

THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

Committee Meeting 24th May 2022. Time/Venue: 7.00pm, by ZOOM

1. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lidia Becci (Chair), Dorothy Wilson (Secretary), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Tom Wilson, Hector Currie (Minute Secretary), Marguerite Nugent, Graham Morrice, Jane Saunders.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Trudi Togneri

3. **GUESTS:** Wendy Garcia, Neil and Moira Fairweather. Lidia introduced the committee to our three guests and invited them to contribute at any point, if they wished.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF COMMITTEE MEETING 25th APRIL 2022**

The minute was corrected to show Graham was present. Minute approval was moved by Dorothy. Seconded by Marguerite. The minute was approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 25th APRIL NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

6. **PROGRESS ON RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Jane and Dorothy reported:

1. Volunteer recruitment for gardening work in the park had gone well so far. Volunteers had come from a variety of sources including word-of-mouth, our leaflets and Facebook page. Differences among the volunteers in their availability, raised issues for ensuring there are committee members available to provide supervision and support.

2. An article for the *Stirling Observer* was being drafted and when finalised, would be circulated for consideration by the committee. It was agreed to hold-over submission until sometime in mid-June.

Jane asked about organising an 'event' as had been previously discussed. It was decided not to proceed at present with a recruitment event in the park as we did not have the capacity to organise it.

7. **FEASIBILITY OF (1) FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS (2) A SOCIAL EVENING**

The committee has operated on ZOOM for over 2 years. Other organisations were starting to meet face-to-face. If a suitable venue was found, we could also do so, at least over the summer and autumn. Lidia reported that a friend with connections to Stirling Bowling Club (Dumbarton Rd.) was going to enquire if it could offer a room to rent. She would report back and if it was positive, Lidia and Dorothy would discuss details with the Club. Another possibility was the Youth Services room beside the main library, *but ruled out on further enquiry after meeting.*

8. **PEACE OF MIND GARDEN AND BUTTERFLY BORDER**

Dorothy reported that progress has been made in improving the Garden by weeding and adding new plants. The Council had provided bark chips but help was needed to transfer it into the Garden. Lidia agreed to help. The CAP group would be coming every 2 weeks. Our next meeting would be Thursday 26th May. Wendy said she could assist and this was welcomed. Generally, there was a number of volunteers but the difficulty was that their availability varied. More thought was needed on how they could be supported. An initial enquiry had been made to Donna Mills (Stirling Council) re Cemetery team advising about creation of small stone path round parts of garden, but further

consultation and cost estimates required. Gordon clarified that the anonymous donation of £2000 for improving the park included its use to improve the Peace of Mind Garden.

Graham joined the meeting

9. VOLUNTEERING EVENTS AND TCV OFFER TO UNDERTAKE PRACTICAL WORK IN THE PEACE OF MIND GARDEN

Dorothy told the committee that TCV had offered FKP a team of its volunteers to provide two days practical support in the garden at a charge of £300 for the first day, but with no charge for the second day. The committee gave Dorothy and Lidia authority to negotiate the details with TCV and reach an agreement to proceed. The committee would be informed of the outcome if and when an agreement was reached.

10. MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMUNITY APPLE ORCHARD

Lidia reported that Jane, Hector and herself had placed rubber, breathable 'guards' round the trunks of the trees, all of which were currently looking healthy. Re-setting the name slates for 7 trees had still to be carried out. Wetter soil conditions were required.

11. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – POLICE SCOTLAND MINUTE OF MEETING OF 9th MARCH 2022

Hector spoke to the minute of the anti-social behaviour meeting which he had previously circulated. A further meeting was due to be held but Police Scotland had yet to propose a date. It was hoped that Stirling Golf Club would be invited as it had contacted Dorothy to report it was experiencing its own serious anti-social behaviour issues and would like to see a combined approach adopted across organisations.

12. WALK AROUND THE PARK

Hector had previously circulated a set of photos of what he considered highlighted the decline in the condition of the park, notwithstanding that it was a well-used and greatly-enjoyed park. It was agreed the photos should be forwarded to Stirling Council officers Colin MacKay and Donna Mills. The Council's Asset Management service would also be contacted. Hector agreed to propose possible dates for a walk in the park to assess the situation. Depending on the dates and times, it may be possible to invite both, or either, Colin MacKay and Donna Mills.

13. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Lidia reported that she had written to our three 'new' ward councillors – Benny, Farmer and Preston, to congratulate them on their success. To date, councillor Farmer had replied.
2. Dorothy raised her concern about a proposal to alter the traffic arrangements in front of the park's main entrance. We had not been consulted despite Kings Park Community Council having had a presentation two months ago. Hector agreed to find out what was going on.
3. Gordon intimated that Kings Park Community Council would hold an in-person AGM at Smith Art gallery and Museum on the 1st 6th June. Dorothy planned to attend.
4. Stirling Voluntary Service – Jane and Dorothy agreed to discuss how our advert on it's website could be improved to advance our recruitment drive.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 28th May. **Lidia will inform the committee if it will be held on ZOOM or at a physical venue.**