

THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

Committee Meeting 28th June 2022. Time/Venue: 6.30pm, Stirling Bowling Club

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

2. APOLOGIES: Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Tom Wilson.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF COMMITTEE MEETING 24th MAY 2022

Approval was moved by Marguerite. Seconded by Hector. The minute was approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 24th MAY NOT ON THE AGENDA

Item 13.1 Local councillors. Dorothy intimated that the new Labour Party councillor *Jen Preston* had been in touch about meeting us and visiting the park. Hector noted that she was now the convenor of the Environment and Housing Committee - an important committee for the Friends of Kings Park. Dorothy **agreed** to set up a meeting with Cllr. Preston that could involve Lidia and Marguerite. *See item 10.*

Item 13.2 Double roundabout. Hector had not contacted Stirling Council Transport Service about potential changes at the main entrance to the park. To be arranged.

Item 13.3 Kings Park Community Council AGM. Dorothy had been unable to attend but our next meeting could include a report-back from Gordon.

Item 13.4. Stirling Voluntary Service. Work on improving the current version of our volunteer request information is still to be finalised.

5. FINANCE

No report was available

6. PROGRESS ON RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Resignation. Jane's resignation was accepted, with regret, by the committee. Lidia had sent Jane a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for her contribution to the work of the Friends.

2. Lessons to learn. The question arose was not only how to attract new volunteers and new committee members, but how to retain them. Two issues were identified. First, there was a need to focus on potential members' areas of interests in the park and what their contribution to the committee might be. Second, was the need to have some form of induction that gave new committee members an orientation about our history and current work as well as support them in various stages of membership. It was **agreed** the committee needed to develop a straightforward induction programme of training, information and support for new committee members.

3. Open letter to the Stirling Observer. Version 4 of the letter had previously been approved by email. Dorothy **agreed** to submit it together with a photo ('working at the apple orchard') once she had checked with Darren. If there was a good response, it would involve a lot of work, including a plan for how, where and with whom the initial contact with each interested respondent should take place and thereafter, the follow-up. Marguerite **agreed** to help Lidia and Dorothy in this work.

4. Leaflets. Dorothy reported there were copies of the 'small' leaflet left. Lidia **agreed** to distribute some of them to the Smith Art Gallery and Museum.

5. Volunteers. Dorothy indicated the need to identify a pattern of availability of volunteers who want to assist with gardening work and other practical tasks in the park and Peace of Mind Garden. She also emphasised that these volunteers made a valuable practical contribution to Friends work. However their availability varied as some worked part-time and others had other family and/or community commitments, so there was a need for us to offer flexibility re dates and times of gardening sessions. Also some new volunteers had expressed some interest in possibly joining FKP committee, but wished a gradual introduction into FKP work before making any further commitment. It was **agreed** an informal get-together with the Committee should be offered to recent *volunteers* who had expressed some interest in committee membership. To be arranged.

7. PEACE OF MIND GARDEN AND BUTTERFLY BORDER

1. **Peace of Mind Garden.** Dorothy reported that the weeding was being tackled section by section. The dates and timing of involvement by CAP (Central Advocacy Partners) was unclear. Lidia **agreed** to seek clarification. A meeting also needed to be arranged with a potential new volunteer. The need for tools being available for volunteers at each gardening session could prove difficult although some brought their own gloves etc. There were no storage facilities in the park and tools and equipment had to be brought by Lidia and Dorothy on each occasion.

2. **Butterfly Border.** Lidia reported that some of the recently planted plants had disappeared, possibly stolen. Ground was very dry and border in a poor state and needed a good tidy-up

8. THE COMMUNITY APPLE ORCHARD

Lidia reported that she had carried out the 'June drop'. Most of the 16 trees had developed a good crop. Re-inserting the name slates for 7 trees had still not to be carried out.

9. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – POLICE SCOTLAND

Hector had previously circulated the reply from PC Armstrong about the need for the follow-up multi-agency meeting. The reply explained the reason for the delay (other priorities) and there was nothing we could do about it.

10. WALK AROUND THE PARK

Hector reported that after Jane resigned, he had taken no action to arrange a walk-around to identify the decline of the park. No date was set yet but Dorothy **agreed** to arrange date for meeting at park with Cllr Preston and various committee members.

11. COMMITTEE MEETINGS – LOCATION CHOICE

It was agreed that the Stirling Bowling Club venue had proved satisfactory and that we should continue to book it for the immediate future. Lidia had given the Club a £10 donation for the evening's trial use and had cancelled ZOOM's paid subscription.

12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. **Facebook.** Trudi reported that our page had received 119 'looks' in the last month. Amongst the variety of messages, one complained about overflowing park bins and the need for larger bins. Trudi **agreed** to submit a reply.

2. **Handkerchief tree.** Lidia reported that the tree was in a poor condition due to lack of rain and the upper reaches of the branches had withered. She had watered the ground over several days to see if the tree would revive. The foot of the trunk had also been damaged, probably due to grass cutting too near tree. A replacement protective band round trunk would be needed. Feedback from Stirling Council's tree officer was that a metre round the tree should be cleared and bark put down to retain moisture. Trudi **agreed** to ask her son to carry out the grass-turf removal and spread bark chips. This help was warmly welcomed. Hector pointed out that the *Queen's Green Canopy* tree had been a joint project with Stirling High School but no plan had been made for monitoring tree's progress after initial planting. Although DL of SC Land Services on fairly recent site visit had suggested regular watering as this tree did not seem to be growing very well in this location Trudi indicated that contact could be made with High School teaching staff to see if pupils could help. To be arranged.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be on Monday 25th July at 6.30pm at Stirling Bowling Club.