

**Friends of Barshaw Park
Annual General Meeting
11 April 2016
At Rowantree Café, 165 Glasgow Road, Paisley, PA1 3LE**

1. Present:

Name:	Initials
Allan Thompson (FOBP Chairman)	AT
Pat Kelly (FOBP Treasurer)	PK
Allan Wallace (FOBP Committee Member)	AW
Faye Carruthers (FOBP Committee Member)	FC
Robert Rooney (FOBP Committee Member)	RR
Nick Wojciechowski (FOBP Committee Member)	NW
Joni Harris	JH
James McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)	JM
Irene McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)	IM

Minutes: Irene McDonald (Committee Member)

The Chairman, AT, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Apologies: John Burton (Vice chair FOBP Committee), Emma Flynn (Secretary FOBP Committee), Gaynor Currie (FOBP Committee Member)

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were agreed, proposed by JH and seconded by IM. No matters arising.

2. Annual Report

The report is appended in Appendix I

3 Election of Office Bearers

AT re-elected as Chairman, proposed by FC, seconded by AW.

JB re-elected as Vice Chair, proposed by AT, seconded by PK

EF had previously indicated that she wishes to continue as Secretary, as was re-elected, proposed by AT, seconded by JH

PK re-elected as Treasurer, proposed by RR, seconded by AW

4 Nomination of co-opted members

During the year, EF and JM had been co-opted onto the committee temporarily. Both wish to stay on.

EF was proposed by IM, seconded by AT

JM was proposed by AW, seconded by PK

FC and NW resigned as committee members, due to pressure of other commitments. Last year, the constitution was changed to allow 3 Office Bearers, and 10 committee

members. For a quorum, an attendance of at least one third is required.

5 Appointment of Accounts Verifier. Accounts Audited

Alistair McKenzie of Hawkhead Road, Paisley has been appointed as Accountant. He has agreed to act for us next year, and this year's accounts have been signed off. The accounts are appended in Appendix ii. Our income came in from grants and amounted to £4232. We have incurred £270 expenses, leaving a balance of £3862 in the bank. The premium for Trustee Indemnity Insurance is now due.

It was agreed we would move FOBP account to Cooperative Bank in view of problems experienced with Bank of Scotland. The Cooperative Bank account allows on line banking and pay ins at local Post office branches. Three signatories are required. These will be: AT, PK & EF.

6 Renfrewshire Council Presentation from Andy Summers

AS presented an update on where we're going with Barshaw Park. Renfrewshire council have passed a motion to invest £2.4M in Renfrewshire parks. The details includes provisions that the focus must be on community and that a detailed prioritised programme must be developed, i.e. a search for external funding, must be community led, e.g. Friends of Barshaw Park. The investment plan is being put into action. £1M is to be invested in Barshaw Park. We have a shopping list, but we can't afford everything, so outside funding must be sought too. A priority is the pond, and outside tenders will be sought for the necessary repairs.

Work is ongoing on our Heritage Lottery bid. Two interns are coming to the end of their placement with the Council but will be asked to stay to work on the bid. The Heritage Lottery bid ties in with the Town Centre regeneration and the City of Culture bid.

Engineers will be asked to come up with detailed costings of worked required in the Park and will be prioritised according to need and in consultation with FOBP. The costings should be complete by the end of May. The Heritage Lottery deadline is the end of August. There will also be further consultation, surveys, schools involved, etc. in June.

AS is preparing a report for the Environmental Policy Board on where we are with proposals for Barshaw Park and other parks in Renfrewshire. Should be ready for approval in August.

A discussion then followed on the points arising from the preceding statement.

FOBP have started work on a business plan, but AS advised that this should come out of our Stage 1 Heritage Lottery bid. We will also have to look at ways of securing more outside funding as matched funding is always required in a successful Lottery bid. We could look at separate funding to restore the Walled Garden, and consider application to the World War 1 Fund and Parks for All. AS will arrange a meeting with Paisley Model Engineering Club about desired

improvements of model railway.

We then discussed problems which had been raised at previous meetings.

Toilets

Toilets are not open to the public and staff at the cafe have been receiving complaints from members of the public, who then ask to use the toilets in the cafe which should be for customers only. AS advised that emergency repairs had been authorised. Contractors have been employed to give the toilets a deep clean every day and council staff will still routine clean every day. It was reported that toilets are flooding. AS will have this investigated.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

There have been less problems since the lighter nights have come in. There has been some damage in the walled garden caused by benches being moved to create “dens” for drinking and smoking, and fires being lit. There has been support on Facebook for locking the gates in the evening but staff would have to do this at 5.30 pm which we agreed was too early in the Summer. Instead, the wardens will be asked to monitor the walled garden more closely. The wardens phone number to be publicised on Facebook and webpage and Friends and members of the public encouraged to report anti-social behaviour.

7 Robert Rooney Report on Model Yacht Club and Pond, and on World War 1 Heritage

In 2015 there had been no sailing from May to October because the pond was choked with weed. In October the club hosted an event to celebrate the 120th anniversary of its founding. The trophy was presented by the Mark McMillan, Leader of the Council. The event was covered in Paisley Daily Express. STV also made a film about the club for their Riverside Programme. FOBP was promoted too in the newspaper and tv reports.

Recently 15 Naval Architecture students from Strathclyde University brought their designs to try out in the pond after testing in the Maryhill tank. Students from West of Scotland University media studies course filmed the opening race of the year. It is hoped that the students' naval architecture visit will become a regular occurrence. Would also like to invite previous students to the park to see how their careers have progressed. Paisley Model Yacht Club historically have strong links with academia and are maintaining these links.

The Yacht Event Calendar is on Renfrewshire Council's website. The activities of the club tie in with bid for City of Culture, and Heritage Lottery bid.

There is a major event in May, the Scottish Open Championships. There may be an open day for the public before the event.

WW1 Lottery

Any application has to come from the owner of the Park, i.e. Renfrewshire Council. Must be done by 2019. People associated with WW1 and the park include, Belgian refugees, and soldiers recuperating in Barshaw House and in the walled garden. The pond was donated by shipbuilding owner William Bow who built ships for the Royal Navy in WW1. He also donated a reward to the first person to shoot down a Zeppelin. In 1920 a WW1 a tank was on display in the park.

Ideas to commemorate WW1 include a WW1 heritage trail, contemplation area in the walled garden, memorial monuments, and QR codes explaining WW1 connections. The WW1 Lottery is undersubscribed. Any bid must be community led. These ideas will have to be costed, RR and PK will arrange a meeting to discuss.

James McDonald on Model Railway

Considering having an open day when Friends of Barshaw park and members of the public could learn and have a turn at driving the train. Would be publicised through Paisley Daily Express and social media.

The club would also like users to share their photos and memories of the “wee train.” Some users are third generation customers. During discussions with the consultants, Gillespies, opportunities had been identified to help people with mental health issues, particularly men. Agencies such as Mens Shed and Breathing Space could be involved and this could attract funding.

AS will arrange meeting with P MEC to further discuss future development of the model railway.

Any Other Business

IM asked about training for Charity Trustees of FOBP. This is something which OSCR states as a requirement for Trustees. AT will ask Engage Renfrewshire if training can be arranged.

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The Chairman concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and work throughout the past year. The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 9 May 2016.