

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Committee meeting 2/11/2022

1. Attendance
2. Matters arising
3. AGM preparations and date. Feb 26
4. Treasurer's report / Membership Secretary's report
5. Volunteering organiser's report - Brian
6. Sub-committee re pétanque
7. Free book exchange
8. Valley Voice
9. AGM / Date of next meeting
10. AOCB

1. Attendance

Present: Paul Bailey, Arthur Trew, Alastair Bruce, Margaret Bruce, Steve Ambler, Brian Smith, Alan Fleming, Claire Jellema, Brian Barron, Lucy Frankel

Apologies: Robin Harper, Alice Nelson

2. Matters arising

1. Pétanque court ; no further update from Richard. Oddly Tesco (from whom we had requested a grant for the mural 18 months ago), got in touch to say that we had been successful. However Paul had already told them that the mural was complete when they approved the £500 grant – making us ineligible for the mural. Paul asked if it could be transferred to a different project, namely a pétanque court – even though we have not yet decided on one. They agreed provided it was completed by November 2023; they then insisted that we either accept the money at once or lose it for ever; Paul accepted, on the understanding that we will return the money if we don't complete the project.

2. Burn: Robin has pointed out a damaged gabion which he intends to repair.

7. Alan organised a successful willow sculpture pruning session; we had about 12 volunteers; Paul intends to purchase wood chippings for the pathway.

8. Long grass / holes between trees. Andrew has cut back the long grass very well on the higher section between the trees; the council promised us some soil so that we could infill the holes but that has stalled.

10. Cycling "slow down" notices; no progress.

11. Bins: we are still waiting for the six new double size bins to replace the present ones; the one by the Oxgangs entrance appears to have a broken locking mechanism so that the door flies open and rubbish falls out; helpful members have put a black bag over it and left another black bag next to it for rubbish.

12. Dianne's garden: Val Cox is considering how Friends of Morningside Cemetery store their equipment, but hasn't suggested an appropriate storage facility.

13. Free Book Box: Paul circulated the plans which Andrew and Alan (Smith) provided; the committee approved the project; slight concerns were raised about possible permission being needed as it would be outside the park; it was referred to the appropriate council officer who has taken no action after a month; Andrew and Alan intend to build it.

14. Valley Voice. Thanks to Alice for another splendid Valley Voice; she feels that it may be more appropriate to print A4 copies (which we send to non-email people) rather than the smaller size; this would cost more; Paul approved the expense.

15. Gate at South end of Park: Mike Shields replied that the gate must be left open for tractor access.

16. Possible plinth for theatre: Arthur is looking into involving pupils at George Watson's College as we would have to design it.

17. Barbed wire: Still there! Paul raised this issue with the council on Nov 3rd and has chased up Peter Davidson on this issue (Mike Shields has retired).

18. Committee members' replies to indicate willingness to stand again: some members need to reply as this is a legal requirement.

3. AGM preparations and date. Feb 26

Hot drinks and biscuits on arrival from hatch. Then Chair opens meeting and leads through delivery of reports.

ACTIONS:

- Tea, coffee, sugar, milk – Margaret to bring.
- Key to church – Alan and Claire have these, will open up.
- Publicising – Lucy to make updated poster and do Facebook post.
- Paul to post on I love Morningside.

Subsequent committee meeting will be on 8th March, not immediately afterwards.

4. Treasurer's report / Membership Secretary's report / Tree warden's report

Treasurer reports a small number of outgoings: high viz waistcoats, plus a contribution to the materials for the tram stop shelter. Will meet auditor 25th January to complete accounts in time for AGM.

Membership secretary reports 13 new members (mainly around the time of the mural) and lost a different 13. More people are signing up to email than before – a positive. More are paying online now too. The Chair thanked Alasdair warmly for his excellent contribution.

On trees, the willow structure work was undertaken.

5. Volunteering organiser's report – Brian

Eight Duke of Edinburgh students have been widening the path on a weekly basis for six months. During icy weather they did gritting. Brian has requested a grit bucket from the Council. Future DofE students would be welcomed – Brian suggested the students' parents should be members. Railings to be painted in the spring. The Chair warmly thanked Brian for his work.

ACTION: send any tasks to Brian requiring volunteers, so he can plan ahead.

6. Sub-committee re pétanque

Nothing to report.

7. Free book exchange

Alan Smith (maker of bird boxes) and Andrew Swann are keen to make the wooden mini library, to place outside the gates. The committee looks forward to seeing their design.

8. Valley Voice

The Chair paid tribute to Alice for an outstanding edition of Valley Voice. When printed, Alasdair will request for volunteers to deliver circa 30 paper copies locally, along with the AGM notice. It needs to go out three weeks before the AGM.

9. AGM / Date of next meeting

26th February 2023 – 2pm Greenbank Parish Church

8th March 2023

10. AOCB

Tea in the Park – proposed for Saturday 2nd September 2023. Lucy to run the dog show again. Crichton Pet Services to be offered £50.