

**Friends of the River Almond Walkway
Trustee Committee Meeting
7.00 pm 28th May 2018 – 45 Braehead Road**

Present: Richard Adlington (Chair), George Bee, Isla Browning, John Crutchfield, Euan Drysdale, Robin White, John Kerr

1. Minutes of meeting – 16th April 2018:

2. Matters arising

- Committee had agreed to put up a notice making it clear there was no exit from the woodland through any of the gardens. [Post meeting - JC has taken this an action **Action JC]**
- Other items covered on the agenda

3. Administrative Matters

- **Website** - Meeting held with Dave Simpson. He recommended we keep Klikpik but apply a new template to refresh the site. Agreed to proceed. RA/JK to prepare list of pages to be included. **Action RA/JK**
- **Safeguarding and Notifiable Events** - ED working on draft procedure **Action ED**
- **GDPR** – Email seeking approval to continue to keep and use member’s details issued and most members have agreed. A reminder will be sent to those who haven’t replied. **Action JK**
Previous members who haven’t renewed have been written to informing them they’ll be removed from the membership lists if they don’t re-join and agree. Some new memberships have arrived. An email will be sent to those who don’t reply thanking them for their support but telling them this will be last email they receive from FRAW. **Action JK**
We need to decide what to do about members with no email address. **Action JK/ED to consider**

4. Administrative Matters – Treasurer/Membership Secretary Report

- **Balance at Bank** is £9684 which includes the grant of £3366 from Edinburgh Airport for the botanical board and plaque on Cramond Brig.
- We have received applications from **5 new members**. Total 279 members, 158 households.
- **Sums owing** - £32.60 to IB for pens required for stones in the P7 Garden and £38.00 for subscription to TVC
- **Gift Aid** – bank transfer of 357.58 received. (2016-17 was £343.70)

5. Edinburgh Friends of Parks Forum

- Meeting was held on 25th April and included presentations by Cllr Karen Doran and David Jamieson. JK has circulated minutes of the meeting.
- Cllr Doran has indicated that she would like to visit as many parks as possible – **FRAW should invite her.**
- **EFoPF AGM** also took place
 - o EFoPF Annual Report was discussed and approved. JK will circulate **Action JK**
 - o Three new committee members were elected from Fairmilehead Park, Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Meadows & Bruntsfield Links
 - o The name of the Forum was changed to Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum to better reflect the range of parks, natural heritage sites, cemeteries and other green spaces.
- JK was asked to represent the Forum and Friends Groups generally giving evidence to the **Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee** on 25th May. The aim was to get the Scottish Government to recognise the importance of parks and greenspaces and give the budget, resources and support needed for them to flourish. The Committee agreed to take this on to their work programme and investigate further.

6. Cramond Collaborative

- Next meeting scheduled for 31st May

7. Work Parties

- 20 tonnes of aggregate has been dumped next to the play park at Haugh Park. This will be moved by a team of volunteers from RBS on 12th June.
- Barry Smith has been contacted about the possibility of another session with his chainsaw thinning trees.
- In the Community Woodland, we plan to run a work party to use the brush cutter(s) round the trees to clear weeds etc. Agreed that we would purchase a second brush cutter.

8. Drainage at Peggy's Mill

- Funding application for the drainage work at Peggy's Mill was submitted to Neighbourhood Partnership and should be considered at their meeting on 7th June. Letters of support were included from David Kyles and C&BCC.
RA/JC to discuss availability of aggregate with David Kyles.
- Action JK**
Action JC/RA

9. Steps at Community Woodland

- JC will speak to DK about availability of materials.
 - GB has sources for sleepers for the steps and has identified an online source for pegs. He would prefer to progress this alongside the drainage work as the excavator for the drainage may be used to remove a tree stump.
- Action JC**

10. Cramond Primary P7 Project

- IB reported that there have been two more visits from the P7s, one with both classes. The wildflowers are growing well and the garden looks good. The children have also prepared stone 'name badges' for the plants and are working on fact sheets which will be laminated and probably attached to the fencing.
- The staff have asked if we would be prepared to continue working on it with next year's P7 classes.
- The pupils and staff all appear to be enjoying the project.

11. Community Woodland

- Nothing significant happening at present
- RA raised the issue of the boundary and the dumped garden waste. Agreed this was an issue for CEC and if it has been illegally dumped then it should be removed by them and charged to the owners.

12. Salvesen Steps

- GB had spoken to SWECO. Report is due by end of June but it is hoped it will be ready before then. However, the missing information will probably mean there will be a greater percentage of contingency than normal. RA has spoken to Steven Webley who is trying to locate the geo-survey for SWECO.

13. Weirs

- Opening ceremony took place on 21st April – there was a very good turn-out.
- There is a meeting to discuss the re-instatement of the pathway between School Brae and Fair-a-Far involving RiverLife, SEPA and CEC w/c 4th June. JK had written to Alison Baker (RiverLife) suggesting FRAW attend, but unlikely RiverLife will want that. RA to contact Steven Webley to discuss **Action RA**
- Alison Baker had emailed advising that funding for the improved visuals of the proposed solution(s) at Dowie's Mill had been obtained and these would be prepared. She hoped to advise a date for public consultation soon.

14. Interpretation

- The order for the **botanical board** has been placed (thru CEC). No indication yet of timescales.
- David Kyles had advised that the **plaque at Cramond Brig** would require Listed Structure Planning Consent. HES had been contacted as has John Lawson (CEC). No objections have been raised at this stage, but Planning Consent is required if the plaque is to be located on the bridge. If this is refused we will have to consider another location as close as possible to our preferred location. **Action JK**
- The order for the plaque has been placed (on the assumption it will be located somewhere) with P Johnson and Company at Ratho Byers Forge
- The launch event for the **Cramond Heritage Trail** will take place on 5th June. Helen Donaldson, Head Teacher at Cramond Primary will officially launch it at the event in The Maltings. FRAW Committee have been invited – a few have accepted.

15. Plans for extending access along Walkway

- RA had spoken to the MOD surveyor. Plans to vacate Craigiehall seem to be on hold.
- RA to contact Martin Duncan about making the route a Core Path. **Action RA**
- JK had contacted Paths for All who might be interested in helping depending on the plans.

16. AOB

JK suggested that, since the pile of logs beside the walkway between Fair-a-Far and the Salevesen Steps were being used by people to sit and enjoy the river and picnics, could we ask Barry Smith to cut 'seats' into them to make a feature. RA to contact Barry Smith. **Action RA**

JK reported that the walk along from School Brae to Fair-a-Far and back to the Harbour, with Cramond Monday Cubs had been very successful, with around 20 cubs and several helpers/parents attending.

17. Date and place of next meeting:

9th July 2018 at 7.00pm, hosted by JC at 13 Pinegrove Gardens.