

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

1. Present:

Name:	Initials
Allan Thompson (FOBP Chairman)	AT
Allan Wallace (FOBP Committee Member)	AW
Robert Rooney (FOBP Committee Member)	RR
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), Pat Kelly (Treasurer FOBP Committee)

Minutes: Irene McDonald (Committee Member)

The Chairman, AT, welcomed everyone to the Committee Meeting and invited Andy Summers from Renfrewshire council to start the meeting by giving us an update.

1. Update from Andy Summers, Renfrewshire Council.

AS firstly addressed outstanding matters from previous meeting in 11 April. The weed in the pond is an issue. Will be difficult to eradicate without dragging the pond. Weed killer is ineffective. There is a chemical available which works by blocking sunlight and kills the weed by preventing photosynthesis. This will be used in the pond.

Work is ongoing on the Heritage Lottery bid. Repairs to the pond will be included in the bid. At the moment a £1.8m investment is required. £0.8m to come from an outside source and £1m from Renfrewshire Council.

Phase 1 of the HL bid will include a £50,000 feasibility fund. The project must be sustainable. Must include a business plan and address how to include volunteers in the Heritage aspect.

Renfrewshire council are working on drawing up plans/design. Should be ready by the end of May and will go out to tender. Start date to be October 2016 with completion by Spring 2017.

Phase 2. application to Lottery Fund

As has arranged to meet separately with Paisley Model Engineering Club on 18 May. The purpose is to discuss long term aspirations for P MEC and where we are going in the medium and long term.

Barshaw Gala Day will be on 18 June. (earlier in the month than usual as there is an Orange Walk in the town on 25 June) From next year Renfrewshire Council's Events Team will take on the organisation of the Gala Day. This will tie in with other events & the 2021 City of Culture bid.

AS met with Gillespies, the landscape architects. Jon Simmons from Gillespies produced a plan in January. Jon has left Gillespies and Steve Nelson from Gillespies is now helping with the Lottery application. Some changes will be made to the plan. There will be further consultation. It's felt that the weighting given to responses from the earlier review did not accurately reflect wishes of park users.

BMX track needs £100,000 to bring it up to a high standard, but cash will be sought to about £10/£20k level to make basic improvements and increase safety.

Renfrewshire Council wish to attract more events to the park. eg organisers are looking for a venue for a Fake Festival (for tribute bands)

AS has received the plan of suggested locations for 11 new benches. Can supply 7 or 8. Jock had some benches to be located on the hill for older/infirm to rest on.

REEM Festival date is 18 July.

RR reported that there is a hole in the fence at Oldhall Road/Kintyre Road
AT asked about flooding in tilets as noted at AGM. AS advised this had been repaired.

AS left and the meeting continued with the agenda.

2. Business Plan

Agreed that we should wait until Lottery funding application more advanced as this is a fundamental part of the application.

3.Minutes of last meeting

Proposed by AW, seconded by AT

Matters arising, not on the Agenda

a) Committee and Trustee training

Engage Renfrewshire can arrange training. AT will contact Stuart to arrange. Best if entire committee trained to cover if any trustee leaves.

b) Website

The website is now functioning again. There is much a reaction from public. Our facebook page gets more response.

c) Pond

The basket was choked and has now been cleared. But now the pond is full of weed. Seems to be a different type from last year.

d) AGM Minutes

Minutes of AGM of 11 April will be agreed at next AGM but they were reviewed and

JM requested that an error be corrected re comments made by Jon Simmons from Gillespies about the use of the railway.

3. Secretary vacancy/minute taker

Still waiting for minutes of March meeting. Emma Flynn has tendered her resignation as Secretary due to pressure of work, but will remain on the committee. Irene McDonald volunteered to undertake Secretary post for the time being, as Emma may wish to resume the post at a later date.
Proposed by AT, seconded by RR

4. Treasurer report - LAC/Bank account

PK was unable to attend the meeting, but had reported to AT. WE have £4000 but can't apply for more funding from LAC until this money has been spent. Some invoices have been received, eg, insurance, Kibble works. These have been paid by individuals to be reimbursed as soon as possible. PK advises that our new banks account is not yet set up . The required documentation has been submitted to Cooperative Bank.

5 OSCR - targeted regulation/committee training

OSCR advise that the annual statement is now due. We have until 16 December 2016 to submit it. Details to be attached to next AGM minutes.

6. Members leaflet/ PDE

Our new membership numbers are down. We should promote the membership on facebook and webpage. Put Allan's mobile number and email on FB and webpage. AW suggested website to be updated and old posts deleted.

Membership can be promoted at local events. No date yet for Ralston Community Games.

Faye Carruthers is sponsoring a promotional leaflet for her business which we could advertise on too.

JM suggested that having an engine on our stand at the Gala Day would attract interest . Maybe have a competition to guess weight of the engine?The railway will be running that day.

We should request a double stand at the gala day. IM will request members to send us their photos.

We need new photos for our display. Photos of yacht club and railway especially.

We will have leaflets printed for distribution. AT to design and IM to review.

IM to check stock of freebies.

Committee members to advise of their availability to man our stall at the Gala Day, so far AW and EM are available.

We should ask previous committee members, Christine , Vivien and Faye if they would like to help out at the Gala Day.

7. Clean up

EM suggested we try walled garden tidies on Wednesday lunchtime as there may be retirees who would like to help but are not available at weekends. We will try this and also every other Saturday. EM suggested using the old ticket office for tool

storage. JM said the door had been kicked in. Can we ask the council to repair it?
IM suggested a litter pick in the park.

8. AOB

Model Yacht Club update.

RR has discovered drawings of boathouse/clubhouse building.. He has also discovered plans for other buildings, such as waiting area near Arkleston Road entrance.

IM asked if these could be emailed to her and suggested we have them printed and framed. Could be shown at the Gala Day and perhaps in the cafe.

RR also has a video of boat race to be added to our webpage. Video made by a media student from West of Scotland University.

Yacht club had an article in Paisley Daily Express .

Strathclyde University Sailing Association had a reunion at the pond on 7 May.

Rest of the sailing season may be cancelled due to weed. A National Competition at the end of the month and a UK competition at the end of the year are now in jeopardy.

The Leader of the Council has been supportive of the Model Yacht Club in the past, and perhaps an appeal to him may expedite the removal of the weed. RR and AT to approach MM.

World War 1 memorial

William Low was a WW1 shipbuilder who gave a reward to the first person to shoot down a Zeppelin. The reward was paid a man who later died on the Western Front. WW1 connections with Barshaw park include:

Tank which was displayed in the park after the War.

Barshaw House was home to Belgian Refugees (91 of them)

It was also used as a centre of recuperation for injured WW1 soldiers. RR has traced many photos. Voluntary Aid Despatch ran Barshaw House then and received £1 4s 6p from the government for each soldier.

Recently Gavin Newlands MP was featured in PDE asking local organizations to apply for funding from Lottery for WW1 Projects.

We would like to establish a WW1 Memorial Trail in the park. In 1915 Belgian refugees planted an oak tree in the park to commemorate King Alberts Birthday. Unfortunately, was cut down in 1996, maybe due to rot.. We would like to plant a replacement.

Park Management Plan

To be on agenda for next meeting . Should be completed by September.

Facebook

Ensure Mark McMillan follows fobp on Facebook

AT thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting. The date of the next meeting is set for 13 June at 7pm in the Rowantree Cafe

Actions :

Pond weed to be eliminated	Renfrewshire Council
New benches to be installed	Renfrewshire Council
Hole in fence at Oldhall Road/Kintyre Road to be repaired	Renfrewshire Council
Contact Engage Renfrewshire to arrange committee training	AT
Update webpage and delte old posts	IM
Ask Friends to send us photos	IM
provide engine for display at Gala Day	PMEC
Design leaflets to promote fobp	AT
Check stock of freebies	IM
Ask Renfrewshire Council to repair ticket office door	AT
Print poster and promote walled garden tidies	IM
Email building plans to IM	RR
Print plans	IM
Approach Mark McMillan about the state of the pond	RR & AT
Contact Malcolms to ask for contribution to cost of replacing oak tree	IM
Invite Viven McGuire, Faye Carruthers and Christine McDowall to help at Gala Day	AT