

THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK STIRLING

Committee Meeting 16 January 2023

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

Draft Minute waiting approval

1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Trudi Togneri (Chair), Marguerite Nugent, Hector Currie (Secretary/Minute Secretary), Moira Fairweather, Neil Fairweather, David Leslie.

2. APOLOGIES: Gordon Campbell, Dorothy Wilson, Tom Wilson, Graham Morrice.

3. Guests. Wendy Garcia

4. MINUTE OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14th NOVEMBER 2022

Amendment to item 6 (Park Issues and Projects): add new bullet point: *A 'Spring clean' of park mosaics, information boards, etc. will be organised*. The minute was confirmed an accurate record. Approval moved by Moira; Seconded by Hector. The minute was approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 14th NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING, NOT ON THE AGENDA

Item 8: Pre-Xmas social. The event in the Pavilion cafe was considered a great success. The support from Craig Wilkie was greatly appreciated. He has been thanked for letting us use the cafe.

6. REPORT BACK ON MEETING ABOUT INVESTMENT IN THE KINGS PARK TENNIS COURTS

David reported on the meeting that Marguerite, Hector and he held with Kris Henderson (Lawn Tennis Association Park [LTA] Investment Delivery Partner) on 13th January. It was a positive meeting but it was clear that there was much work still to be done between the LTA and Stirling Council if capital investment was to be secured. There was a lack of clarity within the Council as to which senior officers could make key decisions. Different service areas and officers were involved but progress was protracted. The deadline for a firm commitment by the Council to the investment proposal was the 31st December 2023. Contact had been made before the meeting with Kings Park Community Council (KPCC) about its support for the courts' renewal as it was felt important to work together where appropriate and possible. **David agreed** to pursue engagement with KPCC.

Following a discussion of the main issues – the dilapidation of the tennis courts, the lack of Council management and maintenance, charging a fee, pre-tennis training, a sinking fund, *Active Stirling's* role – the Friends of Kings Park **agreed** the following:

- A.** To support the need for significant capital investment in the Kings Park tennis courts.
- B.** To support the investment framework and the renewal proposal of the LTA.
- C.** To actively support the proposal, where appropriate, and engage in the discussion about the need for capital investment that will secure the courts' long-term future and will offer the health and well-being benefits that tennis can clearly provide.
- D.** We will focus our efforts on identifying and engaging with key Council officers with decision-making authority. **David agreed** to identify an appropriate senior officer in the Council's Infrastructure team to arrange a meeting with FKP representatives. Engagement with key councillors in the Administration and with our Ward 5 councillors may follow.

7. MOVING FORWARD ON PARK ISSUES AND PROJECTS IN 2023

It was accepted that there were more issues listed in the 'Tasks, Projects' table than we could realistically tackle and with the tennis courts issue having arisen, over the medium term our focus from the list would be mainly on:

- **Park Plans and Resources.**
- **Park Maintenance and Repair.**
- **Peace of Mind Garden and Butterfly Border Project**
- **Campaigning**

David made the case that the lack of a park management plan (as advocated in the *Kings Park Masterplan Final Report*) was a barrier to improving the park's management and maintenance. There was a need to re-establish the *Kings Park Masterplan Implementation Group* on joint FKP-Stirling Council working that had not met since 2018. It was **agreed David** should identify a key officer in Land Services to initiate a discussion. Hector would forward a name and email address.

Neil presented the proposed redesign for the Peace of Mind Garden, developed by Andrew, Dagmar and himself. The benefit of dividing the proposed work into different areas with different 'solutions' and creating informal paths was welcomed. It was **agreed** that the pergola should be demolished – Stirling Council to be asked to carry out the work. A pencil tree (eg yew) could be planted where the raised bed stood, together with shrubs. 'Some 'bug hotels' could be provided. **The outline plan and sketch were agreed.** It was recognised that much discussion on the details would follow. An initial budget of £500 was agreed. **Andrew and Neil would lead the work** supported by volunteers and the committee. **Hector agreed** to check with Gordon if any of the anonymous donation had been used.

Campaigning to attract new committee members and volunteers was very important. We will look at linking promotion of the FKP to events that will take place in the park (eg dog-related, family-oriented). Marguerite is looking into information from the Council about scheduled events. An FKP event of 'our own' could be planned. Our leaflets need to be re-vamped with a new email address created in April. **Action by Trudi.** We also need to find out what park users like about the park and what they think is lacking. This work would be linked to reviewing the existing committee membership and volunteer forms and then building an FKP membership and volunteer list. An FKP website would be desirable but the problem with websites was keeping them up to date.

Other tasks:

Butterfly border: no action to be taken.

Apple Orchard winter pruning: to be addressed at the end of January. **Action by Moira and Lidia.** Tom to be asked if he can assist.

Handkerchief Tree: **Trudi agreed** to contact Stirling High School. Details of the tree planting ceremony and location would be uploaded to the *Queen's Green Canopy* website. **Action: Trudi.**

Main entrance area safety: there was uncertainty about how this fitted in with FKP work. **Hector agreed** to forward the committee details of past work with Stirling Council on park users' safety.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Park signage. The lack of directional signage would be taken up with Stirling Council at a future point.

9. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 13th February, 6.30pm at the Information Point next to the Council's Main Library.