

**Minutes of the Friends Of Pilrig Park (FoPP) Committee Meeting  
Monday 3 March 2014**

**Attendance**

Liz Ballantyne (LB)	Cllr Nick Gardner, Leith Walk ward,
Sophie Brown, Chair (SB)	Labour, (NG)
Max Brown (MB)	Stephen Penman (SP)
Emma Faragher, Secretary (EF)	Irene Sweeney (IS)
	Katie Wright (KW)

**Apologies**

Zoe Holman (ZH)  
Lennie Sefton (LS)

**1. Welcome**

SB welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was the fourth meeting of the Friends of Pilrig Park (FoPP) group's committee.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of committee meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December**

The minute of the committee meeting on 14 December was proposed Stephen Penman and seconded by Max Brown.

**3. Review of 2013**

Friends of Pilrig Park (FoPP) was set up in February 2013 and constituted in October 2013 with an agreed aim to promote and improve Pilrig Park by working with the local community, businesses, City of Edinburgh Council and other partners to make positive changes that benefit the park, the local environment and local communities; **to make Pilrig Park a great green space in the city for all to enjoy.**

In 2013 FoPP agreed 3 targets, and has built networks and successes with fundraising. The work of FoPP in 2013 was reviewed by the committee:

**Bins and Benches - successful**

- Committee agreed this area of work was successful. Bins in the park were all replaced in 2013; and six of seven benches replaced.
- Although it was noted the issue of bins and benches had been raised with CEC before the formation of FoPP it was generally agreed the successes of 2013 would not have been achieved without the group and it's hard work with CEC, especially that of SB.
- FoPP had agreed to match-fund approx. £2500 from the former Pilrig Community Council to this work; but CEC has not claimed it.
- Agreed FoPP should clarify the position for allocating this money; was it spent or can it be re-allocated to other work in the park in 2014, e.g. picnic benches.

**Action** – SB to confirm spending for benches with CEC.

### **Woodland Clearance – successful**

- Committee agreed that this area of work has also been successful. Work over the autumn and winter, led by SP has initiated successful clearing of a portion of woodland.
- Agreed this is a good starting point for future work and community consultation, and this would be discussed under point 4 in the agenda, Priorities for 2014.
- NG observed the number of people involved struck him; and bringing the community together can be identified as a success in itself.
- KW advised that work has already impacted on the levels of use of woodland by the school (with relevant safety checks in place).
- Recent issues with the clearance of sharps were discussed; it was noted that CEC had made significant efforts to action and address the issue following discussions at a recent LCCC meeting, but that sharps were still being found. MB noted the historic nature of drug use in the park; alongside the fact drug use will continue means FoPP should recognise sharps will be an on-going issue.

### **Entrances and access – not successful**

- Progress has not been made in this area – committee agreed to re-visit discussion under point 4 in the agenda, Priorities for 2014.
- SB advised that James Hunter of CEC has discussed some potential work in 2014 with her at meetings on park priorities. It was agreed that CEC would look to clear the paths back to their original width (to the cobbled edging) as this would improve the look of the paths and reduce damage from park maintenance vehicles.
- NG suggested that FoPP consider including work like this in a ‘shopping list’ or vision document that can be referred to quickly in negotiations with CEC and other stakeholders.

### **Fundraising and networks**

- FoPP has been successful in securing £eith Decides Funding for the ‘Litterwise’ project to be delivered in 2014.
- In addition FoPP is working with local arts organisation Citizen Curator, led by Duncan Bremner who has secured Grow Wild funding for an arts and planting project and is putting in an application to the NESTA (Rethinking Parks project ([www.nesta.org.uk/project/rethinking-parks](http://www.nesta.org.uk/project/rethinking-parks))); if successful this would be a major achievement with great potential for Pilrig.

### **4. Priorities for 2014**

- Committee agreed a long list of ideas for priorities in 2014, this is outlined in the document **Friends of Pilrig Park – Priorities for 2014 Long List**
- FoPP will to consult with the community at the Public Meeting on 14 April, and with CEC.
- Following consultation tasks will be allocated to committee members for 2014 (by agreement).

## 5. Treasurer's Update

MB advised:

- The FoPP bank account has been set up.
- £200 has been secured from LCCC to support insurance and admin costs. MB thanked IS for her work in securing the funds. FoPP will await a city wide decision by the Friends of Parks Group on insurance before purchasing insurance.
- £1000 funding is expected from Feith Decides.
- £2,554.67 from the former Pilrig Residents Association was being held for FoPP by Greener Leith; MB is arranging transfer of funds.

## 6. ACOB

- SP raised the issue of planning applications for a nursing home and housing development in the Brown Field site a the north end of the park. Application(s) may already have gone through, but potential to link up might be explored. NG advised the housing development is at planning consent stage but that large developments often have a requirement to support work in the local community. FoPP should explore appropriate ways to engage in this process & the 'Shopping List' model discussed in Agenda point 3 could be relevant and useful.
- A student from Edinburgh College of Art studying Landscape Architecture joined the committee to discuss a project focussed on Pilrig Park. The project brief was informed by consultation with FoPP – SB met with the course tutor to advise him on community concerns in the park, informed by FoPP's consultation with the local community.
- SB advised Pilmeny Development Project are planning an Easter Egg Hunt in the park; and Fiona Devlin is planning a repeat of the successful dog day held in 2013.
- SB encouraged committee members to respond to CEC's consultation on events in parks.
- SP advised CEC need to be contacted to request tools and cages for the final woodland clearance of this winter on 15 March. SB suggested committee members arrive 15 minutes early to agree achievable aims for the day.

**Action: SB to contact CEC**

## 7. Date of Next Meeting

Public Meeting, Monday 14 April 2014, Macdonald Road Library

Signed:

Date:

Signed:

Date: