

DRAFT Minute from the Friends of Kings Park Committee Meeting, 26/01/2026

1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: David Leslie (DL), Neil Ross (NR), John McCallum (JMC), Stuart Marshall (SM), Hector Currie (HC), Dora Kiraly (DK)

Apologies: Gordon Campbell (GC), Wendy Garcia (WG)

Guest: David Paterson (Stirling Golf Club)

2. Minute from 10th November Committee Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes from 10th November were approved with one correction.

ACT: DK to correct the 10th November minutes: Item 6: Priorities Table (I) “Note has been sent to Stirling Council setting out the background and requesting a meeting”

ACT: DK to give SharePoint access and log in instructions to all committee members.

ACT: DK to check when the Accounts are due to be submitted to Companies House and send reminder to Gordon.

ACT: DK to check what donations were received since the AGM and share it with committee members.

3. Stirling Golf Club clubhouse project - guest speaker: David Paterson

David Paterson gave a summary of the planned clubhouse renovation project:

- The Golf Club is exploring options to renovate, partially rebuild, or fully rebuild its 60-year-old clubhouse; a full rebuild would be on the current footprint (potentially slightly smaller) and is an expensive option. A partial rebuild would retain the front and replace the back, allowing the clubhouse to remain open.
- The vision includes improved views of Stirling Castle, better space utilisation, with potential for community use (e.g., local organisations, physiotherapists) and possibly a public restaurant.
- Phase 1 of the project is about fundraising the required £500k which will take several years. Once the Club has reached its fundraising goals, phase 2 will focus on the design, tender and build

David Paterson confirmed that the project will **not** affect the continuity of the path around the park.

4. Priorities Table Update

For all project details, see the updated **FKP Priorities 2026** document.

The group discussed what projects are going to be continued in 2026, what projects have been completed or stopped, and what new projects might emerge.

DL shared the list of ongoing and upcoming projects with the volunteers and encouraged them to pick up projects that are of interest.

Garden Projects:

- Garden activities are popular among members, so most projects will continue in 2026. The wildflower patch was difficult to maintain, produced no flowers, and volunteer interest is low, so the committee has decided to discontinue this project in 2026.
- The committee noted that the wooden tubs are in a structurally bad condition, and they might need to be replaced before the spring planting period.

ACT: DL to ask Lidia to consider if the flower tubs could be repaired, and if not, look at buying a replacement.

- The Peace of Mind Garden needs some new plants and compost, as well as maintenance or replacement of the stepping stones. A regular member of the gardening team volunteered to lead on this if FKP can allocate £200 to this work. The committee agreed to allocate the fund and support volunteers with the project.

ACT: DL to discuss with Andrew

Maintenance Projects:

- The fence and stone dyke will require repairs this year. The Council had offered to use one of their contractors to repair the fence if FKP use the donation to £500 from Sutcliffe Play to pay for the materials. DL suggested partnering with the Dunblane Development Trust which the Council had identified as having the necessary skills to assist with the stone dyke repair if a voluntary arrangement could be reached.

ACT: DL to contact the Council about the fence repair

ACT: DL to contact the Dunblane Development Trust regarding the stone dyke repair.

- The committee would like to clarify with Stirling Council who is responsible for various maintenance issues in the Kings Park.

ACT: DL to arrange a meeting with Stirling Council Land Services to discuss what maintenance projects FKP can help with, and what falls under the Council's responsibility.

Other park projects:

- A volunteer noted that signage within the park is minimal. There is no information about paths, landmarks and the local history. The committee agreed to pick up this project if volunteers are involved too.

ACT: DL to ask the volunteers if they want to work on improving the signage in the park with help from the committee.

Governance:

- DK noted that she will step down from the committee no later than the October AGM, but she continue as a volunteer and maintain the website. The group is aware that GC is also stepping down as treasurer. Since these roles are essential for the Friends group, the committee decided to start advertising for these roles during the spring.

ACT: DK to draft role profile for the Secretary and Treasurer and to discuss recruitment with DL and NR including the use of the SVE Volunteer Portal

- The committee would like to recruit new volunteers to help in the garden.
ACT: DL and NR to review the current volunteer advert, add changes, and advertise on various platforms.

5. Parterres Project 2026

A proposal for the parterres has been drafted by Jane. The committee agreed to go ahead with the proposed approach, noting the success of the project last year, its educational benefits and the visibility which it gives the Friends Group to park users. Funding of £230 had been agreed previously for plants etc for this year. Compost is to be requested from the Council.

ACT: DL to discuss with Jane

ACT: DL to request compost from the Council

A new project was discussed to seek restoration of the fountain and the surrounding paths. For the project to be successful, FKP will need a funding source and a project plan.

ACT: DL to discuss with Jane

6. Heritage Plan

The relevance of the action plan to the Kings Park was discussed, and it was agreed to submit a response to the Council before the current consultation ends on 5th February. The response should identify areas where the Friends group could assist and where we would value more emphasis on the Park's contribution to heritage initiatives.

ACT: HC to draft a response and discuss with DL. DK to monitor the responses.

7. AOB

a) Winter Park Walk

A walk has been arranged for the 11th of February, and the garden volunteers have been invited.

ACT: NR and SM

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 23rd March 6:30pm at Allan Park.

