

**Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Committee Meeting
17th January 2017 @ Greenbank Church Halls**

Present – KY, HC, IB, ASmi, MD, AF, DS

Apologies - ASil, LB, EJ

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising:

a. Crypt organisation

Action: KY and IB to set a date

b. Valley Voice – picture of new static bike supplied. Any photos of Tea in the Park? A copy should come out by end of January to confirm the date of the AGM (26th Feb)

Action: DS

c. Gym equipment

Bike is situated now and is being used – plan for further pieces of equipment to be purchased using up to £6K of the Friends money - this could be further added to by match funding grant applications. The council will order and help with installation alongside the bike. IB agreed to seek some informed advice and share with others by email.

Action: KY to email leaflet, IB to seek advice All to vote

d. Green Dog Walkers – DS needs to ask Council whether the GDW grant money can still be used as late in spending. Needs to be spent on what was stipulated in original application. Bins often overflowing with dog poo bags – need to notify task force directly when this occurs – we could put notice on boards.

Action: DS to contact NP circulate task force no.

e. Trees –

- Space for new trees along side of Comiston Road by gate – we have small trees for school to plant **Action: EJ to liaise with school re date**
- Dead trees – need work party **Action: AF**
- Could we get replacement? **Action: AF to liaise with council re: spare funds for trees to replace**
- The fundraising for the replacement of the cherry tree trefoil by ELGT had gone quiet since their fund-raiser left. No further news
- RW had grown a yew tree(s) so need a suitable site to plant it.
- Pruning of fruit trees **Action: AF to look into time & method**

f. Main Entrance Planting Plan- Hiatus due to plans for cycle lane

KY spoke to 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 outside Greenbank Church. Melanie Main would like a separate meeting to discuss. We need to start looking for grant funding to proceed with planting but we need to know what cycle plan is. Grant awarding bodies require there to be no impediment to progressing with the grant.

Action: KY/DS to set up meeting with MM DS to look at grant funding possibilities

g. David Wright Memorial Bench, Interpretation and Orchard

Paul Boyd of the Morningside School of Music has placed order for bench. KY is seeking clarification about how much will then be left over so that we know how much is available for the interpretation panel. We now have picture, wording etc.

Action: Ask PB about amount remaining

h. Bridge Naming

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

Action: DS to remind Mike Shields

i. Wildflower meadow – Autumn raking – EJ had reported that the P4 pupils had not wanted to support the activity this year. Needs to be done in late Autumn , otherwise the grass will swamp the flowers . **Action: DS to check with EJ to establish views on next year – otherwise we will need to find other volunteers**

2. AGM 26th Feb 2017 @2pm. Meet 1.45 at church to set up

Constitution – Suggestions for updates made last year DS to incorporate changes in one document as agreed. To be circulated with VV, for approval at AGM then to OSCR

Notice – to go in VV and on notice boards/park

Action: DS

2017/2018 committee – 1 vacancy when **RW** steps down at AGM and two others when we alter the constitution to have representatives of local groups as additional to the numbers. . KY told us that regrettably she has to step down as Chair in view of her excessive work commitments and is unable to give the Friends her full attention. She is keen to remain on committee however and participate in Friends' activities..

Agreed we need to advertise for new Committee members in the community. No current members of committee are able to take on the full role of Chair for a variety of reasons.

Plan: We will advertise prior to AGM – can we find a new Chair through that route?

Action IB to make proposals .

*If not,, DS will co-chair with KY with DS doing the business administration, organising and chairing meetings and KY providing policy guidance as needed (and TitP planning with LB)
IB also offered to take on aspects of administration*

Committee meeting – short meeting to follow immediately after AGM

3. Robert Louis Stevenson

At ideas and suggestions stage – ASil to feed back further – any budget implications to be identified.

Action ASil

4. Finance

Treasurer had prepared and circulated draft annual accounts for consideration by the Committee. Surplus for 2015/16 was £638 in the general fund Funds in hand at year-end were £7,214 (general fund), £3,000 (designated fund) and £2,148 restricted fund for green dog walkers. Year-end balance £12,362. Gift Aid Claim was prepared by DS to give time for IB to register as authorised officer.

Proposal by IB to reduce designated fund to £2,000 for next year was agreed. Accounts to be examined by the Independent Examiner prior to AGM.

Action IB to have accounts examined & register as authorised officer for Gift Aid

Annual report needs to be completed before the meeting

Action IB to email last year's to DS to draft for KY's approval

5. Membership

We are still at 209 members –some lapsed last year but replaced by the same number. Agreed that only local Life Members will be sent VV this year.

Membership renewal forms to go out with VV, Constitution and any request for Committee members.

Action DS

6. Any Other Business

- Community Council nomination – DS nominated as the representative of the Friends Committee and nomination form signed.
- Website – attracted fewer people this year, but less was posted onto it. Specific peaks are seen after an email to the friends. Link to FoP and better Twitter presentation recommended. Agreed it would be nice to update mobile website but we do not have capacity at the moment

Action: DS to liaise with LB re: Twitter etc.

7. Dates of Next Meeting for all to put In diary and HC to book accommodation

AGM – Sunday 26th February 2017 to be followed by brief committee meeting

Spring clean up – 23rd April

Committee Meeting Tuesday 16th May 7.30 @Greenbank Church Hall

Committee Meeting Tuesday 22nd August 7.30 @Greenbank Church Hall

Tea in the Park 2nd September 2017