best place for the viewpoint, he held by his recommendation that the north end of the park would be better because of the wider panorama. Alastair would be happy to be involved with taking the plan for the viewpoint forward but did not wish to take the lead on this; he thought this should be the task of the Committee. A sub-group, comprising Janet, Vikki and Christine agreed to work with Alastair on this. **Janet** to speak to Alastair about it.

Alastair had also sent the Committee an image of signage, which could be used for the nature trail, but the Committee thought it would be expensive and might need to be replaced fairly frequently. **Graham** agreed to produce signs for the trail to be attached to the wall.

Item 4: Tesco bags of help funding

Graham had not heard back from Tesco. He noted that the FoSP Constitution needs to have a clause about provisions for dissolving the organisation (in order to absolve the Committee of liability). This to be proposed at 2017 AGM.

Item 5: It's your neighbourhood 2017

Linda Evans to be invited on Tuesday 11th July. (**Janet**). More labels needed for the visit.

Item 9: Police Box (Tardis) for library

Ian Rankin had agreed to open the Tardis. His publicist to be contacted after July – **Janet**. It was agreed that this should take place sometime in September (**Janet** to find out possible dates suitable for Ian Rankin) and that it should be a cheese and wine event, with a press release and local councillors to be invited

3. Treasurer's report

Graham reported that the current balance was £2,454. Some new subscriptions had come in as a result of the reminder. But the main source of income was the events.

4. Arrangements for 18 June Open Day

Janet distributed posters among Committee members for display around the neighbourhood. Janet had bought games items and had recruited 5 mums to organise old games and craft activities. **Rhona and Christine** to run home baking and teas and coffees stall. **Christine** to send out request for home baking. Plant stall and seed planting to be available. Janet had a quote from Luca to supply ice cream canisters. The Committee agreed that Luca's quote should be accepted and that a request be made for Luca to deliver the ice cream to the park (**Janet**). Signs to be displayed requesting volunteers for gardening (number of volunteer gardeners was diminishing). Committee members to be at the park at 1pm.

5. Green Dog Walkers

The idea of having a 'dog patrol' identified by green aprons to encourage dog owners to behave responsibly was rejected. However, it was decided that more prominent notices should be displayed requesting that dogs be kept on the lead in the top area of the park.

6. Toilets

The Committee considered two estimates for making the toilets usable. Graham's estimate was for £1400; Vikki's was for £1250. It was decided to go with the cheaper estimate. Vikki to contact her tradesman.

Christine had received an e-mail from Karen Reeves which stated that in principle the Council would be happy for FoSP to use the toilets for events, but outlined what would be required:

- To sign a Missive of Let document for each event. I have highlighted that you would have a range of ad hoc events and they suggested you could mutually agree a template document which could be used for each event.
- To demonstrate you have public liability insurance to cover public use.
- Cover the cost of any refurbishment.

- Cover the cost of on-going cleaning

Christine to draw up a Missive of Let document and submit it to the Council.

Graham to check the public liability insurance. **Christine** to communicate with the Council regarding all their stipulations.

7. George's Shed

Permission had been given for this to be dismantled. The Committee decided that it should be broken up and the pieces and contents to be divided among volunteers to be taken to the Council rubbish tip.

8. Update on gardening

Good progress on herbaceous border. More gardening volunteers needed.

Names had been suggested for the boats. Noted that grass needed cutting; also noted that Julie, who organises park maintenance, has a huge work load, and that perhaps FoSP could indicate their willingness to cooperate with Julie on the park maintenance, e.g. by planting out the beds.

9. Funding possibilities

Scotmid Community Grants for events/one off purchases noted for future reference.

10. AOB

- a) Jenny informed the Group that Susie Welch was organising runs in the park, with proceeds to be given to FoSP.
- b) It was thought that £100 a visit for TCV was quite a lot. It was recommended that their visits be spaced out, and their activities coordinated, perhaps with park volunteers supervising, so as to make sure we utilised TCV to best advantage.
- c) Janet reported on a recent Eden Project workshop which she attended and found very useful.
- d) Stan made a plea for Park activities/projects not to be over-extended; although there were regular Wednesday and Saturday afternoon volunteer gardening sessions, the ongoing maintenance of the garden fell on Stan, which entailed a great deal of time and effort.
- e) Jenny reported on a recent visit to a plantation forest at Mar Lodge, where she had been instructed on ring barking as a way of killing off surplus trees. This showed that the person who had cut round the bark on the tree in Starbank Park knew exactly what they were doing!

11. Date of next meeting: tba once date of Ian Rankin visit is known