

Friends of Kings Park (FKP) Committee Meeting, 15th April 2024

held at 6.30pm at the Allan Park Hotel

APPROVED MINUTE

1. Introduction

Present: Committee members: David Leslie (chair), Neil Fairweather (vice-chair), Gordon Campbell (treasurer), Hector Currie, Marguerite Nugent, Neil Ross. **Apologies:** Wendy Garcia. **Guests:** Sue Beach and Brian Sword (members of FKP). David welcomed Sue and Brian. The meeting was quorate. Hector took the minute.

2. Minute of committee meeting 27th Nov. 2023 and Notes of committee meetings of 29th Jan. 2024 and 4th March 2024

The minute and notes were approved as correct records of the proceedings.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

From the note of 4th March 2024:

Item 2.3(4): An email to Cllr. Preston on public safety concerns at the park's main entrance had been acknowledged. As of yet, no detailed response.

Item 7(4): David and Hector met with Stirling Council officers and the Lord Lieutenant about the King's coronation commemorative tree. As of yet, no information on tree type or when it would be planted.

Item 3: Annual report and final accounts had been submitted to Companies House and the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator. David to be added as cheque signatory for bank account. It was agreed to circulate the annual documents to the committee. **ACTION: Gordon.**

4. Committee member co-option

Sue Beach had expressed an interest in supporting the work of the Friends of Kings Park and joining the committee. It was **agreed** to co-opt Sue as a full member until the 2024 AGM. We look forward to Sue's contribution to FKP's work to improve the public park.

5. Review of agreed priorities for 2024

The review of 2024 priorities agreed in October 2023 was re-assessed due to a number of changes. The committee **agreed** an updated statement of 2024 priorities. (separate appendix)

6. Specific projects update

1. Peace of Mind Garden

(a) Planting progressing well. Thanks recorded for all the plants donated by Andrew and Carol.

(b) Brian presented a design and costs for repairing the pergola. It was **agreed** to proceed with part-refurbishment based on estimated costs of £250 which could be met from the £2000 anonymous donation. Brian was thanked for his research. **ACTION: Hector** to contact Stirling Council (Colin Mackay) to seek approval for the refurbishment plan.

(c) Clarity sought on the types of plants considered appropriate and inappropriate as donations. **ACTION: Neil F.** to discuss with Andrew and Carol, a list that would be helpful to volunteers.

2. Butterfly border

The butterfly border is in good shape thanks to Jen and Jacqui's work last year. An early tidy-up would be desirable. **ACTION Thursday volunteers.**

3. Community orchard

(a) The rectangular soil patch requires weeding. Clarity needed on appropriate types of wild-flower seeds. **ACTION: David** to discuss with Andrew.

(b) The orchard sign is ready for installation but no word of support from Stirling Council. ACTION: Neil F.: to contact *Arken Creative* to ask the company to install the sign. Cost: approx. £150 agreed to be met from the funds remaining from the £2000 anonymous donation.

7. Consideration of adoption of additional park areas for FKP maintenance

Due to budget cuts, Stirling Council had withdrawn from responsibility for planting and maintenance of:

(a) the 3-tier planter; (b) the 4 box hedge quadrants, (c) the internal entrance area to the community garden and (d) the plant bed area opposite the outdoor gym. It was agreed that FKP would accept responsibility *as far as is reasonable for this season*. ACTION: David to write to Stirling Council to confirm our commitment but setting out appropriate qualifications and limitations on our role.

8. Health and Safety draft procedures

David presented a draft policy on health and safety procedures for volunteers and committee members working in the park. Sue and others raised concerns on specific points, particularly 'working alone'. ACTION: Neil R. to review the draft policy and report back to next meeting. The availability of a First Aid kit was discussed Action: David agreed to donate an additional one to be left in the toolbox.

9. Communications and events

1. WhatsApp

It was agreed the scope of FKP discussion on the app needs clarified. ACTION: Neil F. to draw-up a note on appropriate park activities for those 'active in the park' and report back.

2. Stirling 900 celebrations

Preparation for the 'mosaics walk' was well advanced. FKP would attend the official opening at the 'Smith' on 26th April. ACTION : Wendy to attend and distribute our 'Walk around Kings Park' leaflet. ACTION: David and Lidia to carry out a risk assessment of the walk route.

3. Pavilion 100 years

The sports pavilion, now cafe, was officially opened in 1924. It was not clear, if and how, to appropriately reflect the 100 years history. Discussion needed with Craig Wilkie, proprietor. ACTION Neil R. to discuss with Wendy and arrange to meet Craig.

10. External liaison

1. **Volunteering.** Sue highlighted the importance of approaching the need for more volunteers and members by focusing on what park users *want from the park* and how that could be addressed. Also, the importance of reaching-out to schools, particularly secondary school students. ACTION: Sue to consider contact with Stirling High School..

2. **Path flooding.** An on-going problem. David liaising with Scott Mason (Stirling Council). ACTION: David

3. **MSP Evelyn Tweed** wishes to meet FKP in the park. David has agreed 11am, Wed. 12th July. To be discussed at next meeting.

4. **Braehead Community Garden.** ACTION: David to offer dates for a visit to the group.

5. **Friends of Kings Park Australia.** ACTION: Neil R to write an 'article' for our website about his trip to meet the Australian group.

11. Correspondence requiring decisions

None

12. AOB

£200 unspent from the grant to purchase the tool storage box. It can purchase tools and accessories, not plants. Suggestions requested. ACTION: Neil F. to finalise options and confirm expenditure.

13. Date of next meeting

Next meeting set for 17th June and the first or second Monday in September 2024 (to be finalised).