

THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 5th October 2022

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

Approved Minute of the 2022 AGM

Lidia, the Chair of the Friends of Kings Park (FKP), welcomed committee members and guest and thanked them for attending the 2022 AGM. With at least 4 committee members and 4 guests present, the meeting was quorate.

1. Present

Committee members: Lidia Becci (chair), Dorothy Wilson (Secretary), Hector Currie (minute secretary), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Marguerite Nugent, Trudi Togneri, Graham Morrice.

Guests: Val Smith, Falconer Mitchell, Moira Fairweather, Neil Fairweather, David Leslie, C. Brown, Karen Lindsay, Maggie Inall, Jennifer Moore, Craig Wilkie, Dagmar Brown-Mackle, Andrew Hipkin, Maureen Whitelaw, George Hunter, Sue Hunter, Jim Tweedle

2. Apologies

Tom Wilson (committee member), Marian Watson, Coleen Kennedy.

3. Minutes of FKP AGM 2021

A correction was made to item 7 (Treasurer's Report). The last sentence should read:

"FKP finished it's financial year with a bank balance of £5,209 and with the addition of the Bank Switch Receipt of £1,250 the balance in August 2021 was £6,459."

Approval of the amended minute was moved by Marguerite Nugent; seconded by Dorothy Wilson. The minute of AGM 2022 was then approved.

4. Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

5. The Chair's Report

Copies of the Chair's written report had been circulated to those present. Lidia summarised the issues highlighted in the report:

- 1. Overview** The committee had met on ZOOM Until June 2022 and then moved to Stirling Bowling Club which was thanked for its support. The park had been very well used in the last year throughout the ongoing pandemic. The Friends had a good relationship with Stirling Council officers despite reductions in its staffing and organisational changes.
- 2. Recruitment Drive** The committee had been successful in its recruitment publicity with new volunteers and it was hoped to add 3 new committee members at item 8. Sadly a keen volunteer, Dale Farquhar had died and Jane Saunders who had been very helpful with the publicity effort had resigned as a committee member earlier

this year.

3. **The Peace of Mind Garden** Work in the Garden had been more effective this year. Volunteer support had made a real difference. The main problem was the deteriorating raised bed but it would soon be removed by Stirling Council and then decisions would have to be made about how to use the empty space.
4. **The Apple Orchard** There had been some damage to several of the trees but despite that, there had been a good crop of apples this year and nearly all have been picked by members of the public
5. **The Queen's Green Canopy (Platinum jubilee tree planting)**. To mark the late queen's platinum jubilee, a handkerchief tree had been planted in November 2021 in the Community Garden by the Friends of Kings Park, students from Stirling High school and the city provost at the time, councillor Simpson. It had survived the 2021/22 winter and the extremely dry summer – with repeated watering by the Chair and committee member Trudi Togneri.
6. **Anti-Social Behaviour** This continued to be a major concern over the last year with graffiti, loud music, strewn broken glass and destructive behaviour having recurred most weekends. An inter-agency meeting called by Police Scotland had taken place in March 2022 which FKP attended. A commitment had been made for improved joint working between Police Scotland and Stirling Council. There has been no review of its effectiveness.
7. The Chair summed up the year as having been difficult but the Friends had come through it and looked forward to a positive year ahead.

Discussion A comment was made about the potential for engaging senior high school students in works in the park and then have them explain to younger students how mistreating the park had consequences for those seeking to enjoy the park. Such a 'strategy' has sometimes been effective in reducing anti-social behaviour. The point was appreciated.

6. Treasurer's Report

Gordon introduced the 2021-2022 abridged accounts. He explained how the Friends started 17 years ago and had originally obtained its funds from Kings Park Community Council. Although the background of the Friend's was initially, a voluntary group it became a private company limited by guarantee: and a registered charity. In the last year, it had received £1250 from the Co-operative bank for switching from RBS. The total funds at the 30th June 2022 was £5776.29.

7. Election of Committee Members

The current committee members Dorothy Wilson, Hector Currie, Gordon Campbell, Tom Wilson, Marguerite Nugent, Trudi Togneri and Graham Morrice have agreed to stand for another term. New committee members nominated and approved were: (a) Moira Fairweather: nominated Gordon Campbell, seconded Hector Currie; (b) Neil Fairweather: nominated Dorothy Wilson, seconded Marguerite Nugent; (3) David Leslie: nominated Hector Currie, seconded Trudi Togneri. All three were approved. Lidia Becci intimated she was resigning from the committee this evening.

8. The Way Forward

The Chair expressed confidence that the new committee, with a blend of experience and new thinking would take the Friends of Kings Park forward to address the varied issues affecting what is the city's great urban park.

9. Any Other Competent Business

A point was raised about the need to challenge Stirling Council to make a proper commitment to Kings Park and provide the resources and officers that it clearly needed but were so clearly absent. It was felt that our three ward councillors should be tackled about their commitment to the park as it was understood no apologies for being unable to attend the meeting had been received.

10. Guest Speaker

The formal business of the meeting was concluded and the Chair introduced the guest speaker, artist **Sue Beach**, who gave an entertaining and highly informative talk, '*Kings Park Through the Seasons*'. Sue explained her conceptual approach to painting, the artistic influences she drew on in her work and the range of subjects: birds, adults, children - and dogs, that she painted in the public park across the seasons and over a period from 2019. Her work was temporarily curtailed by the pandemic lockdown of 2020 but restarted with the gradual opening-up of the park again, with an increasing number of park users relaxing and enjoying the park, all of which gave her a great variety of subject matter. The presentation was well received and Sue was warmly thanked for her talk.

The evening concluded with refreshments.