

# THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling

### Draft Minute of the 2025 AGM

#### 1. WELCOME

David Leslie, Chair of the Friends of Kings Park (FKP), welcomed members and guests and thanked them for attending the 2025 AGM.

#### 2. PRESENT

**Committee members** David Leslie (chair), Dora Kiraly (Secretary and Minute Secretary), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer), Hector Currie, Marguerite Nugent, Wendy Garcia, Neil Ross.

**Members** Maggie Inall, Julia Marritt, Kenny Marritt, John McCallum, Lidia Becci, Maureen Whitelaw, Jane Bone, Angela Sword, Brian Sword, Stuart Marshall, Dorothy Wilson

**Guests** Aileen Hall, Nikki Thomas

#### 3. APOLOGIES

Neil Fairweather (deputy chair), Moira Fairweather, Andrew Hipkin, Carol Hipkin, Dagmar Braun-Mackle.

#### 4. MINUTE OF AGM of 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

The minute was accepted as a correct record. Its approval was moved by David Leslie, seconded by Neil Ross. The membership **approved** the minute.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING

No matters raised.

#### 6. THE CHAIR'S REPORT 2024-2025

The Chair's written report had been circulated by email. David summarised the topics in his report.

This year FKP worked hard to encourage young people to learn about the diverse habitats of the park. David thanked Lidia Becci, Jane Bone and Wendy Garcia for working with pupils from Allan's Primary School. In the Peace of Mind Garden, the two biggest projects focused on rebuilding the pergola and replacing the information board. David thanked Brian Sword for his leadership of the pergola project. Once again, Andrew and Carol Hipkin had guided the ongoing redesign and planting of the Garden. The butterfly borders have also been restored, thanks to the hard work of Maggie and Stuart.

This year, Friends of Kings Park took over the maintenance of the fountain parterres. Each section had a specific theme (sensory, edible, prairie, pollinator), and signs were put up to tell visitors about these plants. David thanked Jane Bone for her significant contribution to this project.

Friends of Kings Park continued to work together with external partners, such as Stirling Council



Land Services, archaeologist Murray Cooke, the Stirling Heritage Alliance, and Stirling Makar Laura Fyfe.

To engage with locals and raise awareness of our work, we continued to improve our website and Facebook page. One of the future projects will be to refresh our website.

David also mentioned the sad losses-the Friends Group had this year. We remembered the legacy of Tom Wilson, who was a key influence during the early years of FKP. David also talked about the very recent passing of Sue Hunter (Sue Beach), who was a cherished member of Kings Park; volunteering as a committee member and generously donating beautiful paintings for the Friends group funds.

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

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

The motion to accept the Chair's Report was moved by Dora Kiraly, seconded by Neil Ross.

Members **accepted** the report.

## **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Gordon introduced the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025, FKP started taking online donations from members and supporters through the Charities Aid Foundation. To date, this revenue generated £981.60, putting the charity in a stable financial position. We also received funding from Stirling Council Community Grants. A further grant from Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust and a community benefit payment from Sutcliffe Play, the contractors for the Council's project at the play area, were received after the closure of the year's accounts at end of June and would be shown in next year's accounts. A full breakdown of income and expenditure is available in the treasurer's annual report.

Members **accepted** the accounts.

## **8. 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 Dora Kiraly, seconded by Wendy Garcia. Members approved David as Chair.

Position of **Vice-Chair**: Neil Ross. Proposed by David Leslie, seconded by Marguerite Nugent. Members approved Neil as Vice-Chair.

Position of **Secretary**: Dora Kiraly. Proposed by Wendy Garcia, seconded by Neil Ross. Members approved Dora as Secretary.

Position of **Treasurer**: Gordon Campbell. Proposed by Hector Currie, seconded by Maggie Inall. Members approved Gordon as Treasurer.



## **Retiring**

Neil Fairweather and Marguerite Nugent retired at this AGM. Both were thanked for their contribution to the work of the committee.

## **Ordinary Committee Members**

Current members: Hector Currie and Wendy Garcia wished to continue on the committee. Neil Ross nominated them, seconded by Lidia Becci. Members approved Hector and Wendy staying on the committee.

John McCallum and Stuart Marshall were nominated as ordinary committee members by David Leslie, seconded by Dora Kiraly. Members approved John and Stuart as committee members.

## **9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There was no other business. The Chair thanked members and guests for attending, closed the formal business of the AGM.

## **10. GUEST SPEAKER**

The Chair introduced the invited speaker, **Aileen Hall** from Braehead Community Garden to give a talk on the history and current activities of their garden.

Braehead Community Garden (BCG), chaired by Aileen Hall and supported by development officer Nikki Thomas, is a vibrant initiative under the Braehead, Broomridge and District Community Development Trust. Established in 2012 from a grassroots desire for local allotments, the garden was built over one winter after securing a plot, council permission, and funding. Today, it offers a rich array of facilities including indoor and outdoor raised beds, a clubhouse, toolshed, apiary, solar panels, and a flock of hens producing a variety of eggs. The garden's ethos is simple yet powerful: "If you want to do something, tell us," encouraging community-led ideas and participation.

BCG thrives on its diversity, welcoming members of all ages and backgrounds who contribute their unique skills. The garden is organized into several groups—hen, bee, maintenance, growing, and events—each playing a role in its upkeep and development. Income is generated through plant sales in May, and members can hire beds or pay for access. Regular events include open celebrations like the Burns Supper, Honey Festival, and Pumpkin Festival, as well as member-focused socials and volunteer days. Despite challenges such as succession planning and funding, the garden continues to flourish through grant support and community spirit. With rainwater harvesting systems, a tree nursery in partnership with Treelink, and engagement from scouts and apprentices, BCG remains a beacon of sustainable, inclusive community development where gardening is the joyful byproduct of connection.

With her very informative talk concluded, Aileen was warmly thanked for her presentation.

The evening closed with refreshments.

Minute Secretary	Dora Kiraly
Chair	David Leslie