

3d Annual General Meeting
20 May 2009

Attending: Gavin McNab (Chair), Cameron Findlater, Kate Tomlinson (Treasurer), Rob Hainsworth, Ann Stark, Alistair Cairns (Secretary), Cllr Deirdre Brock, James Gillies, Richard Nicodeme.

Apols; Cllrs Lang, Blacklock, Chapman, Beckett, M. Lazarowitz MP, Jane & Billy Ross, Fiona Devlin.

Previous minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the last general meeting.

Meeting is not quorate therefore no binding decisions can be taken.

1.) Reports:

- Chair's. (presented & attached) Regarding the Paolozzi statues, there would be, according to Deirdre Brock, a widespread consultation required with interested parties (the Paolozzi Foundation, Tom Hunter (as benefactor) and other involved parties). FoHCA has indicated, and formally registered, interest in having them relocated to Hillside Crescent Gardens. Deirdre will keep eye on developments – and other councillors have indicated they intend to do so as well. The placement would be at the 'centre' of the Crescent. There has been considerable interest in this – as a priority vs other issues – and Gavin will follow up on initiating a public consultation.

The legal status of dogs in Montgomery Street Park is now finalised – primarily due to efforts of FoHCA. It is a dog-free park, designated as a children's play area.

Notice boards in London Road Gardens & Montgomery Street Park remain the property of City of Edinburgh Council. Notices on greenspaces can be submitted via FoHCA or, for other community notices, directly to the Council. Instructions for posting are on the website. Gavin to contact the Council to enquire about our group being issued a key to enable notices to be put up, and taken down, on a regular basis.

We would like the website be promoted whenever possible. A link to site is included in office bearers' signatures. A link to BTCV will be added to the website homepage if possible. It was agreed that the website was generally working well and thanks to Rob for his efforts in keeping the website up to date.

- Finances. (presented & attached). It was agreed that we renew our membership with BTCV (£35) and that we maintain the upgraded format of the website (£25). Kate officially stood down from her role as treasurer at the meeting and was heartily thanked for her work over the last two years. We will need to inquire with CEC about us operating temporarily without a Treasurer. In addition we require to find a treasurer before or by the next general meeting. This is necessary to enable the groups existence as a constituted group, recognised by the Council. Efforts to be made to find a volunteer for the open post of Treasurer. In addition the office bearers can only serve for a period of three years prior to re-election. This will be required at next years AGM and could seriously affect our ability to survive as a constituted group.

- LCCC is next week. The last meeting notes are available on the website.

2.) Discussion on the future generally of the Friends Group.

There is really only a small group who are getting involved or coming along to meetings. There are many upcoming issues within the local parks & community (trams, sculptures, planned removal of the Powderhall Incinerator (at the foot of Macdonald Road) and the changeover of the disused rail lines to pedestrian/cycling routes, and others.). There is great potential but we need to get more people involved and participating.

3.) A notice about the Friends Group will be prepared & distributed to local shops, pubs, library. It could point to an event or a consultation on local priorities as well as about the Group generally. A subcommittee will be formed to discuss circulating such a consultation, including Rob, Gavin, Cameron & Alistair.

4.) It was agreed that there would be a meeting to discuss a local parks survey for London Road and Hillside Crescent Gardens on either, Tuesday 09, Wednesday 10 or Thursday 11 June, to form a subcommittee to take forward the survey and also to organise an event or events to launch it. Gavin to contact parties who previously registered an interest in assisting and then set a date for the meeting. Once this is organised a poster will be circulated advertising the meeting.

5.) A litter pick could be a regular (monthly) event on the first Sunday of each month for ease. This will initiate on Sunday 07 June at Hillside Crescent Gardens, 11:00 for one hour, then to Renroc café (on Montgomery Street) for anyone who'd like a coffee.

Gavin will inquire regarding Council litter cleaning on Hillside Crescent Gardens. Regular clean ups seem to occur in London Road Gardens but it seems to some that it ends there.

6.) A proposal to remove Montgomery Street Park from the remit of our Friends Group generated discussion with arguments put both for and against. We agreed not to change the constitution at this time for a number of reasons including our uncertainty over the current status of the Montgomery Street Park Friends Group and their failure to call any public meetings in the past year.