

Friends of Dollar Park  
Minutes of Meeting  
held on  
10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 6.30pm  
Municipal Buildings Falkirk

Present – Les Pryde (Chair), LP, Morris Robb, (Vice Chair), MR, Ian Gourlay (Treasurer), IG, Provost Pat Reid, Alistair and Maureen Smith, Robert Menzies. Gordon Lumsden

Apologies – I Lumsden, Morven Mack, Jessica Paterson.

Minutes of meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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

Proposed- Maureen Smith – Seconded – Robert Menzies

### **Matters arising**

Situation re the Peter Pan statue for the memorial garden, and the cleaning of the Chinese Lions.

### **Tennis Court's**

Since the official opening the facility is being well used even up to 10pm in some instances Problems with lighting within the park was highlighted unfortunately the Community trust has no funding to install further lighting in the park. Cars were accessing the park by the drive to the rear of the park due to the barrier being unlock LP to take up the matter with the parks maintenance supervisor.

### **Walled Garden Development Group**

LP attended the first meeting of the group, the aim is to focus on the day to day development and long term planning for the walled garden run jointly with Criminal Service and the Cyrenians. Discussion centered on staffing, SQA delivery, current issues and forward planning.

### **Cyrenians**

The Cyrenians have come forward with proposals to refurbish Arnotdale House A joint funding application with Falkirk Council had been made to the Scottish Government to obtain funds from the regeneration capital fund.

The Scottish Government is due to announce the successful applicants by the end of February 2017.

The friends have sent a letter of support.

## **Open Spaces Strategy and Parks Development Plan**

A meeting of the Councils Executive took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to agree the proposed responses to comments received during consultations and adopt the finalized Open Space Strategy LP attended, the Council agreed to adopt the Strategy.

The friends had expressed concern that the strategy stated there was no need for a master plan to be drawn up for Dollar Park. The Councils response was that if the friends were to produce their own master plan support would be given at a reasonable and sustainable level.

LP brought to the group's attention that a report had been published by the Heritage Lottery Fund on the State of UK Public Parks 2016 this was a comprehensive research document on the pressures facing parks due to budget cutbacks and what actions are needed to tackle the considerable challenges that lie ahead.

In addition a Future of Public Parks inquiry has been launched by the Community and Local Government Committee, and while this relates only to England and Wales a joint submission from Greenspace Scotland and the Parks Managers Forum Scotland has been submitted to the inquiry. It is hoped the report will be published early 2017.

## **My Park Scotland**

LP informed the group of a new incentive re funding parks projects.

My Park Scotland is an exciting new project to help people to discover and support their local parks. The website allows us to collect donations using crowdfunding (raising funds from many people over the internet towards a common project). This is for businesses and individuals to support parks and their projects, with a investment strategy to develop longer term sustainability and endowment funds.

It would be your first port of call if you are looking to find your local park and what's on through the interactive hub which provides information about park events, facilities and activities.

Greenspace Scotland is initially developing My Parks Scotland in partnership with the 32 local authorities.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

LP MR and IG to attend it was agreed friend Christine Reid would lay the wreath.

### **AOCB**

Reference was made to making more use of the notice board; replacement trees had now been planted adjacent to the new tennis courts.

### **Date of next meeting**

14th March 2017 Municipal Buildings