

THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

Committee Meeting 25th July 2022. Time/Venue: 6.30pm, Stirling Bowling Club

1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Lidia Becci (Chair), Dorothy Wilson (Secretary), Hector Currie (Minute Secretary), Tom Wilson, Trudi Togneri.

2. APOLOGIES: Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Marian Watson (guest).

3. GUESTS: Moira Fairweather, Neil Fairweather.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF COMMITTEE MEETING 28th JUNE 2022

Approval was moved by Dorothy. Seconded by Trudi. The minute was approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 28th JUNE, NOT ON THE AGENDA

Item 6.4 Leaflets. Lidia reported that copies of the 'small' leaflet had been distributed to the 'Smith'. More would be provided to the Pavilion Cafe.

Item 7.1 Lidia reported that Jean, the organiser at CAP (*Central Advocacy Partners*) had left and as a result, the group's planned dates to help at the Peace of Mind Garden had been cancelled. No further dates could be arranged at present.

6. FINANCE

No report was available

7. STIRLING OBSERVER FEEDBACK

The newspaper article had proved useful in attracting several new volunteers, initially for gardening-related work but with the prospect some may consider joining the committee.

8. PLANTER TROUGHS

Neil raised an issue about the derelict, planter troughs beside the changing rooms. They have been abandoned for some years. Stirling Council had no responsibility for their condition but no objection to them being re-planted. It was **agreed** that Neil would take the lead in restoring them by first emptying and painting them, adding topsoil, after which, decisions could be taken on plants and bulbs. Subsequent maintenance would be needed. Trudi **agreed** to contact Cambusbarrow Village Festival for some advice based on their experience.

9. HANDKERCHIEF TREE UPDATE

1. The tree had suffered badly from the extended dry spell but Lidia and Trudi had carried out frequent, early morning watering. Trudi's son had cleared an area of grass close to the tree to protect the trunk from future strimmer damage and bark chipping was laid. The tree had revived and now looked in better shape.
2. We would benefit from more knowledge of how best to maintain the tree as it grows.
3. After October, we will upload details of the tree to the *Queen's Green Canopy* UK website that provides a digital map of the locations (within 1km) of trees planted.

10. PEACE OF MIND GARDEN UPDATE

1. Dorothy reported that with the help of volunteers, the weeding was being tackled section by section but volunteers' attendance was variable, depending on their other commitments - which can raise issues for supervision and providing tools and refuse bags.

2. The Garden has proved attractive to visitors and particularly children who have created informal paths within the garden but nettles and thistles need dealt with.
3. TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) is unable to provide gardening support at present. The employee we liaised with, had left TCV and has so far not been replaced. Dorothy mentioned we could contact *Bracken Lane* a company that provides wild life gardening services, for advice.

11. BUTTERFLY BORDER

It was recognised that the border was in a run-down condition due to dry conditions and lack of sufficient attention this year as well as its location under the canopy of a large conifer tree. It was **agreed** that committee members should visit the border and then decide on the options: to replant it with perennial plants suitable for dry conditions; or seed the border with wild flowers; or to leave it unattended and inform Stirling Council..

12. THE COMMUNITY APPLE ORCHARD

Lidia reported that all the trees had survived the dry weather spell. A number will provide a very good harvest, others, less so. The name slates had still to be re-inserted at 7 trees.

13. MAIN ENTRANCE BICYCLE STANDS

Hector reported that a further bicycle stand had disappeared, presumably taken by Stirling Council and not stolen. Only 2 of the original 5 stands were now left. Although the ground area at the stands looked unsightly, it was decided not to request the Council to remove the remaining two, despite them being rarely used.

14. COUNCILLOR PRESTON – PARK WALKABOUT

The 4th August at 1.30pm has been set to meet with Cllr. Preston to show her the work that the Friends of Kings Park has been involved with over the years and some of the issues currently affecting the park. Lidia and Dorothy would attend but other committee members were free to attend as well. Our guests could also attend.

15. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. **AGM.** Lidia indicated that the committee needs to start planning for its 2022 Annual General Meeting. Decisions would be needed on a date; whether to seek a guest speaker or not; what types of publicity to mount and where (e.g. posters, leaflets at the Cafe, the 'Smith', neighbourhood door-to-door leafleting?) and what venue to use. It was **agreed** to hold the AGM in early October. Lidia would check with the Bowling Club and Dorothy would check with the 'Smith' as two possible venues and their rental charge.
2. Hector had circulated the official minute of the last Anti-Social Behaviour inter-agency meeting to the committee, held at the Pavilion Cafe on 9th March. No comments were made but he would inform the committee when a review meeting was arranged.
3. Trudi reported *Facebook* had received a query about why the path up to a viewpoint near the golf club-house has not been maintained. As we were not responsible for maintaining access to the viewpoint, Trudi **agreed** to provide a suitable reply.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be on **Monday 29th August**, 6.30pm at Stirling Bowling Club.