

Minutes from Friends of Kings Park Committee Meeting, 27/01/2025

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present at meeting: David Leslie (DL, Chair), Dora Kiraly (DK), Hector Currie (HC), Marguerite Nugent (MN), Neil Ross (NR), Wendy Garcia (WG)

Neil Fairweather (NF) and Gordon Campbell (GC) sent apologies.

2. Minutes of 28th October Meeting

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Review of outstanding actions:

- a. Actions from item 2: There is an ongoing discussion with the Scouts. FKP is expecting to receive updates from them in the next few weeks to work out how we will work together.
- b. Actions from item 6: Update is needed about Gift Aid requirements.
- c. Actions from item 8: Archery event to be confirmed. Other 2025 events will be reviewed on 10th February.
- d. WG will continue to follow up with members of the WhatsApp group about their membership and involvement.

JAN00: DK to say thank to you all members who helped to arrange the Christmas event.

3. Priorities 2025

Item will be discussed at a meeting on 10th February.

4. Digital Updates

a. Website

The current website contract will expire in April, and renewing it would come with a significant cost. NF suggested another provider that has good reviews and could give us a discount. The committee agreed to move the website over to the new provider.

JAN01: DK to speak to NF about setting up the new website and agree on timeline.

b. MS Office

Currently FKP stores their files on personal computers and a pendrive. This comes with some risks in terms of data protection and documents retention. DK suggested that FKP applies for a free charity MS license and use their online data storage. The committee discussed what documents the members would need access to. They agreed to proceed with the project.

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JAN02: DK to apply for the licence. Once the system is implemented, DK to create a guide for committee members on how to use the platform.

5. Finance update

a. Christmas event

The committee looked at the expenditure and income of the Christmas social event. According to our accounts, a small profit of £20 was made. Four bottles of wine were also left after the event which will be used for the AGM.

The committee discussed that the aim of these events is not just generating income, but also to provide an activity for our volunteers and other partners and say thank you.

b. Pergola Repairs

Brian Sword did a review of repairing the pergola. The cost of materials is estimated to be around £220 which is within the budget the committee agreed to previously.

JAN03: DL to speak to BS about the next steps of the project.

6. Grant Award

DL gave a summary of the grant application outcome we submitted last year to raise money for producing marketing materials. The original amount we applied for was £800, and we got awarded £500. Since this amount is less than what the original plan was, DL suggested that we order less materials for a total of £512. The committee agreed to follow this approach and cover up to £50 excess.

To comply with the conditions of the grant applications, FKP will have to evidence before the end of summer that we have purchased the items and used them for the purposes we stated. This means that any events that are coming up should use the materials if they are available.

JAN04: DL to speak to Gordon about how to use the funds for online orders.

JAN05: DL and WG to discuss what items to buy.

7. Grant Funding Opportunities

There are two funding opportunities available to FKP:

a. Funding for urban nature projects

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The application deadline for this grant is 12th February. It is advertised by a UK-wide company focusing on nature project. The award would only go to 20 groups in total which means that FKP has only a small chance of getting it. Due to the tight deadline and the low chance of positive outcome, the committee agreed to not go forward with the application.

b. Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust

The Trust is looking to distribute some of the landfill tax money to support local projects. DL has application form and said that based on the conversations he had with representatives, FKP would have a good chance of getting funding. However, the grant may only cover 50% of the total project cost which means that FKP would have to cover the excess. This could be a potential issue if the project we want to fund is expensive. If this becomes a challenge, the committee will look at other ways to raise those funds or not go ahead with the project if a solution is not found.

JAN07: DL to will follow up.

8. Park User Survey

To attract more visitors and volunteers to Kings Park, it is essential that we know what the citizens of Stirling think about the park and what type of activities they would like to see. DK suggested that FKP collects data through an online survey. Committee members highlighted that it would also be beneficial to do more in-depth interviews with a small cohort of people.

JAN08: DK to design a survey and circulate it before the next committee meeting. FKP committee members to give feedback on the proposed survey.

9. Charity Law

DK summarised the changes in the Scottish charity law and how they will affect FKP. The new regulations highlight the importance of keeping accurate information on FKP committee members.

JAN09: DK to create a trustee agreement and circulate it. Committee members to fill in and sign the document.

JAN10: At every AGM or when a new member joins the committee, the Secretary and the Treasurer will ensure that we have up-to-date information on members.

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10. Land Services

DL summarised the meeting with Scott Mason from land services.

They agreed for FKP to work on the fountain area, but the partnership will be reviewed annually. FKP will have to ensure that the state of the area does not deteriorate under our care. The council agreed to provide some support, including compost for the area.

The pollinator strategy was also discussed. FKP might have volunteers who are knowledgeable on this topic and might be willing to contribute.

There was also discussion about the maintenance of the park, including the storm damage, graffiti, flooding.

ACT11: DL to continue communications with Land Services and give updates to the committee.

ACT12: Scott Mason to contact the Rotary Club about the area outside the Peace of Mind Garden. DL to follow up with them if we don't hear from Scott.

11. Wayfinding Project

NR summarised his meeting with a representative of the project. The aim of the project is to improve signage around Stirling to benefit businesses. This would include both physical signage and online resources.

During their meeting, they discussed how the signage in the city centre is not useful for leading people to Kings Park, and that the signage within the park is also not optimal.

The next stage of the project will be to finalise the audit and create a proposal for Stirling Council. FKP will be updated on any outcomes.

JAN13: NR to provide updates on the project.

12. Writing Workshop

WG gave an update on the writing workshop.

The workshop will take 1.5 hours, and it will be hosted in the Peace of Mind Garden and in the Pavilion. It will have to be organised before the end of March as that is the deadline the funding providers set.

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The Pavilion and Laura Fyfe (workshop facilitator) have already agreed to work with FKP on this project.

JAN14: WG to confirm with Laura Fyfe the date of the event.

13. Soil Collection

WG talked about a soil collection project that FKP is invited to take part in. It would involve collecting small samples of soil from the park in the summer and sending it for analysis.

If FKP gets the results of the analysis, it would allow us to know more about the soil in the park and how that affects the plants. FKP would also be added to an online soil sample map which would be good for publicity.

It was suggested that we collect samples from undisturbed areas to get an insight into the natural characteristics of the soil.

JAN15: WG to ask the volunteers if they have ideas for where to collect samples from.

14. AOB

a. Stirling Business Award

The committee discussed nominating the Pavilion for the Stirling Business Awards.

JAN16: After April, when the application form comes out, the committee will decide on the next steps.

b. SVE breakfast club

The upcoming SVE workshops have been discussed. On the 25th of February there will a workshop on funding (National Lottery, Robertson Trust), and NR and DL will attend.

JAN17: Feedback from SVE funding workshop.

c. Updates on website

JAN18: DL to message NF about putting information on the website about the storm damage and the new grant award.

15. Date of Next Meetings

The committee has agreed to meet on Monday, 10th February, to discuss priorities for the year.

The next committee meeting will take place on the 31st of March.

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