

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Annual General Meeting 28th February 2021

Meeting held over Zoom during Covid-19 pandemic

Present: 20 Friends including committee members MB, AB, AF, RB, HC, CJ, PB, LF, AN, MD.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Committee (MB)
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising
3. Annual Report and Accounts:
 - i. Chair report (Margaret Bruce, Co-Chair) – It has obviously been an unusual year with no organised activities. MB gave thanks to the volunteers who have helped out over the last year including maintaining Dianne’s garden and the bed outside the main gate, clearing the burn of fallen trees and collecting litter. And a special mention to the young volunteer who has been doing some very well-planned and focussed clearing which is much appreciated. Thanks to South Morningside children and staff who helped with the wildflower meadow raking.
 - ii. Finances and reappointment of Independent Examiner (Paul Bailey, Treasurer) – no questions raised. The external examiner of our accounts is happy to continue and this was agreed.
 - iii. Trees and Wildflower Meadow (Alan Fleming, Honorary Tree Warden) – MB thanked Alan for all his hard work over the last year. AF showed some slides of key areas in the park including the Wheatley Elms. There were fewer flower types in the wildflower meadow than when originally sown. A group of students from SRUC kindly helped with some management, aiming to increase diversity and a number of flower types have been sown. AF is aiming for an autumn sowing and a spring sowing to try to maximise growth, he has also grown some seeds at home to add in. A number of additional fruit trees have been planted in the community orchard, including a pear and a plum. AF has also been planting some new trees on Cockmylane. He is happy to be contacted by anyone wishing to help.
 - iv. Shared path and safety issues (Richard Bush) – the potential increase in cyclist usage of the path through the centre of the park with the proposed new road scheme at the Greenbank Church end of the park was raised as an issue last year. With this in mind RB has been liaising with the council to discuss some modifications including rumble strips and some signage. The signs are aimed at encouraging all park users to be considerate of each other. The proposals were supported by our local councillors. Things have been on

hold during the pandemic. RH asked whether cyclists could have and use a bell to alert other path users.

4. Election of Committee –

MD and ZM are stepping down from the committee. Two new volunteers have come forward – Brian Smith and Robin Harper who are already very active in the park. All were in agreement with their election.

HC is also wishing to step down as the church representative but has kindly offered to stay on the committee until a replacement has been identified. Many thanks to HC for all his help in the park.

We would also welcome a new school rep – AN has continued to do this alongside producing the Valley Voice but it would be very helpful if a new rep could be identified. We will try to recruit.

5. Looking ahead – it is still not possible to organise group work in the park and we will continue working in a COVID safe way as we have over the last year.

We are applying for funding for a few benches to be used to form a picnic area

We are also applying for a further 18 cherry trees to replace some of those in the trefoil.

We have also had some donations from members specifically for cherry tree replacement which will allow us to plant at least two.

CJ wished to say a big thank you to MB for all her hard work as chair over the last year

6. Any other business.

AS proposed some clearing at the sides of some of the paths would be a good idea – this would permit widening them back to their original width.

AN suggested we should consider activities for the current group of P7 pupils – to discuss at our next committee meeting

RH suggested some burn bank maintenance activities – also to discuss at the next committee meeting