

# THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK STIRLING

## Committee Meeting 13 February 2023

Time/Venue: 6.30pm, Information Point next to Stirling Council Main Library.

### Approved Minute

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**1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hector Currie (Secretary/Minute Secretary), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Moira Fairweather, Neil Fairweather, David Leslie, Graham Morrice

**2. APOLOGIES:** Dorothy Wilson, Tom Wilson, Trudi Togneri, Marguerite Nugent.

**Resignation.** Regrettably, Trudi had submitted her resignation from the committee due to understandable, work-related reasons. Trudi had been a member of the Friends of Kings Park almost since its inception nearly 17 years ago and her contribution to the development of the Friends had been significant, including but not only: partnership development with Stirling High School, IT support to the committee, establishment and administration of the FKP Facebook page, provision of a committee meeting venue over many years and support for organising our annual general meetings.

It was **agreed** that Hector would write to Trudi with thanks for her contribution and assure her that she would be warmly welcomed in the future if changed circumstances allowed her to re-establish contact with us.

**3. GUEST:** Wendy Garcia (*Note item 9*)

#### **4. ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

David offered to take the role of Chair up to the 2023 AGM and to guide the Friends of Kings Park in setting out its priorities for the year ahead. Neil offered to take the role of Vice-chair. **Committee members unanimously approved both positions and David took the chair.**

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

No corrections. Moira moved acceptance, David seconded. The minute was approved.

#### **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023 MEETING, NOT ON THE AGENDA**

##### **Item 6: Report back on meeting about investment in the Kings Park tennis courts**

A report from Kris Henderson (LTA Investment Delivery Partner) indicated positive progress was being made. The Council was reviewing the LTA investment funding criteria and contractors would be visiting the courts to get accurate works costs. The Council's lead senior officer was still not known nor was *Active Stirling's* role clear. David **agreed** to update Kings Park Community Council.

#### **7: REPORT ON MEETING WITH STIRLING COUNCIL OFFICERS ON PARK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

1. David reported on the meeting Hector and he had held in the park on 6<sup>th</sup> February with Robert Duguid, Stephen Robertson, Eilidh Coll and James Aikman from Stirling Council. (A note of the meeting was sent with the committee agenda). Responses from the officers were

awaited but it had been a positive meeting although the Council's financial and staffing pressures had been emphasised as a limitation on what could likely be achieved this year. (eg no certainty about bedding plants).

**2.** David **agreed** to contact Eilidh Coll (Countryside Ranger) to discuss how park events are arranged.

**3.** There was no indication Stirling Council would, or could, reactivate the Kings Park Steering Group.

**4.** There was no Park Management Plan but officers would consider two joint meetings a year.

**5.** David **agreed** to check how the Bridge of Allan park had been so successfully improved.

**6.** It was accepted that we needed to take a positive view on the opportunities our funds gave us to support the park but also recognising the need to attract funding from other sources (see item 8).

### **Other park management issues**

**7.** Apple Orchard tree pruning: Moira intimated it would take place Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb., 10.30am.

**8.** Handkerchief tree: no immediate action needed.

**9.** Park safety: the issue of park users' safety around the main park entrance was carried forward.

**10.** A private individual's request to install a memorial bench in the park was carried forward.

### **9. (Item brought forward) ATTRACTING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Wendy offered her skills and experience to help take forward our work on marketing, publicity and campaigning to boost FKP's profile, attract more committee members and volunteers and to promote the benefits and importance of the Kings Park public park. Her offer was warmly welcomed. She agreed to be co-opted as a committee member. David moved her nomination, Neil seconded. **The committee approved Wendy Garcia as a co-opted committee member until the 2023 AGM.**

A discussion followed:

**1.** Gordon described the history of a number of the FKP's projects, some in partnership with Stirling Council and other organisations, some entirely our own. This information provided confirmation of our effectiveness but looking forward, we needed to find out what park users want and need from the park. The input of Kings Park Community Council and Stirling Golf Club would be sought.

**2.** How the Friends of Kings Park promoted itself was crucial to attracting more committee members and volunteers. It was recognised we could lose volunteers if we 'overloaded' them with work.

**3.** A **strategy** was needed and **Wendy would take the lead**. As first steps, it was agreed:

**(a)** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 10.30am: Moira would organise a **get-together** of volunteers and committee members at the Pavilion Cafe to re-establish relationships after the winter break.

**(b)** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm at the Information Point: a **workshop** would be held to explore what FKP's goals should be going forward and what opportunities were open to us. In advance of the workshop, it was **agreed** Wendy and David should discuss the format.

**4.** A new FKP email address was essential and as Trudi had advised, it would be preferable not to be linked to an individual's personal email account. Hector **agreed** to draw up a list of individuals and organisations with whom FKP communicated. Dorothy's knowledge would be drawn on.

**5.** It was decided to carry forward consideration of creating an FKP website.

*Wendy left the meeting.*

## **8. THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK FINANCIAL POSITION**

1. A financial report would be available for the next committee meeting but Gordon reported that FKP had over £5000 in our account. The £2000 anonymous donation was unspent, not allocated or ring-fenced. The £1250 joining payment from the Co-operative Bank was in our general funds. How much of the £1000 Stirling and Clackmannanshire Mental Health Partnership grant had been spent in the Peace of Mind Garden would be checked. Allocating our spending would follow from the workshop (item 9.3 (a)). David **agreed** to investigate the Council's Community Grant scheme.

2. Volunteer expenses. It was **agreed** that the Friends of Kings Park would meet the cost of the coffees at the 23<sup>rd</sup> get-together at the cafe. Thereafter, FKP would meet the cost of cafe coffees associated with work in the park once-per-month.

## **10. NEXT STEPS WITH THE PEACE OF MIND GARDEN**

There had been no action in the Garden over the winter. Neil **agreed** to call a meeting of those involved to start planning work.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **12. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm at the Information Point next to the Council's Main Library.