

Friends of Dollar Park

Minutes of Meeting
held on
19 January 2016
at 7.00pm
in
Masonic Lodge, Lint Riggs,
Falkirk

Present – Les Pryde (Chair), LP Ian Gourlay (Treasurer), IG Christine Reid (Secretary), Morris Robb, Jessica Paterson, Robert Menzies, Alistair Smith, Ian Crozier

Apologies – Pat Reid, Norah Summers, Gordon & Irene Lumsden

Introduction - Les welcomed everybody.

Minutes of meeting of 4 November 2015

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed- Ian Gourlay – Seconded – Morris Robb

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Proposed Memorial

A email was received from Wraight Shepherd Falkirk Council and is as under noted

I am seeking your views about a possible memorial at Dollar Park. This would be dedicated to the small number of local cases of pregnancy loss, where ashes had been disposed of without their parent's knowledge. I emphasise that this would be a memorial for quiet reflection; there would certainly be no interments or scattering of ashes.

Following recommendations arising from the enquiry into Morton hall Crematorium (Lord Bonamy), the Scottish Government recommends that all burial authorities liaise with affected parents to consider constructing a memorial. You may have seen recent press coverage of the memorial at Morton hall.

On 11th December 2015 Eleanor Thomson (Bereavement Services Manager) and I met three of the affected parents about a possible memorial. At the meeting the parents asked Falkirk Council to consider a relatively modestly sized memorial, possibly with a seat (or seats). One parent submitted a wonderful sketch she had prepared of a possible sculpture. The consensus of the parents at the meeting was that we should also investigate the possibility of a statue depicting Peter Pan, as a symbol of lost children. The famous and evocative statue at Hyde Park / Kensington Gardens, London was cited. The Bereavement Services Manager will investigate to see if there are reproductions available of this or other appropriate Peter Pan Statues, or alternatively, if memorial sculptors are able to source a statue which is suitable. It was emphasised that there may be copyright and high cost implications of a bespoke sculpture.

The parents expressed a clear preference that this memorial should be located away from the crematorium, and away from any other cemetery, and that they favour Dollar Park as a possible location. This is because Dollar Park is accessible for all of them, and because in their view the Park has a number of small-scale intimate spaces.

After the meeting Wraight Shepherd took one of the parents for an initial walk round Dollar Park, and the following possibilities were identified:

(1) The circular bed east of Arnotdale House. The Area Estates Officer already has plans in place to dedicate this circular bed to the plant collector, George Forrest (1873–1932), who became one of the first explorers of China's then remote south-western province of Yunnan, and who bough many of his plants back to Dollar Park. The circular bed is already planted out with some of these species, work to the edges is in progress (by TCV), and an interpretative board is proposed. However these plans could be adapted to accommodate such a statue.

(2) The semicircular bed next to the main drive north of the Lodge. This area planted as a garden for the visually impaired

several decades ago, but this planting is now lost, and the area is no longer used for this purpose.

(3) The new garden could be created in the extensive shrub bed between the two areas (above): this would create an additional memorial area within Dollar Park.

(4) Other possible sites within Dollar Park.

My colleagues and I prefer option (2), but we would appreciate your thoughts.

We emphasise again that this would be a memorial for quiet reflection, not for scattering of ashes or interments.

We also emphasise that, before we explore this proposal, we will take full account of the views of local councillors and of the Friends of Dollar Park, in particular about

- (a) The principle of locating such a memorial within Dollar Park, and
- (b) About the preferred location.

We are meeting the parents again on 4th February 2016 (2:30) to develop these ideas

LP to attend.

Volunteers

Jessica Paterson the Councils Estates Development Officer outlined her views re using volunteers to help with the maintenance of the park. She had been in touch with CVS Falkirk a organization involved in providing volunteers to carry out work projects and suggested the under noted

Falkirk Council and the Friends of Dollar Park are seeking volunteers to work on projects in the park.

There are exciting plans for the park which would provide great opportunities for a project team.

The ideas include:

- Refurbishment of the historic doo'cot
- Expanding and improving the Community Orchard
- Developing community activities such as litter picks, annual Easter and Halloween events etc

· Improving biodiversity through planting and habitat creation

The projects would involve a high degree of partnership working, a good way with people, and strong organizational skills.

There will be opportunities for Events management, community consultation and close liaison with bodies such as Historic Scotland and other funders.

The potential outcomes are enormous and would be highly impressive on a CV.

The team of volunteers would be working closely with a Development Officer from Falkirk Council as well as the Friends and a wide range of park users.

Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan

LP informed the meeting that he had obtained a copy of the consultation document and outlined the strategy to those present. Under the Heading Falkirk a detailed breakdown is given to all areas deficient in open space, play etc and a comprehensive plan of action, however the glaring omission is Dollar Park no mention is made and no proposal for a management plan.

It was agreed that LP) would bring this omission to the attention of the planners, LP informed the meeting that his concern was the funding of the comprehensive proposals in light of the savage cutbacks the Council was having to implement.

Friends were encouraged to complete the online survey Closing date for consultation is 29 February

Tennis Courts

Work was progressing with the contract and LP/MR had met with officials to discuss various aspects of the project.

· ORCHARD PRUNING

This had been was arrange for 18th January but had to be cancelled due to the weather. Jessica asked if LP would be willing to do the demonstration at a latter date, agreed.

A.O.C.B

Friends of Dollar Park banner has been traced, and is with the chairman.

Jessica stated she was the contact on facebook and as now employed by the Council would like to relinquish this role, members are asked to put forward names for a facebook administrator.

Membership files need updated can members please update the secretary with their details.

Date of next Meeting

22nd March 2016 7pm Masonic Hall Lint Riggs Falkirk

AGENDA

**22nd March 2016
7pm Masonic Hall Lint Riggs Falkirk**

Apologies

Minutes of the last meeting

Matters Arising

Dollar Park Working Group

Open Space Strategy and Parks Development

Tennis Courts

Orchard Pruning

Memorial Garden

Walled Garden

AOCB