

**Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024, by Zoom**

**1. Present: PB, AF, AT, SA, BS, LF, BB, AB, MB**

**Apologies : CJ**

**2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:** The Hall is now booked for the AGM.

**3. AGM Preparations: February 25<sup>th</sup>.** We agreed that we would not schedule a walk at the start of the AGM, both because there is nothing new to show and because of the disruption from roadworks at the entrance and crossing to the church hall. MB will do simple catering. The date will be announced in Valley Voice and on notices nearer the date. LF will post a notice on Facebook.

**4. Treasurer's report:** SA is to meet the auditor tomorrow, and the annual accounts will then be finalized.

**5. Volunteering co-ordinator's report:** PB thanked BS for all his work and organization. BS reported some hiccups in the D of E volunteers' schedule: bad weather had prevented some planned sessions, and in addition their attendance had been irregular. There are only 5 volunteers this year, cf 7 last year. He has suggested they put in some ½ day sessions to make up for lost time.

ELGT have expressed interest in volunteering sessions: ad hoc rather than regular sessions tend to suit their activities. They also offer 'engagement days', e.g wildlife watching. Committee were asked to ponder ideas for ways of working with them.

Dianne's Garden: ELGT would like to know what is needed there. MB to liaise with the current volunteers.

**6 Tree Warden:** AF has contacted the Parks Officer suggesting more tree and wildflower planting to promote biodiversity. AF suggests a gradual extension, bearing in mind that what we plant requires an increase in maintenance activities.

Butterbur: There was more diversity of species later in the year after the clearing early in 2023, so this is worth repeating. Monitoring of species will demonstrate the value of clearing: he suggested schoolchildren could do this.

The orchard trees need to be fed.

AB mentioned that several cherry trees from the most recent planting appear dead. MB will contact ELGT about this, as they carried out the planting.

**7. Committee vacancy:** Thanks were expressed to Alice Nelson for her committee work, particularly her very eye-catching editions of Valley Voice. LF has offered to produce Valley Voice in future. We need at least one new committee member, preferably two as LF wishes to step back for a while. Some personal approaches will be made to Friends who often turn out to volunteer, as well as an email request to all members.

**8. Valley Voice winter edition:** Thanks to the contributors, who sent in so many items that AN has prepared two versions: all items are included in the electronic version, but fewer in a 4-page version for printing (for those Friends who do not use email, and for noticeboards.)

**9. New shed:** PB applied for Council funding 8 months ago, but there have been delays in decisions over grants. He suggests we go ahead and order (cost £1170 including

installation by the manufacturer) in the expectation of a grant. Agreed. PB will chase up the laying of slabs for the foundation by the Council.

**10. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.