

Friends of Roseburn Park AGM

Tuesday 18th June

Apologies: Lyndsay Muir, Jacky Szpera, Ann-Marie Jamieson

Present: Don Wilkie (chair), Hamish Ross (treasurer), Jane Stevenson (secretary), Valerie Forbes, June Lodge, Philip Gregson, Pete Gregson, Alette Willis

1. AGM 2012. The summary of 2012 AGM meeting was agreed by the group.
2. Chairperson's Report

Don reported on the group's activities over the year.

Thanks were given to all who contributed to the park's successes.

Our first fun day in September was a great success. Special thanks were given to the fun day organising group and all those who worked hard to make the event happen. This year's fun day will be Sunday 1st September.

Changing flood defence plans continue to create uncertainty for the park and prevent some improvements going ahead. Efforts have therefore concentrated on the centre of the park in areas which will not be affected by the works

There has yet to be a commitment made to moving the flood wall behind the playpark but it is hoped that this will go ahead, creating a larger play area. A large beech tree beside the table tennis table is due to be taken down as it has developed a dangerous split in the trunk. A request that the trunk be kept and cut up for play resources has been passed to the forestry department. Pete requested that the current play structure be maintained as it is a good design which encourages different age groups to play together and the wooden structure is preferable to a metal version.

The group accessed funds from Awards for All (£5503) for concrete table tennis and chess tables. These were launched on an incredibly wet day. Thanks were given to Murrayfield Table Tennis Club and Roseburn Primary School Chess Club who organised play on the day.

West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership matched our funding which enabled the construction of the table tennis table base and the ornamental raised flower bed. Concerns were raised that the flower bed requires more frequent watering.

A feasibility study has been conducted on the disused toilet block with a view to restoring this for use as a community hub. Funding for the study came from the RIAS Scottish Community Projects Fund (£1000) and West Neighbourhood Partnerships Fund (£1300). The study was conducted by Craig Proudfoot of 1ft square architecture and went out for public consultation. Feedback was limited but overwhelmingly positive including a generous offer of a donation towards refurbishment.

We have encountered a problem over the issue of common good which appeared to prevent us from gaining the necessary lease on the building. Don Wilkie approached the community council and all local councillors have been supportive in taking this forward. We hope to be granted the 10year lease we need to secure funding for the restoration.

It is hoped that the building will become a hub which encourages more community events

Slow cyclist signs have helped to reduce speeds in the park but there are still problems with speeding commuter cyclists. It was agreed that we request another visit from the community police. It was suggested that we should request the route be a designated 'safer route to school' which would include signage.

In future we plan to work on the renovation of the toilet block; followed by further work after the flood works are completed.

Thanks were given to Don for successful fundraising efforts.

4. Treasurer's Report

Hamish presented the accounts which show a surplus. Val adopted, Pete seconded.

5. Constitution

Hamish reminded the group we had agreed to adopt the SCIO model from SCVO. There are some errors to be amended. Clause 32 should end after 'meeting'; Clause 36 should end after 'then'. Don proposed the constitution, Hamish seconded.

6. Election of new members

Jackie Szpera is standing down. Jackie was thanked for all her help and hard work on the park archive. Jackie is still willing to continue with her research.

Don Wilkie is standing down as chair, however is willing to carry on with project managing the community hub. The group thanked Don for all his hard work from the beginning of the friends group.

James Gibb and Pete Gregson were elected to the committee.

Office bearers will be elected at the next committee meeting.

7. AOCB

Jane suggested that the Friends group should request a key for the park gates from WNP.

Pete suggested that table tennis and chess sets be hung by the tables on a trial basis.

Pete suggested getting an annual insurance policy to cover all events and activities in the park.

There was discussion over the increase in dog poo in the park. The suggestion was made to have a dog toilet area however this has been tried in other parks without success.

There is an issue of overflowing bins particularly after sunny weekends. The council have started to empty the bins on a Monday which has improved the situation.

Date of Next AGM June 2014