

Minute from the Friends of Kings Park Committee Meeting, 10/11/2025

1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: David Leslie (DL) Chair, Neil Ross (NR) Vice-chair, Wendy Garcia (WG), John McCallum (JMC), Stuart Marshall (SM), Hector Currie (HC) minute-taker

Apologies: Dora Kiraly (DK), Gordon Campbell (GC),

DL welcomed JMC and SM as new committee members

2. Minute from 15th September Committee Meeting

The minute was approved.

Matters arising: Report on outstanding actions:

Item 3 (1) DL confirmed that the *Sharepoint Library* had been successfully trialled and access for the full committee would be followed-up at a later date.

ACT: Dora

Item 3 (2) DL reported that the issue of Gift Aid on donations was still to be resolved by DK and GC.

ACT: Dora and Gordon

Item 7 DL reported that he had a phone conversation with David Paterson of Stirling Golf Club who would like to keep the Friends Group involved in the progress of their clubhouse redevelopment plans.

ACT: David to invite David Paterson to our next committee meeting

3. Notes from AGM 2025 and Matters Arising

The draft minute was approved. Final approval at the 2026 AGM by the membership.

ACT: Dora to place the draft on the website.

It was agreed to discuss the effectiveness of the AGM at a future meeting.

4. Governance Briefing

(1) OSCR and Companies House rules JMC and SM had completed the Companies House requirements, Neil Fairweather's and Marguerite Nugent's names had been removed as trustees.

(2) ID verification deadline and Declaration Form. DL has met the requirement. HC, NR, WG, JMC and SM are still to be verified. Check needed for GC and DK. The *Declaration Form* has to be completed by all committee members.

ACT: All committee members to complete verification by 18th Nov. and complete the *Verification Form* and forward to Dora.

ACT: Dora to forward all completed forms to the charities regulator.

5. Finance Update

Donations of £163.60 had been received between 15th Sept. and 3rd Nov.

(1) Sue Hunter had nominated FKP as the sole beneficiary for donations from her funeral. Overall, £620 had been collected.

ACT: David to contact George Hunter to thank him for Sue's generous support for FKP and to seek his views on how the donations of £620 should be used. (See item 8(2)).

(2) It was agreed to recommend to members of FKP that they consider making a voluntary annual membership donation of £20.

ACT: David to contact Dora to include a recommendation to make a voluntary £20 donation along with the invitation to members to the Xmas event. (See item 8(1)).

6. Priorities Table Update

For all project details, see the updated **FKP Priorities 2025** document.

Note. Included in the update are issues discussed at a **liaison meeting** between FKP and Land Services officers of Stirling Council held in the park on 3rd Nov. to review the state of the public park and potential new projects that could be promoted.

(A) Peace of Mind Garden A formal request will be made to Scott Mason, Land Services for paving slabs to form a path behind the metamorphosis mosaic. The quantity of stone needs estimated. An alternative source of supply may be needed.

ACT: David, Andrew and Carol to liaise with Stirling Council

(B) 3 wooden tubs No further winter planting required. Spring bulbs *in situ*.

(C) Fountain and parterres

(1) Before its expiry on 31st March 2026, an application will be made for a formal extension of the 1 year agreement.

ACT: David

(2) With no Council budget to refresh the gravel round the fountain, FKP could consider a Community Pride or other type of Council Grant. To be discussed further.

(3) The fountain is a listed structure but is in poor condition. The cost of repairing the metalwork and paint would require committee and Council approval, with councillor support. Funding would be an issue but an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund could be explored. Other funding opportunities and project feasibility to be discussed.

ACT: David and Jane

(4) A request for additional compost for the parterres would be considered by Bob Duguid, Land Services.

(D) Peace of Mind Garden boundary repairs

(1) DL reported that FKP had received the £500 Community Benefit from Paul Quigley of *Sutcliffe Play*. Reply awaited from the Council about using the play park contractor's labour to repair the wire fence. FKP to clear vegetation prior to work and use the £500 donation for materials. James Aikman, Land Services, to follow-up.

(2) Repairs needed to the stone wall have been pursued. Jane contacted *The Engine Shed* for help (possibly an apprentices project?). The cost of the stone will need estimated. Voluntary assistance may be available from *Dunblane Community Trust*.

ACT: David, Jane, John

(E) Shrub border beside outside gym *The Conservation Volunteers* (TCV) have agreed to clear the weeds on Tuesday 18th Nov. Work supervised by FKP. Additional work in the Community Garden. TCV to provide necessary documentation to Stirling Council before work starts.

ACT: David to contact Margaret Dickie, TCV Co-ordinator.

ACT: David, Stuart and Hector to attend. Andrew to advise on shrubs to keep.

(F) Park entrances and paths A request was made to the Council to clear the mud and debris at the pedestrian park gates and re-assess the danger of flooding due to the removal of the boardwalk at the start of the Victoria Path route. Scott Mason, Land Services, agreed to contact the maintenance team for the clear-up and consider the drainage improvement options round the boardwalk area.

(G) Deterioration of grass area between the toilet block and cafe The condition of the grass has deteriorated over a long period of time due to by vehicular traffic. Scott Mason Land Services will check if vehicles need to park in that area and what measures can be taken to allow the grass to recover or be re-seeded.

(H) Deterioration of Park notice-boards paintwork Both notice-boards and supporting columns require re-painting. Scott Mason and James Aikman, Land Services, will consider the most suitable paint required. FKP agreed to undertake the work if paint and brushes supplied.

(I) Lower path Homesteads to Kings Knot NR has met with *Walking Scotland* representatives who offered principled support but no funds. Other partners need identified. Request has been made to Stirling Council about land ownership.

ACT: Neil

(J) Litter-picking event A joint event held with the Rotary Club on 21st Oct. was successful. The aim is to arrange more events in 2026. FKP could borrow equipment when required.

(K) Newsletter The aim is to publish a winter newsletter before the end of November.

ACT: Wendy

(L) Volunteer promotion An advert on the Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise website finished at end of Oct. Only one recent volunteer had been sourced from the advert.

(M) Monthly 'park view' walks A winter walk will be arranged for January 2026.

ACT: Neil

(N) Kings Park Community Council liaison. KPCC had submitted comments to Stirling Council about the pedestrian safety proposals. FKP to maintain liaison with KPCC on the pedestrian crossings proposals.

ACT: Neil

(O) Promoting well-being benefits of the Peace of Mind Garden Promotion to relevant organisations to be arranged in early Spring 2026.

ACT: Hector

(P) Park defibrillator Awaiting funding progress feedback from Stirling Council.

ACT: Hector and David

7. New Projects

Jane has proposed three projects for 2026:

(1) Fountain parterre borders Autumn/winter planting plan proposed for new themes for next summer: white garden, fusion garden, grasses and grain garden and vertical edible garden. Budget £200 plus £30 from previous allocation. Agreed.

(2) Wildflower development A proposal for a 'caterpillar' plant design that Allan's Primary School pupils could plant and care for. The principle was agreed but the location needed to be in a planted border, not in a grass-cutting area to meet the Council's grass maintenance requirements.

(3) Orchard educational project. A proposal to develop the interest of the Allan's Primary School pupils by the purchase of 50 daffodil bulbs for them to plant. Agreed.

ACT: Jane to take the lead role for the 3 projects

8. AOB

(1) Christmas Social Event

Date: 3rd December. £100 budget agreed.

ACT: Dora to email to members and partners with invitation and voluntary, annual contribution request of £20.

ACT: Event organisation by Wendy, Lidia, Maureen and Marguerite.

(2) Memorial Trees It was agreed to plant a tree (type to be decided) for Tom Wilson in the border beside outdoor gym and propose a heritage apple tree in the orchard, for Sue Hunter. Planting time and types of trees to be discussed with Dorothy Wilson and George Hunter. Scott Mason, Land Services, advised that the trees should be compatible in stature with the existing trees.

ACT: David to make a formal request to Land Services for approval to proceed with planting once the types of both trees are identified and agreed.

ACT: Lidia, David and Jane to assess options and costs.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **26th January 2026**, 6.30pm with a focus on new and existing projects for 2026