

THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9th October 2024

at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling

Draft Minute of the 2024 AGM

1. WELCOME

David Leslie, Chair of the Friends of Kings Park (FKP), welcomed members and guests and thanked them for attending the 2024 AGM.

2. PRESENT

Committee members David Leslie (chair), Neil Fairweather (deputy chair), Hector Currie (Secretary and Minute Secretary), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Marguerite Nugent, Wendy Garcia, Neil Ross.

Members Lidia Becci, Dagmar Braun-Mackle, Andrew Hipkin, Maggie Inall, Lynda Lamont, Donald Lamont, Stuart Marshall, Angela Sword, Brian Sword, Maureen Whitelaw, Tom Wilson.

Guests Tim Amyes (?), Catriona George, Sach George, Simon Growcott, Alan Marshall, Andrew Scott, Jacqui Scott, Craig Wilkie.

3. APOLOGIES

Sue Hunter, Valerie Milligan Falconer Mitchell, Sue Mills, John Mills, Val Smith, Dorothy Wilson, Catherine Young and Stirling Council Community Development Team.

4. MINUTE OF AGM of 4th OCTOBER 2023

The minute was accepted as a correct record. Its approval was moved by Marguerite Nugent, seconded by Hector Currie. The membership **approved** the minute.

5. MATTERS ARISING

No matters raised.

6. THE CHAIR'S REPORT 2023-2024

The Chair's written report had been circulated by email. David summarised the topics in his report. *The Peace of Mind Garden*: greatly improved with thanks to Carol and Andrew Hipkin and FKP's volunteers. *Three-tier planter and 4 par-terres at the fountain*: planting taken-over from Stirling Council due to budget cuts but the position for 2025 was uncertain; *Apple orchard*: a successful harvest and a new information board erected with grants from Stirling Council; *Tennis Courts*: successfully upgraded, great quality and appear well-used; *King Charles III tree*: support given for planting a tree marking the coronation; *MSP*: successful visit by Evelyn Tweed to see our activities; *Stirling 900*: a small but effective guided walk based on 9 mosaics took place to tell the park's history; *Promotion and membership*: a successful quarterly newsletter, website and Facebook page promoted our activities however more participation was needed: *Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise*: talk given on SVE radio and advert placed on its online portal for a secretary and new members; *Stirling Council liaison*: working relationship maintained with Land Services but lower engagement this year due to budget cuts; *Other liaison*: with Kings Park Community Council, Treelink, Braehead Community Garden, St Ninian's primary school and Stirling High School and

Kings Park, Perth, Australia; *Donations*: members and the public could now contribute to the charity's funds by a donation facility on the FKP website.

In concluding his report, David thanked committee members Sue Hunter, Hector Currie, Neil Fairweather, Gordon Campbell, Marguerite Nugent, Wendy Garcia and, Neil Ross; with special thanks to FKP's volunteers, particularly for their work in the Peace of Mind Garden.

Motion to accept the Chair's Report: moved by Neil Fairweather, seconded by Neil Ross. Members **accepted** the report.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Gordon introduced the 2023-2024 summary accounts, explaining that the Friends of Kings Park Stirling is a company limited by guarantee (which means in the event of a winding up, members registered are only liable to pay £1 each) and registered at Companies House *where the full accounts could be viewed*. Originally, FKP's funds came from a grant from Kings Park Community Council.

In 2023-2024, more funds were spent, including on the Peace of Mind Garden, than total income received. Stirling Council and Postcode Lottery grants were received for a new orchard information board and a garden-tool box. Total funds at the 30th June 2024 were £3481. No questions on the accounts were asked. A motion to accept the accounts was moved by Marguerite Nugent, seconded by Lidia Becci. Members **accepted** the accounts.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair explained that the committee could have between 6 and 12 members. The constitution requires the election of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and other office bearers, as necessary.

Office Bearers

Position of **Chair**: David Leslie. Proposed by Hector Currie, seconded by Marguerite Nugent. Members **approved** David as Chair.

Position of **Vice-Chair**: Neil Fairweather. Proposed by David Leslie, seconded by Lidia Becci. Members approved Neil as Vice-Chair.

Position of **Secretary**: Hector was standing down as Secretary. No replacement was immediately available but it was hoped to co-opt someone soon. This proposal was accepted by members.

Position of **Treasurer**: Gordon Campbell. Proposed by Neil Fairweather, seconded by Marguerite Nugent. Members **approved** Gordon as Treasurer.

Retiring

Moira Fairweather retired during the year. Sue Hunter was retiring at the AGM as a co-opted member. Both were thanked for their contribution to the work of the committee.

Ordinary Committee Members

Current members: Hector Currie, Marguerite Nugent, Wendy Garcia and Neil Ross wished to continue on the committee. No further nominations had been received. The election of those four members was proposed by David Leslie, seconded by Neil Fairweather. Members **approved** the election of Hector, Marguerite, Wendy and Neil to the committee.

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other business. The Chair thanked members and guests for attending, closed the formal business of the AGM and introduced the invited speaker, **Stewart Campbell** to give a talk on 'King's Park to Peoples' Park'.

Stewart described the evolution of what was originally a much greater park area than today's park. In a chronological, historical narrative, the talk described the turmoil and changes in ownership, control, land use and management from the establishment of the *Old Park* in the 12th century (Richard the Lionheart) to the *New Park* (extended by Alexander III) through to the 19th and 20th century park design that we can recognise today. Originally, deer hunting was the main use of the land but by the time of the Reformation, only the *Old Park* was left and with James VI and the Royal Court moving to London (1603), the *Old Park* slipped into decline. Deer hunting ceased and the lands became open space for cattle-grazing.

By the 19th century, the signs of a *Peoples Park* began to emerge. Over time, the loch was drained, an embankment built and a racecourse established (subsequently closed-down in 1854); an early 7 hole, then 9 hole and eventually 18 hole golf course was developed with 2 separate golf clubs amalgamating to form Stirling Golf Club (1869); a football team played in the park (until moving to Forthbank) and a curling club was formed and a curling pond created.

In the 20th century, aeroplanes landed in the park (spectacularly with a *Daily Mail* 'Circuit of Britain Air Race', 1911), political meetings were held (notably by Robert Bontine Cunningham Graham), agricultural shows regularly took place (until Ingliston opened) and circuses visited the park. Leisure activities expanded with two sets of tennis courts and a tennis pavilion (now the Pavilion cafe) constructed (1923); underground public toilets were opened (where the fountain is located); a putting course opened (latterly closed) and bandstand constructed (latterly demolished for a skateboard park).

With his very informative talk concluded, Stewart was warmly thanked for his presentation of the park as it was in past centuries and as it is now.

The evening closed with refreshments.

Minute Secretary	Hector Currie
Chair	David Leslie