

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

**1. Present:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Initials</b>
<b>Robert Rooney (FOBP Committee Member)</b>	<b>RR</b>
<b>James McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)</b>	<b>JM</b>
<b>Irene McDonald (FOBP Committee Member)</b>	<b>IM</b>
<b>Eddie Murphy (FOBP Committee member)</b>	<b>EM</b>
<b>Michael Fedigan FOBP member}</b>	<b>MF</b>
<b>John Burton ( Vice Chairman )</b>	<b>JB</b>
<b>Allan Wallace ( FOBP Committee Member)</b>	<b>AW</b>
<b>Ken Gray ( Renfrewshire District Council)</b>	<b>KG</b>

**Apologies: Allan Thompson (FOBP Chairman), Pat Kelly ( Treasurer Member), Joni Taylor ( FOBP Committee Member), Carolyn Foran (FOBP Member )**

**1. Welcome.**

John Burton Vice chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Ken Gray from Renfrewshire District Council

**2 Renfrewshire Council Report - Ken Gray**

Advance works have commenced in Barshaw park and will be on site for another 3 weeks. These are mainly civil works.

A discussion ensued about work that volunteers and CPT could do. KS stated we could have to 100 volunteers plus local Scouts. RR had previously met with CPT and advised that they need weekend work as some of those on the CPT are in employment. JM has some ideas about work which could be done by CPT or volunteers at the railway. RR will arrange a meet up with Karen Keane.

KG stated that there is a lot of civil work to be done and the more volunteers the better. Mark Faichney may come to the next meeting to brief us once he's got around the table with the contractors. KG will ask MF to give us a contact for any emergency.

KS requested that we be contacted if there is any change in the work schedule, e.g. the work in the car park was finished 3 days early.

Re volunteers working in the walled garden and other areas of the park, KS advised that she had spoken to the supervisor, Craig McFarlane. He is happy to meet and support us. We have an agreement that we can use chippings etc and any leftover plants ( volunteers planted left over wallflowers in the walled garden at the last clean up). KG said that planters had been removed from railings in the park as they were not being used and attracted litter. If volunteers wish to plant them up with donated plants there would be no objection.

EM asked about the empty container, but KG had no information on it. HE will speak to MF and get back to KS and AT.

Any snagging issues should to be reported to KG. RR reported that the footpath in front of Barshaw House had been broken up by the contractor's dumper truck.

JM raised the issue of the roller shutter which was awaited for the ticket office, but the majority view at the meeting was that the building was of no use and should be demolished, as it was a target for vandals who had broken in and had been lighting fires inside.

KM asked if there was to be a strategy to combat vandalism, such as more patrols, once the works are complete.

MF commented that RDC are using persons convicted of graffiti offences to paint murals in the town, in the hope that this could reduce vandalism. KG stated that some of CPT are graffiti artists and where they have painted murals there is no graffiti.

KM asked if wardens have seen the litter problems in the park, but KG responded that the wardens are only looking for community safety issues. KM pointed out that some benches need repair and that broken glass is an issue too. KG will ask for views on the vandalism issues.

KG left and the meeting continued.

### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

### **4. Matters Arising**

Already covered.

### **5. Update from Chair**

In the absence of AT, there was nothing to add to what KG had said

### **6. Development Officer's Report**

#### **Walled Garden**

10 volunteers attended the Walled Garden Clean Up on 11 February. The East 7 West borders need to be tidied up – possible work for CPT? KM has contacted B&Q about acquiring tools but has had no response. Dobbie's have declined as they already support other charities in the area. We urgently need tools to make our work in the walled garden more effective. General agreement was reached that we should withdraw £150 from FOBP bank account to purchase tools.

KM has contacted MF re the state of the paths in the walled garden. KM suggested a tarmac resin path, but MF advised it would be vulnerable to frost and moss.

Agreement has been reached with MF that volunteers may work in the walled garden outwith clean up sessions.

We should draw up a schedule of work, and planting scheme to be done in the walled garden over the next year. KM and IM will meet with the volunteer gardeners.

It was also agreed that Hi Viz vests should be supplied for garden volunteers. KM will order these and be reimbursed from funds.

We will need a secure place to store the tools. One possibility may be obtaining exclusive use of the toolshed in the walled garden as it does not seem to be actively used by council employees. KM will raise with Craig McFarlane.

MF advised that small storage containers are available for sale at a site in the St James area of Paisley and it was agreed it would be worthwhile investigating the costs.

TRELLIS

An organisation for know-how about therapeutic gardening, the art of using gardening to help people take care of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

They support a network of over 300 therapeutic gardening projects in Scotland so they can share skills, good practice and get connected.

Trellis runs training workshops and an information service

<http://www.trellisScotland.org.uk>

There is a conference on 9 March on Community Gardening. The conference Agenda includes Jim McColl masterclasses on herbs , sensory garden, treating volunteers fairly, arts & crafts and digging for dementia.

KM wishes to attend and perhaps AT will also go? Travel costs could be shared and FOBP will reimburse travelling on a mileage basis to be agreed and will meet attendance cost which is £50 for TRELIS subscribers. ( HMRC guidelines on mileage allowance to be consulted)

### **Newsletter**

A newsletter has been proposed with news of AGM.

### **Facebook**

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.

### **Photography Class**

Previously a Reid Kerr Student led a workshop in the park. Paisley photographic Society have agreed to stage a workshop in the walled garden. It will be a technical workshop and will also cover composition. Will probably be a Saturday morning as there are other activities in the park which could be photographed.

### **Earth Hour**

Not suitable this year due to the works ongoing. A 2018 celebration is suggested. Events could include : illuminated boats on the pond, light run, strip the willow. Music . IM to ask Susan McDonald about Sheboom coming along. 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in March.

### **Scouts**

Colin McKinnon is retiring and Colin Bell is replacing him. He will coordinate, Scouts, Beavers, Explorers. He can pull in other Scout groups in the District to do work in the park.

JM made suggestions for work to be done at railway including: Weeding paths, laying slabs, track paintwork after club's own civil works completed. Are the railings around the track to be replaced? Can we ask the council their intentions?

Chivas volunteers may help with clubhouse building and flagpole.

## **7. Secretary's Report**

Our return to OSCR has been rejected as the accounts are not in the form required. Are presently being redrafted for resubmission.

A meeting has been arranged with Berserk computers and IM and KM re our website.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

PK did not attend the meeting but had sent an update.

## **9. Update from PSME**

There has been more flooding to the railway so more work has been done because of that. The AGM is on 18 February. The maintenance and inspection period will follow. The railway will start to run in April, if the works in the park allow.

## **10. Update from PMYC**

The club have raised the issue of water drainage into the pond with local Councillor Eileen McCarten. The situation could impact residents in Arkleston Road, as there is a danger of flooding. There is already a history of flooding her, and the arrangement which is to be implemented will aggravate the problem. FOBP were not consulted on the changes, only told what had been decided. Eileen McCarten will raise the issue with the relevant parties and get back to us.

The pond has flooded twice recently. A suction tanker and a confined space working crew were brought in. At the December meeting with Renfrewshire Council, RR asked if work will be done to prevent recurrence but the answer was no. There is no plan to clean the grille at the pond. This is liable to be blocked by rubbish and cause flooding.

Also, all the water from paths will go in to the pond. The paths will be cambered towards the pond which will make them dangerous when icy.

## **AOB**

JM. There is a TripAdvisor page for Barshaw park which has no ownership. There is no information about the park and no responses to comments. This can be raised with Berserk computers at our meeting.

JB. Mrs Burton would like to organise other geocache event when the works n the park are completd. The last one was very successful.

JB concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. The next meeting will be on 13 march in Rowantree Café at 7pm.

