

Committee Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026 @ 7.30p.m.

1 Present: Paul Bailey, Steve Ambler, Brian Smith, Richard Bush, Arthur Trew, Ian Vandeppear, Barbara Richardson, Alan Fleming, Alastair Bruce, Margaret Bruce
Apologies: Brian Barron

2 Matters arising from last meeting:

- Insurance: The decision was made not to take out trustee indemnity on the basis that it appeared not to add anything useful. The premium was about £40 more than last year.
- Army involvement in Rowan Tree Bridge: No further progress.
- Theatre plinth: MB reported that she had had no responses to requests for use of copyright materials (photos & programmes). Copyright belongs to the performers. RB suggested having artists' impressions of the operas/plays; MB to check whether this would be permitted. Sub-committee will review the materials available.
- Tree Trail: RB reported that the Council are supportive of the project. David Kyles will advise their preferred suppliers for the plaques. BR was thanked for her donation towards the plaques.

3 AGM: This has now been fixed for Sunday March 1st, 2.00. The papers are in order:
Thanks expressed to SA and AB for their work on this.

4 Membership Secretary's report: AB reported that membership numbers remain steady. Acting on a suggestion made at last year's AGM, he had arranged with David Kyles, Parks Officer, for a permanent sign similar in style to the bridge names to be added to one or two of the bridges: it/they will inform people of the role of FOBVP and encourage them to join us.

5 Tree Warden's Report: AF reported that the Dirty Weekenders are keen to follow up on their work in the new wildflower areas; more seeds were sown in the Autumn. He hopes to organise a group for pruning the willow dome on February 8th. BS suggested some of the prunings could be used, e.g. for fencing. One of the intended wildflower beds has become covered with aspen seedlings, and they need pruning. Two trees donated last summer have been planted, a willow by the burn, and a silver birch on the slope below the mural.

6 Volunteer Co-ordinator's Report: BS suggested a Volunteer Day in the near future. AB felt the old-style clean-up days which brought family groups and the wider public should still continue, as they drew attention, and sometimes new members, to FOBVP. It was agreed that a Sunday afternoon in March should be for both specific tasks and more general clean-up, as they bring in different groups.

7 Valley Voice: In line with the constitution, this should be circulated 21 days before the AGM, so by February 8th. Lucy Frankel is happy to edit again.

8 Safeguarding Policy: MB had circulated a revised version, noting that there is a duty to check annually that it remains appropriate. She had checked with Volunteer Scotland and been advised that none of our activities requires trustees to have PVG/Disclosure. The new policy was approved and will be posted on the website.

9 Trustee numbers: Susan Imlach wishes to stand down but continue her input into Tea in the Park. Many thanks to her for her contribution to FOBVP. All other trustees will stand again; we have one vacancy on the committee.

10 Any Other Business:

- AT is concerned about the gate leading to Comiston Springs Avenue which is often left open – dogs could easily stray out. We agreed to suggest to David Kyles, Parks Officer, that this and the intermediate gate onto Comiston Road should have notices, possibly spring-loading on the gate, to ensure they are kept shut. AB had drawn to DK's attention an incident where a quad bike or similar vehicle had apparently been driven around a wide area of grass, tearing it up in places, and DK had undertaken to make it possible to keep those gates closed. This may need some welding work so will take time.
- BR had seen a dipper in the burn, and supplied a photo – a welcome sight as it suggests the water is fresh and clean for birds and their sources of food. She had also seen a flock of redwings.

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd March 2026.

Date of AGM: Sunday March 1st 2026, 2.00 pm (refreshments available from 1.45)