

# THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK STIRLING

## Committee Meeting 20 March 2023

Time/Venue: 6.30pm, Information Point next to Stirling Council Main Library.

**Draft Minute waiting approval**

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**1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Leslie (Chair), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Hector Currie (Secretary/Minute Secretary), Moira Fairweather, Neil Fairweather, Graham Morrice, Marguerite Nugent, Wendy Garcia.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Dorothy Wilson, Tom Wilson

**3. GUEST:** Neil Ross      **APOLOGIES:** Dagmar Brown-McKle, Andrew Hipkin.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

No corrections were made. Moira moved approval. Graham seconded. Minute approved.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY MEETING, NOT ON THE AGENDA**

**Item 2. Resignation.**

Hector and Lidia had delivered a floral bouquet to Trudi on behalf of the Friends of Kings Park, on her retiral from the committee.

**Item 6: Kings Park tennis courts**

No further information on progress with the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) proposal to upgrade the tennis courts was available. Kings Park Community Council had no new information.

Contact with the Friends of the Bridge of Allan and a trust in Dunblane to be followed up.  
*Update note. Stirling Council's lead officer for the negotiation with the LTA is Tracey Mills (Infrastructure)*

**6. REPORT ON FKP's FINANCES**

Gordon reported:

**1.** FKP's funds stood at £5300. There was an FKP policy that said £2500 would be held back to provide the charity with a workable reserve. That policy could be revisited, if felt appropriate. Apart from the £2000 anonymous donation, the rest of our funds is considered available as general expenditure for projects, events and running costs. Decisions on how to allocate the anonymous donation would have to be clear and ensure that a discernable benefit to the public park was achieved.

**2.** FKP was up-to-date on its annual submissions to Companies House and the Charity Regulator (OSCR).

**7. FOR INFORMATION**

**(a) Committee/volunteering event.** Considered a success. Thanks given to Craig Wilkie. Good mix of committee and volunteers attended. Floral bouquet given to Lidia on her retiral as Chair.

**(b) Apple orchard pruning.** Winter pruning completed.

**(c) Peace of Mind Garden.** One post-winter, work session had taken place. The next would be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, a.m.

**(d) Pergola.** The Council will be asked to remove the pergola. No funds are available for as repair or replacement. **Action: Hector and Neil** to check when dismantling could be carried out. Regret was expressed that it could not be saved and re-used.

**(e) Greenspace Rangers meeting.** Considered a very positive meeting. Potential for help from the rangers and possibly joint events organised at a suitable point.

**ACTION: David:** to contact Stirling Council Criminal Justice Team manager to discuss support for (1) cleaning mosaics, signs, park notice boards (2) laying bark in the Peace of Mind Garden (3) Removing grass round trunks of the 16 apple trees and preparing an area for possible wild flower planting.

*Update note. The 2 main park notice boards have been power-washed by Stirling Council.*

## 8. STRATEGY

**Review of workshop session.** David reported that the event had been successful in confirming that FKP's objective and aims (as per the constitution) were still valid and relevant. The SWOT analysis had proved effective in clarifying how to develop our strategy for the year ahead and for the longer term. Three action categories were identified: the Friends Group, Projects and Events, each designed to shape action to improve the public park and to strengthen the Friends of Kings Park.

## YEAR 1: Discussion and action over one year

### A. Friends Group

#### **1. Marketing plan to include use of social media, website, membership plan, recruitment and FKP logo.**

(a) Developing a marketing plan was fundamental to moving forward. It would provide a baseline for our work. **Lead: Wendy** agreed to draft a plan for the next committee meeting.

There could be benefits from links to Stirling Council and Visit Scotland who promote the city.

(b) The public park and FKP need to raise their social media profile. **Lead: Neil** agreed to establish a Friends of Kings Park website and set up a new Facebook page.

(c) It was critical to have a new FKP email address not tied to an individual's personal email account. **Lead: Neil, Hector and David** to investigate and report back.

Other discussions:

(d) FKP needed a straightforward logo for enhanced public recognition. **Lead: Hector** agreed to discuss with Sue Beach, whether she could help with a logo design. Once a logo was agreed, we could consider developing FKP t-shirts incorporating the logo.

#### **2. Survey of park users**

A survey of the views of those who use the public park to identify what they liked about the park, what improvements they would like to see and whether the park had any problems, was considered important to guide FKP's actions. However, planning and carrying out a survey that would produce reliable results could not be pursued at this point. **Lead: Wendy** agreed to contact Craig Wilkie to discuss the findings of his survey work before opening the cafe.

#### **3. Develop dialogue with stakeholders**

This is an ongoing piece of work. **Lead: David** to take forward.

## B. Projects

**1. Peace of Mind Garden. Lead: Neil with Andrew.** A garden re-design meeting was still outstanding. First work would be to purchase tree bark to lay a path.

**2. Butterfly Border. Lead: Neil with Andrew.** It was decided that continuing to maintain and support the Border was not viable. Plants in the Border that would be a useful addition to the Peace of Mind Garden would be transferred. The future of the Butterfly Border may need discussed with Stirling Council.

**3. Apple orchard. Lead: Moira with Lidia.** (a) Seasonal work to the trees will proceed as needed. Next steps: apply fertiliser (potash), re-insert slate labels, arrange grass cut and arrange for grass removal round tree trunks. (b) Establish a small cleared patch in preparation for a wild flower seed mix next year **Lead: Moira and David** (Criminal Justice Team).

**4. 3- tier planter relocation and planting.** A position for the planter near the entrance to the park at the tennis courts would have to be finalised. **Lead: David** to liaise with Stephen Robertson (Stirling Council) to confirm a date for relocation. No decision was taken on how and by whom, the planter would be replanted.

**5. Use of planting borders at main entrance.** The 4 quadrants bounded by privet hedging round the fountain were in a poor state with weeds but no plants. **Lead: Hector** agreed to contact Stirling Council to clarify if any bedding or perennial planting would be carried out to the borders and elsewhere in the park.

## C. Events

**1 and 2. Guided walk and open day.** It was decided to carry both events over to the summer and seek support from the Greenspace Rangers Service.

## YEARS 2-5

The activities listed for years 2 to 5 were agreed as suitable for future delivery but not achievable in the next 12 months.

## 9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

**Handkerchief tree.** Neil reported that Trudi had uploaded the data and a photo of the planting ceremony to the Queen's Green Canopy website. Trudi to be thanked.

## 10. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

It was agreed to set dates for the next three committee meetings: **Monday 24 April, Monday 22 May and Monday 19 June.** All to be held at the Information Point next to the Council's Main Library. **Action: Hector to book**