

Present:

Valerie Forbes – Chair

Hamish Ross - Treasurer

Jane Stevenson – Secretary

Pete Gregson, June Lodge – Committee Members

Jacky Szpera, Don Wilkie, Margaret Sturgeon – Friends Members

James Ogilvie

Neil Gardner

1. Update on Friends Activities

Valerie reported on recent activities. Bulb planting with the school went really well. The table tennis table has proved hugely popular. This year's Fun Day was very successful. The Pavilion Clock has been ordered and should be installed soon. We have been offered a lease on the toilet block for renovation to be used as a community hub. Sadly the council have said there are no funds for the picnic table. It was suggested that we could look into funding this ourselves.

2. Ideas for future developments

Valerie passed on a suggestion from local young person, Emilia Brown, to have a children's committee. The logistics of this were discussed and it was agreed to suggest to Roseburn Primary School that they facilitate a meeting of interested people which a committee member will attend. Concern was raised that Balgreen school would not be included and suggested that they could hold a similar group if there was interest.

JL suggested laying safety surfacing around the table tennis table as the grass has not taken very well. JS reported that this was very expensive and tend to become slippery when there is frost.

JO raised concerns over safety at the ice rink road and suggested a pedestrian and cyclists crossing and the inclusion of sleeping policemen. JO also pointed out that the 5mph sign is in the wrong place and should be moved. DW reported that a request for this had already been put to the council to no avail. VF reported that the road is owned by the Ice Rink. VF offered to approach the MD of the Ice rink to make initial contact and to additionally put a request in writing. JO suggested that if this were unsuccessful a petition could be raised stressing the legal obligation for safety of the public.

JO also suggested a cycle lane through the park. DW reported that the council had considered this but the path was deemed to be too narrow.

Several members suggested a basketball net. VF reminded us that she had tried to have one installed previously. The success of the table tennis table suggests that the park is underprovided for in this respect. The committee agreed to consider this again.

NG commented that the playpark is poorly situated in the coldest, shadiest part of the park. This has been raised on several occasions previously therefore deserves consideration. JO, VF and JS stressed the importance of natural features for play which would be cheaper than fixed metal structures. PG praised the current play equipment design but reported that the company who installed this are no longer in business.

There was a suggestion for fruit trees and other edible planting in the park.

It was suggested that there is a need for the Friends of Roseburn to have a presence in the park during events at Murrayfield. We now have a banner which can be displayed at such times and once the community hub is operational we will be more able to be more active during events.

NG raised the problem of dog fouling which seems to have increased both in the park and on surrounding pavements. VF agreed to ask West Neighbourhood Team to send wardens round again.

3. Flood prevention

A new design for the flood prevention scheme has been drawn up and will be on public display on 20th February at Saughtonhall Community Association Hall.

Again the proposed wall is set to cut off the playpark from the rest of the park but there are gaps which will be plugged by temporary installations.

The committee will discuss the proposals at the next meeting

4. Emergency General Meeting

HR explained that we had been asked to make some changes to the constitution before we can be accepted as a charitable body.

The main changes are that the purpose will be altered from “to improve the park...” to “provide recreational activities...” it was agreed that recreational activities was a broad term which encompassed all of our work.

Members now need to complete a written application to join. This presents some difficulties as most new members join whilst walking in the park.

DW proposed acceptance of the amended constitution. JS seconded. Members voted unanimously to accept the amendments and proceed with the application of charitable status.