

**Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Committee Meeting  
15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 @ The Hermitage Bar**

**Present** – KY, HC, IB, RW, LB, ASmi, EJ

**Apologies** - ASil, MD, DS, AF

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising:**

**a. Tea in the Park Feedback**

In addition to the points noted by email exchange it was felt that:

- the stalls were too close to each other meaning it was unclear which queue to join
- people with clipboards should circulate in the crowd promoting membership.
- KY and IB need to meet in the crypt again to better organize the equipment.

**Action: KY/IB**

The final amount raised was £1,226.

**b. Constitution** – DS may have comments but nothing from anyone else.

**c. Valley Voice** – articles should be about Tea in the Park, the Tram Shelter Panel, Green Dog Walkers and the David Wright memorial bench. A copy should come out in early January to confirm the date of the AGM – see below. **Action: DS with volunteer.**

**d. Green Dog Walkers** – LB confirmed that the action was with her and DS to speak to Susie Morgan at the school about doing something for assembly in the new year. **Action: LB/DS.**

**e. Website adaptation** – this was confirmed as not being a priority at the moment.

**f. Trees** –

- AF had previously emailed about the dead trees and it was felt that these should be removed by work party if this can be organised. **Action: AF**
- The fundraising for the replacement of the cherry tree trefoil by ELGT had gone quiet since their fund-raiser left. KY to chase. **Action: KY**
- RW had grown a yew tree(s) so would look for a suitable site to plant it. **Action: RW**

**2. Tram Shelter Interpretation Panel Opening – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

All are invited. The stone cairn has been built and the panel is in situ ready for the unveiling at 2pm and there is coffee in the church hall afterwards. There will be vintage busses and displays of tram memorabilia. We should promote it on our website, social media and notices on railings. **Action: LB/DS**

**3. Robert Louis Stevenson**

ASi and EL had met recently and were exploring different ideas which we will await with interest.

**4. Recumbent Bike**

Mike Shields is providing a recumbent bike and ASmi, KM, IB and LB would consider the best location for it in the park, bearing in mind that it should be:

- as accessible to north, south, east and west as possible
- next to the path to make it easy for people to reach
- located somewhere where other pieces of exercise equipment can be added as funding becomes available
- doesn't interfere with Tea in the Park and sledging.

It was agreed that up to £6K of the Friends money would be allocated to buying additional equipment and this could be further added to by match funding grant applications. It was

recognised that the equipment is expensive because it is so robust and that this might mean that only a couple of pieces could be bought in the first instance. There would need to be further consultation about what equipment would be the most appropriate and popular.

**Action: KY, ASmi, IB and LB**

## **5. Main Entrance Planting Plan**

No-one had been able to make it to the meeting with Melanie Main about the proposal to introduce a cycling lane to Braidburn Terrace and knock a hole in the park wall/railing to enable a separate cyclists' entrance to the park from a crossing on Comiston Terrace outside Greenbank Church. It was understood that this might be funded through Sustrans Community Links funding but there would need to be Council funding too. KY showed the plans that had been provided.

The feeling was that it was a waste of money to create a new cyclist entrance to the park when they could go 20ft further round the corner and use the main entrance which could be better signed to ask cyclists to slow down. Knocking a hole in the wall/railing would also interfere with the planting design. KY will communicate this sentiment back to Melanie Main.

**Action: KY**

## **6. David Wright Memorial Bench, Interpretation and Orchard**

We are waiting to hear from Paul Boyd of the Morningside School of Music if he would pay the invoice for the memorial bench as the Council's prices had gone up and he had recently questioned if an alternative, cheaper bench could be sourced. KY had indicated that the Friends only supported a Council Memorial Bench. Paul has subsequently placed order.

KY is seeking clarification about how much will then be left over so that we know how much is available for the interpretation panel.

**Action: KY**

## **7. Bridge Naming**

We are waiting to hear from the Council about their policy on naming bridges after living people.

## **8. Finance**

IB reported that there were no issues with funds at present.

## **9. Membership**

No report.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- **P4 wildflower meadow raking** – EJ reported that the teachers had been unwilling to support the activity this year. EJ would speak to them again about the importance of the raking being done every year to maintain the wildflowers, otherwise it would turn into rank grass. This needed to be done in November/December. **Action: EJ**
- **P7 Tree Planting** – AF has secured 100+ trees from the Woodland Trust, so EJ to arrange a time for P7s to plant the trees. This should be in winter, preferably before Christmas. **Action: EJ**
- RW indicated his intention to devote time to setting up a Friends of Fairmilehead Park and that this would mean that he would step down from the Friends Committee at the AGM. KY thanked him for his input to the committee and hoped that the Groups would work closely together in the future. It was also noted that there would be a committee vacancy at the AGM.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm at Greenbank Church Halls

AGM – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017