

THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4th October 2023

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

Draft Minute of the 2023 AGM

1. WELCOME

David Leslie, Chair of the Friends of Kings Park (FKP), welcomed members and guests and thanked them for attending the 2023 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.

Members Tom Wilson, Dorothy Wilson, Trudi Togneri, Maggie Inall, Dagmar Brown-Mackle, Andrew Hipkin, Maureen Whitelaw, Jennifer Moore, Neil Ross, Lidia Becci, Brian Sword, Donald Lamont, Valerie Milligan.

Guests Val Smith, Falconer Mitchell, A. Milligan, S. Mills, G. Bell, Fern Milne.

3. APOLOGIES

Moira Fairweather (committee member), Graham Morrice. (committee member), Sue Beach, Lynda Lamont, Jacqueline Sharp, Craig Wilkie, Councillor Scott Farmer, Richard Hastings.

4. MINUTES OF AGM of 5th OCTOBER 2022

Corrections were made to:

*Title page: Monday 5th October changed to **Wednesday** 5th October*

*Item 6: Treasurer's Report: public company changed to **private** company*

Approval of the corrected minute was moved by David Leslie and seconded by Marguerite Nugent. Members **approved** the corrected 2022 AGM minute.

5. Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

6. The Chair's Report 2023

Copies of the Chair's written report had been circulated by email and paper copies made available at sign-in.

In summarising the issues highlighted in the report, David pointed out that 2022-23 had been a year of significant transition in both the organisation and its activities. Several long-serving committee members had retired and new members had joined the committee. We had been working through a review of our governance, with our constitution updated and a strategy review developed to identify where to prioritise our efforts. A new logo, website, Facebook page and *WhatsApp* group were established to enhance our visibility and membership.

Turning to our activities in the park, David highlighted the Friends greatest time and energy had been devoted to a significant amount of clearing, cutting and weeding in the badly overgrown

Peace of Mind Garden. With guidance from Andrew and Carol Hipkin, supported by our volunteers, new planting and a path design for part of the Garden had started to enhance the Garden. The **Butterfly Border** which had been neglected for sometime had been revived by care and attention from our volunteers and our Recyke-a-Bike partners. Our **Apple Orchard** had also been improved. New tree variety labels had replaced the slate names and the Council's Criminal Justice payback workers had cut grass turf around the base of the 16 trees to improve their growth and protect them from grass-cutting equipment. There are also plans for the orchard to become a biodiversity hub. A first step will be establishing a new **information board** in front of the orchard, a grant for which has been obtained from Stirling Council's community grant scheme.

Other activities have included clearing-out **three derelict wooden tubs** in front of the Changing Rooms and replanting with spring bulbs and summer annuals; consulting with Stirling Council to have the **3-tier metal planter** filled with plants after it had been transferred from behind the laurel hedge at the fountain to a location at the park entrance near the cafe; obtaining the services of the Council's community payback team to clean the nine **mosaics** depicting historical images located around the park. We have liaised with the Lawn Tennis Association and supported its proposed capital investment to upgrade the Council's four public **tennis courts**. It is pleasing to have seen the project start in September.

Overall, we have had good relations with Stirling Council officers across a number of service areas and have welcomed support from our local councillors. We would like to thank our partner, the Recyke-a-Bike charity for its enthusiastic help in tackling some projects we could not address. We have started to develop wider relationships in the city through Stirling Council's Area Forums and Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise. Finally, thanks were given to our enthusiastic group of volunteers and to our committee members for all their effort and support throughout the year.

Approval of the Chair's Report was moved by Gordon Campbell and seconded by Neil Fairweather. Members **approved** the report.

7. Treasurer's Report

Gordon Campbell introduced the 2022-2023 abridged accounts. He briefly outline the origins of the Friends and the initial funds received by a grant from Kings Park Community Council. In the last year, no additional income had been generated. The largest expenditure had been on gardening equipment and materials: £317.94. Implementing a marketing strategy cost £192 and our new FKP website management platform cost £106.99 for two years subscription. The other notable expenditure was the annual insurance premium renewal of £157.00. Our total funds at the 30th June 2023 were £4697.19. No questions on the accounts were asked.

Approval of the 2022-2023 accounts was moved by Wendy Garcia and seconded by Neil Fairweather. Members **approved** the report of the abridged accounts.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair explained that under the newly approved constitution the AGM will elect office bearers for a term of one year as well as electing ordinary members of the committee. 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 Marguerite Nugent, seconded by Maggie Inall. 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 Currie. Proposed by Gordon Campbell, seconded by Marguerite Nugent. Members **approved** Hector as Secretary

Position of **Treasurer**: Gordon Campbell. Proposed by Wendy Garcia, seconded by Neil

Fairweather. Members **approved** Gordon as Treasurer.

Committee retireals

Over the year Trudi Togneri, Dorothy Wilson and Tom Wilson retired from the committee. Graham Morrice is not seeking re-election and retires this evening.

Ordinary members

Current members: Moira Fairweather and Marguerite Nugent wished to continue on the committee and Wendy Garcia and Neil Ross intimated their wish to be elected to the committee. No further nominations had been received.

The election of those four members was proposed by Dorothy Wilson and seconded by Tom Wilson. Members **approved** the election of Moira, Marguerite, Wendy and Neil to the committee,

9. Any Other Competent Business

(a) Retiral thanks

With the retiral of Trudi, Dorothy, Tom and Graham, David wished to recognise the contribution they had made over many years to the work and development of the Friends of Kings Park.

Following her retiral earlier in the year, **Trudi** had received a floral bouquet and been warmly thanked for her years of support to the Friends of Kings Park

Dorothy and Tom have been members of the Friends group since the start, 17 years ago, and have given a tremendous amount of their time and commitment to the Group's development and success. Their retiral from the Group was a great loss. When they stepped down from the committee a few months ago, a number of people in our partner organisations paid tribute to their dedication to the delivery of great improvements to the Kings Park. The Chair said that we all agreed with that sentiment. On a personal note David explained how, when he first met-up with them, along with Lidia, last year, to enquire about the Friends of Kings Park, if it hadn't been for their very convincing stories about what has been achieved he might not be standing in front of the meeting now. He finished by offering warm thanks on behalf of the Friends of Kings Park.

Graham has also been a long-standing committee member and given great support to many of the Friend's activities in the park. He had continued to play a part in committee discussions over the past year and we are grateful for his guidance and experience.

Retiral gifts were presented to Dorothy and Tom in appreciation of their long service in support of the Friends of Kings Park. (A gift would be presented to Graham at a later date).

(b) Close of business

The Chair thanked members and guests for attending and closed the formal business of the AGM, following which, he presented an illustrated photo slide-show of the key activities and issues that the Friends had been involved with over 2022-23.

The evening concluded with refreshments.