

Friends of Dollar Park

Minutes of Meeting

18th September 2018 at 6.30pm

Cyrenians Offices Wellside Place Falkirk

Present – Les Pryde (Chair), LP, Morris Robb, (Vice Chair), Ian Gourlay (Treasurer), IG, Robert Menzies, Gordon Lumsden, Lynda Ross-Hall, Alistair Smith, Ruth Mulligan, Pat Reid

Apologies – Jessica Paterson, George Main, Irene Lumsden, Maureen Smith.

Minutes of meeting of 17th April 2018

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

Proposed- Robert Menzies Seconded – Ian Gourlay

Matters arising

There were no matters arising..

Arnotdale House

Work is on track to finish by Christmas and be operational in the New Year. Contractors demarking the new parking area with a form of edging, concern was expressed as to its relevance. Lighting ducts being installed.

Lynda Ross-Hall continues to attend the project meetings and will report back to the Friends.

Walled Garden Development Group/ Walled Garden

A meeting took place on 3rd September 2018, minutes as under noted.

For May, June July and August the unpaid work hours total was 1306.5 hours averaging 72.5 hours per week.

Volunteer hours amounted to 391.5 averaging 21 hours per week.

Visitor numbers are increasing and in this period the total was 2295. These are the visitor numbers for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday each week recorded when the garden is manned. The number would be much higher if we were able to record and include visitor numbers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Wedding photo bookings are also increasing.

Monthly musical events have taken place and have attracted audiences but we will review our marketing strategy to see if we can increase our audiences. We are going to have sandwich boards made up that we can use for additional advertising placing them at the pond area and at the entrance arch.

The forward planning for next year's Floral Clock was discussed. We have solutions for the over wintering of the plant stock. Les will make costing enquiries with Edinburgh Council for the bedding required for next year.

It is possible that we will be having working visits from pupils at Bantaskine Primary School. Ruth is due to meet with the assistant head in September.

We have delivered SVQ units and will continue with this. It is our intention to introduce Horticultural SVQs and Ruth is working towards implementing this.

A pump is being ordered for the pond; this will improve the water quality and deal with the algae that accumulate in the summer months.

Discussions are on-going regarding interior/exterior roof repairs on the Hub, Tool-shed and Workshop.

The vegetable garden has produced, tomatoes, courgettes, parsnips, green beans, purple beans, peas, potatoes, red cabbage, cucumbers, leeks, apples, plums, blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries.

Work has started on completing the transition of the bandstand garden into a white garden.

Volunteers have played a big part in maintaining both the garden and floral clock. We now have clients completing their hours and returning as volunteers.

Floral Clock

Work commenced mid June on the planting using Community Service personal, who look after the walled garden, with a view to training them up in specific horticultural skills. This was challenging due to the exceptional dry weather and extensive watering had to be carried out. It was amazing to see the pride and enthusiasm the squads had for the planting of the clock. Three clients were particularly skilled in the aftercare and have maintained the clock to date

The return of the floral clock has been well received by the general public with well over 400 likes and numerous complementary comments on Facebook.

From my own point of view it was exactly fifty years to the month that I last planted the clock and here I was planting it again, who would have thought, and I must admit it gave me a great deal of personal satisfaction.

However I was not a one man band and I have to thank the team for all their sterling work, Lynda and Ruth from the Cyrenians, Falkirk Rotary re ongoing fund raising incentives, bedding plant/ carpet bedding Edinburgh Council/ Klondyke Garden Centre, the Criminal Justice Services, our own Friends, and my best friend John Fraser, who also planted the clock in the sixties, for his input.

Unfortunately we were unable to raise sufficient funding to install the mechamsiun for this year, fund raising incentives are ongoing and our biggest contributor to date has been The Robert Barr Charitable Trust £5000 thanks to friend Robert Menzies securing the monies.

Thanks to Roy from the Criminal Justice Service wooden hand were installed

Park Issues

Grass cutting has improved over the summer, concern was expressed with regards to the recent tarring that has taken place near the pig houses water ponding is occurring Linda to raise with the contractors.

It has been brought to our attention that at the base of the mature Beech Tree on the east boundary of the putting green has large fungal fruiting bodies called Meripilus giganteus or giant polypore growing at the base of the trunk. This type of fungus causes root rot in Beech which results in a loss of strength of the root plate. We await a report from the Council arboriculturist

Orchard pruning had been done in the spring and the trees have cropped well.

Further discussion took place regarding the proposed improvements to the war memorial. Planning consent to be obtained.

Information had been received from the Community Trust with regards to tennis membership and bookings showing a slight decline on last year

Project Review

It was agreed that through the Friends a planning application would be submitted with regards the re roofing of the toilet block and the proposed alteration to the old bothy

Costings from ZM Architecture re the Dovecote had been received they are very high further work to be carried out re funding.

It was proposed that the pig buildings could be reduced in height and a design was circulated by MR for discussion.

AOCB

It was agreed to pursue the idea of designing a photo box of the floral clock and past glories of the park.

An email had been received from George Main with regards work he was doing on the website George to attend our next meeting to discuss further.

Date of next meeting

21st November 2018 .6.30 Cyrenians Offices Wellside Place Falkirk

