



AGM

Monday 20th March 2017

Millennium Room, Cramond Kirk Halls

Trustees present: Richard Adlington (Chairman), Carol Anderson, Isla Browning, John Crutchfield, Euan Drysdale, Robin White, John Kerr

Attendees: Peter Scott, Marian Allan, Jack McLeish, Heather McLeish, Connie White, Margery Naylor, Margaret Morrison, Maureen Watson, Allan Watson, Frances Kerr, George Bee, Anna Bee, Stuart Sinclair, Dan Needham, Margaret Lawson, Adam Cumming, Lesley Cumming, Barbara Scott, Tyrie Sheils, Ian Harper, Zohra Jibb, Callum Towns + several others not signed in

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

It was now five years that FRAW had been inaugurated and the Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. He felt it had been a successful year, though at times frustrating, particularly with regard to the Salvesen Steps. Most of FRAW's activities during the year were covered in the various Reports and Richard thanked the Committee for their support and hard work during the year.

2. Apologies:

Danny Behrend, Bill and Anne Clark, Lee McPherson, Christine Peacock, Bert Scott, Barry Smith

3. Reports

a) **Chairman – Richard Adlington**

The Chairman noted that the Committee continues to work well together and thanked them for their help and support throughout the year

FRAW's Finances continue to be in good shape with much appreciated income from our members and also, when required, some grant funding.

One of the main challenges during the year has been the limitations within City of Edinburgh Council. We have a very good Natural heritage Officer, but resources within parks, greenspaces and Cemeteries are stretched thinly, which means Friends of Parks groups have to do more to keep our parks in good condition.

The good collaboration with the Community Council, Cramond Association, Cramond Heritage Trust and Friends of Cammo continues with regular meetings to share experiences and discuss common issues. The Interpretation Group, led by Peter Scott and involving members from these groups, has been working on provision of information boards and an app for the area.

b) Membership - John Kerr

By February 2016 there were 359 members from 189 households. John thanked everyone who had helped with the door-to-door delivery of leaflets which had helped boost membership. Gift Aid had also resulted in an additional £360 for funds – this hadn't been applied for yet, so this is in addition to the funds being reported.

c) Management Plan – John Kerr

John also reported that the Committee have been working on a Management Plan which will help us ensure we make best use of the money and talents at our disposal. It sets out our objectives, where we want to get to and how we will get there.

The Plan will be circulated to members shortly and the Committee would appreciate any comments about it or ideas about other projects we should be working on.

d) Work Parties - John Crutchfield

Since FRAW started, there have been approx. 60 work parties, totalling over 1100 hours of voluntary work. This year alone, there have been more than 230 hours work done. Our thanks to everyone who comes along and helps with these.

This years, we've focussed on a number of different areas –

- cleared paths of mud and leaves
- cleared invasive species and put in steps and a handrail in the Woodland Compartment
- cleared some saplings and tidied the Steps at Fair a far
- removed some saplings to improve views at Peggy's Mill and Dowie's Mill
- tackled invasive non-native species along all the river – this will be an ongoing task
- cleared an area near the boatyard entrance and planted native seeds and plants, including celandine, bluebell, anemone, wood sage, snowdrop, forget-me-not, periwinkle, yellow loosestrife, red campion, giant bellflower, dog violet, devil's bit scabious and seeds for a selection of woodland and shade plants. [Isla/John – could you check this please]

Going forward will be more of the same, with the next work party taking place on 6th April clearing around the gate at Queensferry Road.

It would be good to work on improving the surface of the path, removing mud, improving drainage and laying a better surface, but until the work is complete on the weir at Fair a far and the Salvesen Steps, there is no point.

4. Finance – Carol Anderson

Carol Anderson (treasurer) provided the financial report (below) and thanked Sheila Nichol for checking the accounts. The subscriptions and donations are greatly appreciated and enable us to continue the work on our work parties and on the various projects we undertake. Special thanks are due to Lee and Dee McPherson, who held an Open Garden afternoon, which many people enjoyed and resulted in a very generous donation to FRAW.

George Bee proposed that we accept the financial report and it was seconded by Margery Naylor and approved unanimously by those present. **The Financial Report for 2016-2017 was therefore approved.**

Finance Report

<u>Receipts</u>	Unrestricted	Restricted	2017	2016
Donations	1721	-	1721	1000
Grants	-	-		5190
Refund on overpayment	-	-		196
Receipts from Charitable Activities				
Membership Fees	400		400	263
Total	2121	0	2121	6649
<u>Payments</u>				
Fundraising Costs	161.25	-	161.25	404
Costs of Charitable Activities	315.95	-	315.95	1690
Governance costs	115.51	-	115.51	159
Woodland Compartment Costs	-	208	208	1610
Total	592.71	208	800.71	3863
Statement of balance at 28 th February				
Balance brought forward	3297.61	1890	5187.61	2401
Net movement of funds			1320.29	2786
Closing Balance at Bank and in hand			6507.90	5187
Bank Current Account	6507.90			

5. Election of Committee

Some changes in the Committee responsibilities are planned.

- Lee McPherson had decided to stand down this year due to work and family commitments and Richard thanked him for all his work setting up and maintaining FRAW's on-line presence with its website, Facebook and Twitter.
- Isla Browning has stepped down as Secretary, but remains on the Committee
- John Kerr is taking over as Secretary
- Carol Anderson is stepping down as Treasurer but takes on support of the Website, Facebook and Twitter.
- Euan Drysdale is taking over as Treasurer and combining this with responsibility for Membership.

Nominations received-

Richard Adlington (Chairman)
 John Kerr (Secretary)
 Euan Drysdale (Treasurer and Membership)
 Carol Anderson
 Isla Browning
 John Crutchfield
 Robin White

The appointment of the committee was proposed by Jack McLeish and seconded by Dan Needham and was approved by all the members present.

6. Community Woodland - Robin White

Robin was pleased to report that because of the good quality of soil in the woodland, most of the trees planted continued to thrive, though there had been a few losses. The shrubs and hedging are also growing well.

The planned interpretation board, which shows images of all of the trees and a schematic of the plan of the woodland, is due to be erected in early April. A finger post, at the bottom of the steps up to the woodland, has also been ordered.

Work is needed on path surfaces and the task of removing non-native species and nettles, which also thrive on the good soil, is ongoing.

7. Peggy's Mill – Robin White

The walkway at Peggy's Mill is very muddy and while FRAW would like to improve it, this would be wasted effort until the use of any heavy machinery for the Salvesen Steps is finished. The Committee are considering work to improve the area at Peggy's Mill, allowing better access to the river and planting some native shrubs and plants to add colour. Drainage on the paths needs to be improved before any new path is laid. The Committee would welcome ideas on what we might do.

8. Dowie's Mill – Robin White

Robin talked briefly about the idea to install a hydro scheme at Dowie's Mill. This had been considered before but couldn't be cost justified. The RiverLife team are unable to help as their funding is dependant on the weirs being 'non-working' and a hydro scheme would invalidate this. CEC don't have the funds to support this and are also committed to RiverLife at this time. Agreed it might be sensible to let the RiverLife project complete its work and then consider a hydro scheme after that.

9. Salvesen Steps – Richard Adlington

Richard reported that it had been an 'interesting year' for the Salvesen Steps. They celebrated their 50th birthday by being closed on health and safety grounds, though they were re-opened within 3 weeks. More rot was found in December and the Steps were closed again in January and remain closed. The good news is CEC are committed to repairing the Steps on a temporary basis but we await a target date for the Steps being re-opened.

FRAW are still committed to getting a DDA compliant replacement implemented. A project team is now in place including CEC, FRAW and Sustrans, who remain committed to providing 50% of the funding. Consultant's reports are now ready and they will be discussed in the near future.

10. Weirs – Richard Adlington

Work to repair the weir and install a new fish ladder will take place at Fair a far in summer 2017. Planning permission has been granted and some work has been done by CEC to clear some trees between School Brae car park and Fair a far, to allow easier access to the river.

The RiverLife's recommendation is still for the removal of the weir at Dowie's Mill, but they recognise there are many issues to be considered – the weir is structurally unstable, its removal could have an impact on Cramond Brig, there is a sewer pipe and a gas main nearby and there could be a massive impact on the mill pond and the wildlife it supports. Because of all this, more investigations will be required and the RiverLife team aren't planning any action at Dowie's Mill until 2019.

11. Open Forum

There were a number of questions asked in the open forum. These covered the following topics –

- a) What are the plans for reinstatement of the paths between School Brae car park and Fair a far?
This question had been asked when the planning application had been submitted but no satisfactory answer had been received. Kate Comins (RiverLife Project Manager) has said she would look into it.
- b) Peter Scott provided an update on the Interpretation Project and the plans for orientation boards at the top of Cramond Glebe Road, the Car Park and the 'circle', and for interpretation boards at Fair a far, the Harbour/Village and near the causeway to Cramond Island.
There was discussion about whether local residents had been consulted. It was pointed out that, although planning permission was not required, information had been posted in Grapevine and in newsletters for both FRAW and the Cramond Association.
- c) Who sets the subscriptions for FRAW?
The FRAW subscription was set by the Committee at £2 when FRAW was formed and has remained unchanged since. Many members generously give larger donations and Gift Aid increases these further.
- d) It was suggested that the Committee consider how we get schools more involved with the Walkway.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.