

**Friends of Barshaw Park
Committee Meeting
13 March 2017
At Rowantree Café, 165 Glasgow Road, Paisley, PA1 3LE**

1. Present:

Name:	Initials
Allan Thompson (FOBP Chair)	AT
Robert Rooney (FOBP Committee Member)	RR
James McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)	JM
Irene McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)	IM
Eddie Murphy (FOBP Committee member)	EM
Pat Kelly (FOBP Treasurer)	PK
John Burton (Vice Chair)	JB
Carolyn Foran (Committee Member)	CF
Karen Sutherland	KS

Apologies: Allan Wallace (Committee Member), Joni Taylor (Committee Member), John Burton (Vice Chair), Michael Fedigan (Committee Member)

1. Welcome.

AT welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced mark Faichney from Renfrewshire District Council

2 Renfrewshire Council Report - Mark Faichney

The principal contractor for the improvements to the park has been appointed. Advance works will be finished this week. The playground equipment will arrive this week. The winning design is impressive but can't be revealed yet.

In response to a query from KS, MF confirmed access to Walled Garden okay for this coming weekend for volunteers. KS noted that general housekeeping at walled garden improved, debris lying about has been removed.

MF conformed that the coping stones revealed by the works will be set aside by the gardeners.

Bollards will be installed on walled garden path. These will be a historic style.

Graffiti is not offensive but looks messy. MF will arrange for dark red cover up paint to be removed and a more sympathetic colour used to hide graffiti.

Both conifers are on the list for removal, but will ensure that in the meantime branches are trimmed to improve vision into the corner. The conifers are too big for the garden.

KS and IM had asked about installing a dog agility course, but MF advised that the one at Knockhill was not used and had become just another dog toilet.

Dog mess is a problem in the park and in area generally. The consensus was that something more should be done to deter owners from not clearing up after their dogs. MF said dogs should be under control, though the definition is woolly. Wardens are the answer. Has been an increase in anti-social behaviour in Renfrewshire parks, such as lighting fires.

MF stated that re the Development Officer appointment, a scheme of delegation and job description are about ready.

RR asked if there are dates for the schedule of works. MF advised that he should have them after the meeting next week and will email them to RR.

RR advised that Strathclyde University students would be visiting the pond on 28 March to test their designs, but it may not be possible due to the works. MF will let RR know.

MF lead time on the playpark not anticipated before June.

CF asked if the area next to the BMX track could be suitable for a wildflower garden. MF said a drainage ditch would be there so good for wildflower planting. There would be opportunity for tree planting later on as trees being ordered for other areas in the town, Lots of areas in the park for tree planting. Could replace the hedge which has been removed.

Trees will be planted parallel to Glasgow Road, as may help to control flooding.

JM asked about contact details for the site manager. MF replied he was meeting him tomorrow and will pass on details

JM confirmed the door had arrived for the ticket office.

KS confirmed that sole access to the tool-shed has been given to FOBP

RR asked about a portable energy lamp as no power in the tool-shed.

CF asked about developing the outbuildings at the walled garden. MF said this could be a project for FOBP.

Re the new playpark, MF advise no wheelchair swing of safety reasons but the site will cater for a wide range of abilities. There will be safe bark surfaces.

EM asked about installing equipment for children in the outdoor gym, but MF advised that that type of equipment had been trialled in the USA but not recommended for children under 12. MF advised there will be a lot of sensory play equipment, and the equipment is very robust and a contingency had been set aside for repair and replacement. There has been good experience with similar equipment elsewhere.

MF advised that Ken Gray will attend FOBP AGM on 10 April. This concluded MF's contribution and he left the meeting.

2.Minutes of last meeting

Proposed by EM and seconded by KS

4. Matters Arising

KS hasn't been able to contact Karen Keane but will keep trying

We were too late to book a place for KS at the TRELIS workshop.

Website RR reports it keeps crashing. He will take a copy of the screen and forward it to KS who will liaise with Berserk Computers.

Berserk Computers are working on improving our website so we can upload videos.

IM will tell Berserk computers to go ahead and change providers.

TripAdvisor – No one seems to have ownership of Barshaw park on TripAdvisor. KS will contact Julie at communications at Renfrewshire Council, as MF says she's our contact.

KS. We have registered for it's Your Neighbourhood, who provide support and resources, important dates and themes) and are awaiting approval. Report on the theme Birds Bees & Trees. Park will be assessed between May and September. It may have to be postponed depending on state of the works.

We have applied for funding to Greener Britain. To include new door for tool-shed additional tools and 16 peace roses.

Re the Heritage Lottery, KS has a meeting next week with Caroline Verdie an expert in Belgian refugees.

KS will also be meeting with the Scouts.

Our gardening branch had its first meeting. Lots of knowledge and enthusiasm. Planting schemed completed. Some areas may have to be filled temporarily.

IM will make a display for AGM highlighting FOBP work in the walled garden.

Ks – we have an offer of 2 azaleas from a supporter. Gardeners will decide on location.

The next garden tidy is 18 March.

Douglas Yates has been in touch to say he can provide lots of volunteers but there is difficulty in finding

tasks for so many to work in the garden at once. Clearing and setting up the tool shed is one possible task.

KS will contact Kibble about how the work of refurbishing the benches is coming along. This may be work other volunteers could do too.

There has been some dog damage to the planting. Should we ask for another No Dogs Allowed sign? Re the Scouts, can they provide a new burgee/flag for the clubhouse for centenary?

5. Update from Chair

Nothing to add to what MF and KS had said.

6. Development Officer's Report

Covered in matters arising

Should we include known maintenance and advance works agreed with KG?

Some fb friends have requested to see the plan. There is no written plan at the moment. Agreed we're uncomfortable with talk of masterplan as there isn't one. So we're not working to any masterplan.

7. Secretary's Report

OSCR have extended our deadline for submitting our accounts
There has been good engagement with supporters on facebook.
CF will send a calendar for dates and themes to KS

8. Treasurer's Report

Balance is £2932.75

OSCR. Accounts submission. Will be signed off by competent person as Accountant away.

Bank Account funds not yet transferred from old account. PK will do this manually.

Bags of Help. Tesco required more detail but don't fund Park Run. PK also had to rewrite comments. The first award has been reduced to £4000. Groundwork contacted PK and will keep him up to date on progress.

Berserk Computers – confirmed okay to pay invoice for upgrading website.

9. Update from PSME

The new door for the ticket office has been installed. It is substantial.

EM enquired if it could be used as a store but the keyholder is unknown at the moment.

Civil works for the loading ramp are almost complete.

There was flooding in February and March.

The train should be running in April.

A discussion followed on possible tasks for volunteers in the railway area, such as planting containers, painting railings (EM could get a group together) Corporate volunteers may supply materials. Appoint of caution was the possible rotten state of some railing uprights.

CF suggested the Scouts could carry out a survey of the walled garden, install bug hotels

10. Update from PMYC

Awaiting dates from MF to see if sailing will be affected. The pond flooded and Renfrewshire council supplied sandbags which are now in the pond. The council responded quickly to the report of flooding.

AOB

PK West End Community Council getting a piece of land for a community Garden. Transfer of Assets. Do we wasn't to revisit a community garden in Barshaw? PK happy to approach the council again. PK will make presentation at AGM.

Animal centre remains closed because of Newcastle Disease.

Lat year's AGM minutes and date of next AGM to be posted on Facebook and website.

AT thanked everyone for their attendance and the date of the AGM was set for 10 April at 7.30pm in Rowantree Café. The committee will meet beforehand at 7pm for a short meeting.

Actions :

Action	Owner	Date logged	Date Actioned
Investigate cost of a storage container			
Publicise our application to Tesco's Bags of Help Fund	KS	14/11/16	
Check HMRC Guidelines on mileage	IM		

