

Friends of Dollar Park

Minutes of Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> November 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, George Main

**Apologies** – Ian Scott.

**Minutes of meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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..

**Arnotdale House**

Work is on track to finish any snagging by Christmas and be operational in the New Year. IG expressed concern re security re the glass frontage to the rear of the building as there were no cameras to monitor the area, IG and MR both expressed unease that the secluded area could become a haven for the buck fast drinkers and skateboarders. LH stated that the building was alarmed and the situation would be monitored.

PR and LH to raise with the Council IG's concerns with regards to the drive lights not yet connected. RM informed the Friends that the installation of the parking kerbs was on hold, concern was also expressed that with the new parking regulations coming into force regarding the town centre problems could arise regarding parking in the park.

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

## **Walled Garden**

The Christmas decorations will be put up week commencing the 7<sup>th</sup> December, their will be no Christmas event this year, it had to be cancelled last year due to adverse weather conditions therefore it was felt that it could not be guaranteed to take place.

Winter work has commenced, although the squad numbers are down at the moment.

The Garden will be closed between 21<sup>st</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> January .

## **Floral Clock**

At the beginning of October the carpet bedding plants were lifted, boxed and put under cover to over winter in the walled garden, leaf mould was incorporated into the site to increase the organic content of the soil.

An order has been placed with Edinburgh Council to grow the summer bedding for the wings.

The Friends were contacted by a Mr Stewart of Stewart Electrical who agreed to remove the existing clock mechanism and refurbish it, this proved to be successful and means we do not have to purchase new mechanism it is also fitting that it is the original mechanism paid for and installed by Falkirk Rotary in 1959. Our next objective is to find a benefactor to manufacture the hands. It is hoped to carry out the installing in the early part of 2019.

The Friends would like to express their thanks and gratitude to Mr Stewart and his staff for the work done in restoring the clock mechanism.

It is proposed that the theme for the 2019 clock be a combination of Falkirk Rotary Club and Friends of Dollar Park.

## **Park Issues**

The use of the tennis facilities was discussed and a cup for competition proposed.

The Council has appointed Tree Surgeons' to remove the diseased beech tree in the next few weeks. MR stated neighbours had been informed.

RM expressed concern that slabs uplifted from the rear of Arnotdale had been dumped in a skip it was felt that they could have been put to better use.

LP had provided Jessica with a list of suitable tree species for the small roundabout being reinstated by the contractors.

MR suggested that the old tractor shed next to the tennis courts could be used as a storage area for stone, slabs and other types of material. Remedial work to the building would be required.

Further discussion took place regarding the proposed improvements to the war memorial. Planning consent to be obtained. An app was being designed that would enable users to access information about the names on the memorial via their phone.

## **Website**

In the past problems with the web server had been experienced, GM informed the Friends that he had resolved the problem and rebuilt the platform to make it more user friendly.

A sub group was set up to work with George in learning how to upload information onto the web pages. This would enable the website to inform a wider audience of the work of the Friends.

## **AOCB**

No AOCB

## **Date of next meeting**

5<sup>th</sup> February 2019.6.30pm Arnotdale House Dollar Park.

