

Friends of Newlands Park (FoNP) Quarterly Committee Meeting

24th February, 2025

Attendees:

- Vice chair - George Frier (GF)
- Treasurer - Fiona Godsmen (FG)
- Ordinary members - Sheilagh White (SW), Alison Ramsay (AR), Julia Radcliffe
- Guest - Councillor Sean Fergusson (SF)

Apologies:

- Chair - Dave MacLeod (DM)
- Secretary – Debbie Gill (DG)
- Ordinary members - Humera Ashraf (HA), Matthew Sheehan (MS)

Agenda:

1. Welcome, confirm Quorum, apologies, opening remarks (Chair)
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting (all)
3. Matters Arising (all)
4. Finances (FG)
5. Social and other media Update (FG)
6. Pond update (GF)
7. Storm damage/clearance (all)
8. Playpark update (FG)
9. Petanque survey /costings/actions (FG/SW)
10. Other groups/interactions (DG)
11. Volunteering ,and boosting volunteering
12. AOCB

1) Welcome and opening remarks

- DM was unable to attend the meeting, therefore, GF chaired in his absence
- GF welcomed attendees, confirmed meeting was quorate and noted apologies for the meeting (see summary above)

2) Approval of previous minutes

- Minutes from last meeting (AGM) were proposed by SW and seconded by JR

3) Matters arising

- All matters arising have been included in the agenda items

4) Finances

Treasurer update

- FG circulated updated accounts (see overleaf) ahead of the meeting and gave a short summary of key points
 - A number of donations have been received (these include donations handed to volunteers in person) – the committee expressed thanks for all donations
 - It was noted that expenditure to date has exceeded income, though there is still a healthy balance. This was due to the cost of two major items (shed and park bench) for which funding had been procured in a previous financial year and had been carried over.
 - The group agreed that the committee should be cautious in committing funds and to ensure that future spending is carefully targeted. Current funding reserves could be used to leverage match funding from Glasgow City Council and other funding sources. SF agreed that match funding can be helpful and offered to put FG in touch with Heather McMillan, Funding Officer at GCC, who can provide appropriate templates for any future funding applications.
 - It was noted that fundraising efforts are generally successful when targeted at specific items and that this approach should be continued

ACTION: SF to connect FG with Funding Officer at GCC.

Friends of Newlands Park

Income and expenditure

6th April 2024 to 7 Oct 2024

Income	Notes		Income details
Donations	£595	25 see details table	£160 cash donations
Membership subscriptions	£0	00	£40 cheque Martin Frame
Grants	£0	00	£110 M. Hand monthly DD donation
Bank interest	£0	00	£285.25 on-line/card donations
Other receipts	£993	00	£938 from NPCTC (part cost of shed)
Total Income	£1	588 25	£55 from board adverts
Expenditure			
Volunteer expenses	£0	00	
Equipment	£2	242 41 shed, hedge trimmer, replacement parts	
Environment/conservation	£755	19 plants, slate for flower beds	
Sports & recreation facilities	£1	170 00 FoNP bench for beside pond	
Education	£0	00	
Publicity	£23	93 website domain renewal	
Events	£0	00	
Fete	£0	00	
Insurance	£196	38	
Other payments	£50	00 Glasgow Tree lovers membership (2024 & 2025)	
Total Expenditure	£4	437 91	
Balances			
Funds carried forward from last year (if any)	£5	429 87 inc £500 from GCC for new shed	
Funds received in year	£1	573 25	
Funds spent in year	£4	437 91	
Current balance	£2	580 21	
<i>Funds held in bank</i>	£2	405 21	
<i>Funds held as cash</i>		£160 00	
Total	£2	580 21	
<i>Grant funds held (total)</i>	£340	00 St. Nicholas Care Fund	
<i>General funds held</i>	£2	225 21	
Total	£2	580 21	

5) Social Media Update

- FG advised that the Friends of Newlands Park Facebook Group now has over 1,100 members. As care is taken to only accept new members who have a clear connection with the park, engagement with posts remains high and dialogue is generally considerate.

6) Pond

- GF provided an update on the status of the pond path renovation:
 - A contractor worked on repairing the path in November, but the work has still not been completed. A sealing coat and top layer have to be added, but the work cannot be completed unless the weather is dry and warmer. There are some concerns about the quality of the work, but FoNP have been assured that this will be rectified by the top layer completion. Wayne Travis at Glasgow City Council has assured GF that completion of the work is a top priority for the contractors.
 - It was also noted that the information sign that was installed by the contractor on behalf of FoNP may not be sufficiently securely installed. GF will raise this concern and ask that it is corrected when the contractors return.

ACTION: GF to contact WT regarding the status of the work and arrangements for its completion.

7) Storm Damage

- The Wednesday gardeners have been steadily clearing the paths and have made good progress despite being low in numbers.
- The fallen trees will be removed by the Council in due course.
- The cage (garden waste skip) is full and GF has emailed the Council to request that it is replaced.

8) Playpark update on discussions meetings

- FG provided a summary of progress:
 - The sub-committee has not met since the past FoNP committee meeting, but FG has had some meetings with people who can advise on children's facilities. A meeting of the sub-committee will be scheduled to discuss and prioritise activities that can be progressed this year. Meetings were held at the Park with:
 - two of GCC's countryside rangers (with FG, DG & SW), who advised on how they could support activities such as creating an outdoor classroom space, mini nature trails, orienteering etc.
 - Outdoor classroom expert (Wild Woodland Learning) who runs classes at Linn Park
 - Outdoor learning specialist from The Glasgow Academy Nursery, who visit the park with pre-schoolers and who shared some of the ideas they have implemented at their own premises for outdoor play.
 - A meeting is also scheduled with erz studio, who are landscape designers with experience in developing inclusive play areas.
 - SF confirmed that the playpark improvements could be eligible for Neighbourhood Infrastructure Funds and that the deadline of applications is in 2027.
 - JR asked if there was anyone at the council with a disability remit who could advise on ensuring any playpark plans addresses accessibility
 - It was suggested that some of the tree trunks from the fallen trees could be repurposed as seating for an outdoor classroom.

ACTION: FG will reschedule the playpark sub-committee meeting within the next couple of weeks and follow up with GCC regarding the other points raised.

9) Pétanque survey/costings/actions

- Survey received 212 responses, demonstrating a genuine interest in pétanque facilities across a wide range of ages, including those aged over 66 and parents with young children. Results were shared with pétanque planning sub-group and the FoNP committee
- A location has been identified next to the tennis courts which is large enough to accommodate two pétanque pistes side by side
- SW informed the group that a quotation of £21k had been obtained for the installation of a pétanque pitch. This was higher than expected but was based on specifications for a professional piste. JR suggested contacting the landscape contractor that did some work for another park recently for a quote
- SF confirmed that FoNP would be able to apply for funding for the pétanque facility via the ENV developers fund, for informal sports facilities
- A draft business plan is being drawn up, to be used as a basis for funding applications

ACTION: SW will contact other pétanque groups in Scotland to get advice from them on construction, and hence to obtain additional quotations

10) Interaction with other groups

- FG attended a meeting in November to formalise the creation of a Friends of Parks and Green Spaces Forum, and signed the Articles of Association. No further feedback has been received since then.
- FG and DG have joined a WhatsApp group for Friends of Southside based parks, which is being used intermittently to share information.
- DG attended the February NACC meeting where the fete organisation was discussed and SF presented info about council funding opportunities.

11) Volunteering, and boosting volunteering

- SW reported that the number of regular volunteers on a Wednesday morning has dwindled, and they do not have the capacity to do any heavy or vigorous work.
- There was a discussion about reinstating Saturday morning volunteering sessions, but there isn't anyone currently available to organise it.
- It was noted that previous calls for volunteers for specific actions, such as clearing 'the maze' and 'the big prune' had been successful in bringing in one-off volunteers and the committee agreed that this approach should be continued. The focus could be on monthly tasks, to be done one Saturday per month. This would need to be planned and co-ordinated, and it was agreed that FG should put out a request on the Facebook group for someone with gardening expertise to help create a monthly schedule of tasks.

ACTION: FG to create 'volunteers wanted' social media posts

12) AOB

- Garden tools inventory: SW has conducted an inventory of tools kept in the shed and noted that there has been a loss of some items, notably small trowels. However it was agreed that there is no need to purchase additional tools at the moment. It was suggested that FoNP could put out a request for gardening tools to be donated.
- Commonwealth Games uplift: this was an item carried over from the previous meeting due to lack of information, but SF confirmed that there is still very little information available on how group could get involved. He noted, however, that there may be opportunities around the theme of Glasgow 850.
- Fête 2025 (update provided to GF/FG in writing by DG and shared at meeting): FG and DG were contacted by the Chair of Newlands and Auldhouse Community Council last month, as she had had some people express an interest in organising the event this year. They subsequently met with two

Scouts leaders to give them an overview of what this has involved in our experience and costs and timelines for different elements. They are interested in taking on the fete this year, and we have offered to provide support/information, but do not yet have funding secured. Potential funding opportunities were discussed at the NACC meeting on 7th February.

Understandably, the new potential organising committee want to confirm that they have sufficient funding in place before agreeing to proceed. We have advised that we would be happy to provide relevant documentation and arrange appropriate connections if they decide to proceed, and are awaiting confirmation of this.

- *GCC Funding update*: SF kindly provided the Committee with an update on the newly approved GCC annual budget, specifically those items affecting parks. Overall, there is a focus on neighbourhood regeneration, with 200 new staff being recruited. There has been an increase in funds allocated to parks in Glasgow, and this includes recruiting 40 new operatives who will be based in the city's parks. It is not yet known how this will directly affect Newlands Park.

ACTION: FG to create social media posts requesting tools to be donated

Date for next meeting: The date for the next meeting has not yet been confirmed, but it was agreed that we should meet again in late April 2025 in order to plan activities for spring/summer.