THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6th October 2026
at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling

Draft Minute of the 2026 AGM

1. WELCOME
David Leslie, Chair of the Friends of Kings Park (FKP), welcomed members and guests and thanked them for attending the 2026 AGM.

2. PRESENT
23 people attended the AGM:
Committee members David Leslie (chair), Neil Ross (deputy chair), Dora Kiraly (Secretary), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Hector Currie, John McCallum, Stuart Marshall, Wendy Garcia.
Members Andrew Hipkin, Angela Sword, Brian Sword, Dagmar Braun-Mackle, Dorothy Wilson, Jane Bone, Julia Marritt, Kenny Marritt, Lidia Becci, Maggie Inall, Maureen Whitelaw **Guests** Alva Lundmark, Daniel Day, Jamie Jack, Tom Selbach.
Carol Hipkin attended for the illustrated talk section.
Apologies Neil Fairweather, Moira Fairweather, Marguerite Nugent.

3. MINUTE OF AGM of 8th OCTOBER 2025
The minute was accepted as a correct record. Its approval was moved by David Leslie, seconded by Hector Currie. The membership **approved** the minute.

4. MATTERS ARISING
No matters raised.

5. THE CHAIR'S REPORT 2025-2026
The Chair's written report had been circulated by email, and it is now available on the Friends of Kings Park website or upon request from the Secretary.

The key aims for the past year had been

- Prioritising our gardening projects in the Park
- Progressing some maintenance issues
- Partnering other organisations willing to assist
- Providing social events for our members
- Promoting the Friends group and the Park to a wider audience.

Most volunteer time had been spent on gardening and maintenance in the park. David thanked Andrew and Carol for their lead on the Peace of Mind Garden. David also acknowledged Jane's work on the parterres and how park visitors enjoy the

educational signs telling them about the plants. The community garden and butterfly border have also benefited from the work of the volunteers, especially that of Maggie and Stuart. A new tree was planted in the apple orchard after a diseased tree had to be removed. David thanked Lidia for her leadership and expertise.

David also thanked Dagmar for leading the work on the border by the outdoor gym, and Maggie and Lidia for their planting schemes in the display stand and boxes near the tennis courts.

Friends of Kings Park continued to work together with Stirling Council Neighbourhood Services to address some of the bigger maintenance issues around the park. This included dealing with flooding at the pedestrian gates, the removal of invasive trees from the hedge behind the parterres, and removal of graffiti. FKP recognises that there are some bigger maintenance projects where the Council would require additional funding and resources to address the issues, such as ground maintenance between the Pavilion and the public toilets.

Thanks to the leadership of Hector Currie and funding from Stirling Council, a defibrillator has been installed in Kings Park. This is a great achievement that will make Kings Park a safer space for all visitors.

David also thanked the external partners we had the pleasure to work with in 2025/2026. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) visited the park three times to help with ad hoc projects. Member of the local Girlguiding group cleaned the mosaics in the park and learnt about the history of the area, and the local Beavers group helped clean the benches.

The Stirling Voluntary Enterprise has been a great partner this year, supporting FKP to reach new volunteers and raise our profile across Stirling.

Several social events were organised for members, including the Christmas party, a visit to Braehead Community Garden and trip to tour the Kings Park in Glasgow and meet the Friends group there. Members also enjoyed coffee mornings in the Pavilion and walks around the park.

In concluding his report, David thanked all volunteers for their activities and support over the year.

In response to the Chair’s report, Hector Currie raised the issue of FKP operating with very stretched resources. He said that Stirling Council should better recognise the importance of the park and put additional resources into the maintenance and improvement of it. Better communication and consultation would also be appreciated. Without stronger support from the Council, FKP will struggle to address projects in the park with its current funding and volunteer numbers.

A full report of activities is available in the chair's annual report.

Motion to accept the Chair's Report: moved by Dora Kiraly, seconded by Gordon Campbell. Members **accepted** the report.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Gordon introduced the 2025-2026 summary accounts, explaining that the Friends of Kings Park Stirling is a company limited by guarantee (which means in the event of a winding up, members registered are only liable to pay £1 each) and registered at Companies House *where the full accounts could be viewed*.

In 2025-2026, FKP has benefited from generous donations from its members and stakeholders, putting the charity in a stable financial position. Currently the charity holds £5054.34 in unrestricted funds. A full breakdown of income and expenditure is available in the treasurer's annual report.

Gordon thanked David Boyack auditor for supporting the accounting process.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: moved by Hector Currie, seconded by John McCallum. Members **accepted** the accounts.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair explained that the committee could have between 6 and 12 members. The constitution requires the election of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and other office bearers, as necessary.

Office Bearers

Position of **Chair**: David Leslie. Proposed by Hector Currie, seconded by Wendy Garcia.
Members **approved** David as Chair.
Position of **Vice-Chair**: Neil Ross. Proposed by David Leslie, seconded by Stuart Marshall.
Members approved Neil as Vice-Chair.
Position of **Secretary**: Brian Sword. Proposed by Dora Kiraly, seconded by John McCallum.
Members approved Brian as Secretary.
Position of **Treasurer**: The post of the treasurer received no nominations.

Retiring

Dora Kiraly and Gordon Campbell retired at this AGM. Both were thanked for their contribution to the work of the committee.

The Chair explained that Gordon will ensure that the submissions of our annual report and accounts and the updated director details are made to Companies House before he steps down from his role. The committee will continue to seek someone for the role and put in place interim arrangements to cover the tasks.

Ordinary Committee Members
All four existing ordinary committee members have agreed to continue serving on the committee, so Neil Ross proposed their re-election, seconded by Maggie Inall.
Members approved Hector Currie, Wendy Garcia, John McCallum, and Stuart Marshall as committee members.

Kenny Marritt was nominated as ordinary committee member by David Leslie, seconded by Brian Sword.
Members approved Kenny as a committee member.

No other nominations for new committee members have been received so that give us a total committee membership of 8 people with varied skills and interests to take the group forward in the coming 12 months. We will continue to pursue options for filling the treasurer role and hope to coopt someone in the short term.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT
BUSINESS There was no other business.

9. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The Chair thanked members and guests for attending. He reminded everyone that they are ambassadors for the park, promoting its value, attraction and amenities. We need to keep promoting the Friends group to grow our membership, our volunteer pool and our partnerships. This is important because next year is the 20th anniversary of our charity being formed. We need to start gathering ideas about how we mark that anniversary and all our successes over those years.

He closed the formal business of the AGM.

10. Illustrated Talk: The new historical walking trails "From a leaflet to a park that tells its own story", by Lidia Becci and Kenny Marritt

The Chair introduced Kenny and Lidia who talked about the new wayfinding website and the history of its creation. Full information can be found on Heritage Walking Trails and Map | King's Park Stirling

The evening closed with refreshments.

Minute Secretary Dora Kiraly
Chair David Leslie