

**Friends of Barshaw Park  
Committee Meeting  
13 June 2016  
At Rowantree Café, 165 Glasgow Road, Paisley, PA1 3LE**

**1. Present:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Allan Thompson (FOBP Chairman)	AT
Allan Wallace (FOBP Committee Member)	AW
Robert Rooney (FOBP Committee Member)	RR
Joni Taylor (FOBP Committee Member)	JT
James McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)	JM
Irene McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)	IM
Andy Summers Renfrewshire Council	AS
Iain McKenzie ( Paisley Model Engineering Club )	IMcK
Billy ( Paisley Model Engineering Club )	
Eddie Murphy ( FOBP Volunteer )	EM

**Apologies:** John Burton (Vice chair FOBP Committee), Emma Flynn (Secretary FOBP Committee),

**Minutes:** Irene McDonald (Secretary )

The Chairman, AT, welcomed everyone to the Committee Meeting and invited Pat Kelly, Treasurer to start off the meeting by delivering the Treasurer's Report.

**Bank account**

PK reported that the bank account has still not been opened at Cooperative Bank. It was agreed that as IMcD is acquainted with Paul McShane, the Manager of the Glasgow Branch, she would ask for his assistance in progressing matters.

**Insurance**

The insurance has been renewed on same terms as last year, for Public Liability and Trustees Indemnity. PK has personally paid the premium as cheque signatories are still Andrew Ramsay, Vivien McGuire and Allan Thompson. AT will arrange for cheques to be signed to reimburse PK and to pay an invoice received from Kibble Works.

AT then invited Andy Summers from Renfrewshire Council to update the committee.

AS advised that there was not so much to update. He reported that he had a good meeting with the Railway Club (PSME )

The SUDS will not be built. An engineering solution will be found to the flooding problem, probably upstream on Golf Club land.

Renfrewshire Council will support PSME in developing and obtaining volunteers. Interns are currently working on the Lottery bid application and it should be ready by August. AT requested that the interns attend our next meeting to update the committee on their progress.

**Barshaw Gala Day:** Will be on 18 June. AS will arrange a stand for FOBP. Mark Faichney will contact us. JT needs to know requirements re food stand locations. Gala Day will not be on such a big scale this year. In future the Events Team will take over, leading up to the Year of Culture.

AS to confirm arrangement for Golf Club Car Park as PSME may require extra space

for visitors.

**Pond:** Renfrewshire Council have dragged the pond. RR stated that he had observed the 2 workers doing this. The workers were unsuccessful in clearing the pond. AS can get a contractor to do this properly. The last option is to drain the pond and clear the weed. We have previously agreed this will be part of the Lottery bid. Other options were suggested such as introducing another invasive weed, but RR and others were not in favour of this. RR suggested grass carp to eat the weed. RR suggested not allowing water to flow into the pond from the golf course as this water contains nitrated and other elements which feed and encourage growth of vegetation in the pond. RR stated there may be an environmental solution. The pond should be properly repaired – drained sludge cleared and get back to the clay base. This is to be included as part of the redevelopment of the pond anyway.

**Ticket Office Door** is still off. AS will chase this up with Property Services.

**Benches** New Benches not yet in situ. AS will chase up.

**BMX Track** Was previously mentioned that running repairs costing £10/£20k can be done. This is still on the agenda, AS has not been able to pursue this so far.

**Fake Festival** No news on this, but will chase up.

**Caribbean Festival** Date set for 20 August but due to lack of funding there is a chance it may not go ahead.

**AS Moving On**

AS is moving from his position at Renfrewshire Council to a new post at Highland Council. He will start at Highland Council in August, but he will attend FOBP meeting in July. No replacement for him at Renfrewshire Council has been appointed yet.

AS left the meeting and the Committee meeting continued per the agenda.

1. **Minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.** 2 amendments agreed: a) JB attended last meeting b) RR suggests contacting Woodland Trust re WW1 Memorial oak.

Proposed by AW. Seconded by RR.

2. **Matters Arising**

a) IMcD has not been able to print from FOBP printer so guidelines for Trustees and OSCR return not available. JMcD will take a look at printer. OSCR return to be completed by December.

b) Leaflet drop. Faye Carruthers will sponsor a leaflet. IMcD to design a leaflet. Interested parties to be invited to join by emailing us or dropping in to cafe to leave contact details. We need committee members, supporters and volunteers.

c) Ralston Community Games. Date set for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. AW and IMcD will man the FOBP stand

d) Preparations for Barshaw Gala Day. Our display board should feature stories of WW1. Photos can be lifted from RR's research on the WW1 connection. IMcD will print photos for Gala Day. EM and AW will man FOBP stand. We need more stock of promotional items such as balloons, badges and leaflets, but little time to order these before the gala day.

e) WW1 memorial. Ideas include a trail centrepiece, display in walled garden. Trail could have QR codes to explain WW1 connections. We can apply for up to £10k

grant from lottery. The park owner needs to apply. RR and Pk to meet up to discuss the application as PK has experience in grant applications.

f) Walled garden clean up. JT offered to let FOBP store gardening equipment in the cafe. We will buy a first aid kit and tools when funds allow and bank account opened.

f) Trustee training. An evening session will be arranged.

### **3. Report from PSME**

JMcD reported on behalf of the Society. A youtube page has been set up. Currently there are 3 films to view.

Rubbish is accumulating in the park again. It is cleared away every week by PSME. There is also evidence of fires being lit in the railway area.

The meeting with AS was mostly about SUDS but that plan has now been abandoned. The ticket office door is to be replaced.

Volunteers at the railway has been raised by AS and in a meeting with AT and PSME. AT had contacted local groups to promote volunteering but there has been no response. EM suggested it may be more appropriate to contact Army Cadets, local colleges and University where those with an interest in engineering may be found. PSME to decide on a plan to attract volunteers and thereby new members.

*AT asked to minute the misunderstanding about attracting new volunteers for the 'society of model engineers'. It's felt by the PSME that volunteering can not be about fund raising for other groups as PSME funds are tight, and it was agreed that the groups contacted by Allan would have many members under 16 who could not operate the trains or be insured. Over 16 is the only criteria. It was also agreed that the model railway society would promote the benefits of volunteering to attract volunteers who might need volunteering hours for eg Duke of Edinburgh or Baden Powell, or simply for experience. The overall aim of attracting volunteers is that they may become future members, and this was confirmed by model railway committee members present.*

### **4. AOB**

a) RR reported a burst drain between the Nature corner and the main path at the bench. Looks like a burst sewer. RR will send photo and details to AT

b) JT reported that the toilets have been locked again. To be reported to AS for action.

c) JMcD will Organise Walled Garden Tidies if possible.

d) RR has been researching a possible cause of flooding in the park, and has evidence that the source may be the Lady Burn whose course has been diverted by works over the years. RR's report is attached as Appendix 1.

e) Media. JMcD has been transferring archive VT to digital media. JMcD suggests that a tv screen is installed in Rowantree cafe showing these films and slideshows of photos, subject to copyright permissions, if required. JT confirmed the cafe would be happy to accommodate the tv screen.

AT thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. The next meeting will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **Actions:**

Contractor to clear pond weed

Renfrewshire Council

<b>Repair to ticket office door</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council</b>
<b>Arrange stall and parking for Gala Day</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council</b>
<b>New benches to be installed</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council</b>
<b>BMX Track repairs</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council</b>
<b>Burst sewer near animal corner to be repaired</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council</b>
<b>Ensure toilets cleaned and unlocked</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council</b>
<b>Contact Manager of Local Cooperative Bank</b>	<b>ImcD</b>
<b>Cheques to reimburse PK and pay Kibble invoice</b>	<b>AT</b>
<b>Repairs to fobp printer</b>	<b>IMcD &amp; JmcD</b>
<b>Leaflet Design</b>	<b>ImcD</b>
<b>Print new Photos for Gala Day display</b>	<b>IMcD</b>
<b>Arrange dates for walled garden clean up</b>	<b>IMcD</b>

I have been thinking about the root cause of the Barshaw Park flooding and did some investigating.

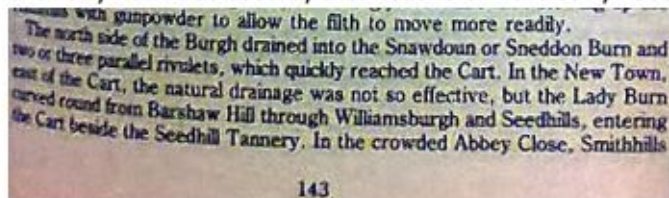
We know that the park was purchased in 1911 and it was originally the gardens of James Arthur. The grounds underwent some work to make it fit before opening to the public in 1912. The bowling green, golf course and pond were designed by the well renowned groundsman JR Stutt who would not have omitted good drainage in his designs.

We know that the North side flooding is a recent occurrence within say the last ten years, so what has changed?

I remember that seeing that whilst a company were excavating foundations that were being built at the top of a hill, each morning the hole was full of water. A water diviner was called in and a spring was discovered underground at the top of the hill.

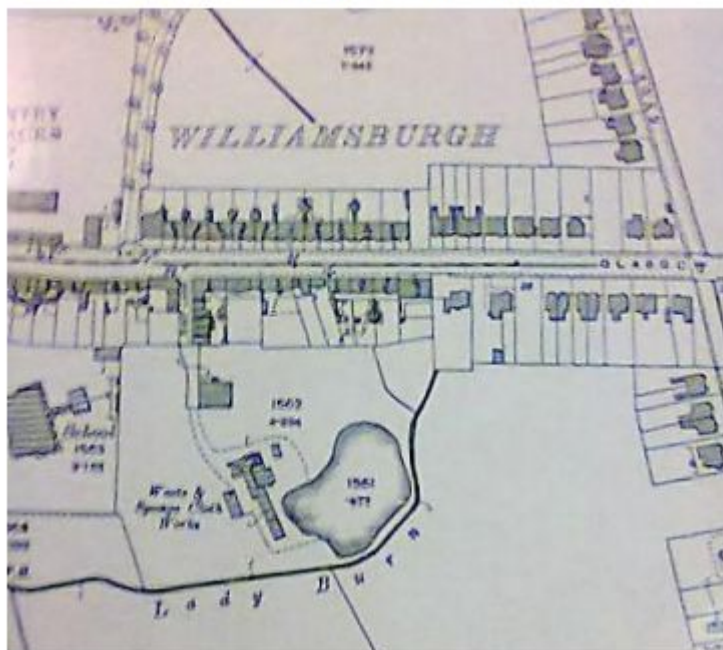
This got me thinking, could it be a stream that's the issue?

I went to the Heritage library and came across a Paisley History book that was discussing the early Paisley sewage system and the drainage burns that originally acted as open sewers. It stated that the **Lady Burn curved round from Barshaw Hill through Williamsburgh and Seedhills**. Another book said the Lady Burn was used by the Bleachers in the early 1800s for their water source.



This looked encouraging, so next stage was to check if there are any old maps that would show the Lady Burn course.

The 1900 map shows the Lady Burn crossing the Glasgow Road and disappearing, then another section is displayed before it goes underground again. This ties in with the above statement as Williamsburgh starts west of Arkleston Road.



I searched for an older map and came across the 1796 map of east Paisley below that shows the Old Road that ran through the now Barshaw park beside the new road that was built to avoid your horse drawn cart having to be pulled up over the steep hill.... The new road later being named Glasgow Road.



The above map shows the Old and New roads (ignore the black straight lines on the map, it's a fold that has photocopied). It shows Byres Hill and Oldhall. To the left of the words Oldhall it says Burn Head. . So is this the source of the Nile? Could be given the map scale?

So what has caused the change in the park to cause the flooding?

In the 1990s the Parks



*Extended width of Tarmac covering drainage route and trees planted*

dept. laid a new drainage channel consisting of clay pipes bedded on sand and covered with sand before recovering with earth. Apparently, the clay pipes were broken before they were covered with the topsoil. This drainage channel ran down the side of the north walkway and the water flow was diverted into the pond as part of the project.



*Diverted water now entering pond*

So the original water course route out the park looks like it was changed. The water now ran into the pond, down the level overflow and piped to the town rainwater drainage system at the Arkleston/ Glasgow Road junction. At this time the north pathway width was also extended with tarmac completely covering the previously exposed drainage channel which may not have helped the problem. Trees were also planted along the golf course walkway that again may have disrupted the drainage pattern. The only sources of water in the original design of the pond was water supplied from the Arkleston Road town water main and the return water from the Bailie Fisher drinking fountain, so this is a definite change.

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The drainage channel would have functioned for some time as the water would find its way down hill but this may now have choked as the sand eventually blocked the flow and the trees grew.

Speaking to people I was informed that the Lady Burn starts somewhere under the red ash area at the Oldhall Road end of the park. This fits in with the Burn Head location on the 1796 map when the scale is considered. This area was filled in with the remnants of flowers etc. from the crematoria and town parks then covered with red ash as the area was swampy and nothing would grow in it. The water running down the hill may be high in nitrates from the golf course fertiliser leaching in but it may also be picking up leachate from the decaying material in the red ash area.

This also adds to a reason why the boating pond is now showing large accumulations of algal growth in recent years since the water was diverted into it as algal blooms and weeds are a consequence of higher nitrate levels. The fish debris also does not help the nitrate levels.

The weather has been warm and dry for the past 3 weeks with no rain and the water is still flowing into the pond. This augments the theory that this is not just surface water run-off and may indeed be the Lady Burn.

There are SEPA regulations concerning land drainage and watercourses that RDC as the riparian owner, will be aware of. It does however raise an obvious question to the layman that diverting the flood water, whatever its point of origin, into the proposed SUDS in the middle of the railway will always be subject to a constant in flow of water and may never go empty. The large volume of storm water that it will be required to cope with will have to soak away but where will it go? Will it establish a new Lady Burn route? A Hydrogeological study would be required to establish this along with the pressure a full SUDS will exert on the banking/ground adjacent to the pond.



*Water still flowing after long dry spell*

That's my theory of where the park flooding is coming from and my source of the Nile.