

# **Friends of Newlands Park (FoNP) Quarterly Committee Meeting**

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

## **Attendees:**

- Chair - Dave MacLeod (DM)
- Vice chair - George Frier (GF)
- Treasurer - Fiona Godsman (FG)
- Ordinary members - Sheilagh White (SW), Alison Ramsay (AR), Stewart Fallis (SF), Debra Gill (DG)  
*Please note minute prepared by DG in the absence of a Secretary (position to be filled)*

## **Apologies:**

- There were no apologies for this meeting

## **Agenda:**

1. Welcome and apologies (Chair)
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting (all)
3. Matters arising (all)
4. Finances (FG)
5. Communications update (FG)
6. Report on Friends Forum meeting
7. Pétanque piste
8. Update on actions relating to people's survey (park lighting, picnic benches etc)
9. FoNP interactions with Glasgow City Council: key issues, concerns, working relationship
10. AOCB

### **1) Welcome and apologies**

- DM welcomed attendees
- FG informed the meeting that Councillor Sean Ferguson had been notified about the meeting, but had been unsure whether he would be available to attend

### **2) Approval of previous minutes**

- The previous meeting was the AGM on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- DM thanked DG for the preparation of the minutes, and the committee for their comments on these
- It was noted that some minor amendments had been made to the initial draft, and that the updated version had been circulated by DG ahead of this meeting
- Minutes from last meeting were proposed by GF and seconded by SW

### **3) Matters arising**

#### **Tennis floodlights (and pétanque piste) applications**

- DM had circulated email communication to the committee members ahead of the meeting and provided a summary of this information and the status of the application

- The Board of Newlands Park Community Tennis Centre (NPCTC) have been progressing activities to allow floodlights to be installed on the tennis courts for approximately 2 years
- Support for the application for this project has been received from Glasgow City Council (GCC) and Glasgow Life (GL), as well as from the MSP Gordon McKee
- Unfortunately, progress of the application has been frustratingly slow
- DM recently contacted Councillor Sean Ferguson and Councillor Stephen Curran to obtain their assistance in progressing this matter
- Both Councillors followed up on this matter separately, resulting in duplicate responses being received
- The response from the Head of Sport at GL indicated that they would support the use of outdoor sport developer contributions to assist this project, however, delivery of the project would be the responsibility of GCC
- Disappointingly, the response from Head of Parks and Streetscene/Interim Head of Asset Management at GCC indicated that the estimated timeframe for initiating procurement would be 2027
- DM and GF highlighted that much of the preparatory work indicated as required in the responses has already been completed and submitted by NPCTC
- The meeting had a detailed discussion about the current status
  - The committee agreed that it was incredibly frustrating to have put in considerable time and effort into researching and preparing the application to have reached this point where installation of the floodlights may not be until 2027 at the earliest
  - However, it was acknowledged that the recent correspondence has provided clarity of the roles of GL and GCC, which will enable NPCTC to follow up more effectively (it was noted that it was surprising that this information had not been provided sooner)
  - The recent correspondence has also outlined the required process more clearly – GL require documentation from GCC in order to progress the funding application, so follow up with GCC will be required to identify any outstanding requirements
  - It was noted that, to date, the application for the tennis floodlights and the pétanque piste have been progressed as a single activity, and it was felt that this may be causing additional delays, therefore, it may be beneficial to separate out these two projects
  - DM highlighted that the tennis floodlights could potentially be used to provide lighting for the pétanque piste (which is expected to be adjacent to the tennis courts)
- The committee discussed how best to progress this project from this point
  - DM asked SF if he could provide any insights on council procedures that may help to progress this matter
    - SF suggested that NPCTC may wish to take this to a council committee meeting as this would ensure that the issue was discussed at an appropriate forum, and that any actions were taken forward
    - SF advised that the Clerk's office would be able to signpost NPCTC to the relevant committee
  - FG advised that she had begun compiling a summary of correspondence related to the floodlight application, however, it is anticipated that there will be additional information to add to this
    - SF proposed that when all of the appropriate information has been pulled together, we can agree on the best way to present this to a council committee meeting
  - FG suggested that we may be able to follow up via Joyce MacDonald (the GCC Officer who coordinates the Friends Forum meeting) to identify relevant contacts within GCC
  - It was noted that although both Councillors had provided support with the recent query it is important that we have consensus from the Councillors, this would allow for a single point of contact moving forwards
  - **ACTION:** DM will follow up with Councillor Sean Ferguson, in the first instance, to obtain guidance on the most effective way to proceed
    - DM will prepare a letter and circulate this to appropriate FoNP committee members for comment

- This letter will address our intention to attend a council committee meeting, if this may help to expedite the process
- This communication will also address the issue of whether it would be beneficial to separate out the floodlights and pétanque applications

#### 4) Finances

- FG circulated updated accounts ahead of the meeting (see below) and gave a short summary of key points:
  - We continue to have some regular donations and income from the notice board advertisements
  - NPCTC kindly raised funds for FoNP at the recent event
  - Social media posts and newsletter issues tend to lead to ad-hoc donations
  - The main expenditure to date this financial year is the insurance
    - FG updated the meeting on the proposed GCC fund that would be available for Friends groups to assist with administrative costs (see agenda item 6)

#### **Friends of Newlands Park**

##### **Income and expenditure**

*6th April 2025 to 8 Dec 2025*

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Donations	£784 71 see details table
Membership subscriptions	£0 00
Grants	£0 00
Bank interest	£0 00
Other receipts	£100 00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£884 71</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Volunteer expenses	£0 00
Equipment	£67 71 tool repairs etc
Environment/conservation	£0 00
Sports & recreation facilities	£27 25 contraction materials
Education	£0 00
Publicity	£89 89 website domain renewal
Events	£0 00
Fete	£0 00
Insurance	£226 38
Other payments	£34 88 bank charges
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£446 11</b>
<b>Balances</b>	
Funds carried forward from last year (if any)	£2 640 96
Funds received in year	£884 71
Funds spent in year	£446 11
<b>Current balance</b>	<b>£3 079 56</b>
<i>Funds held in bank</i>	<i>£2 949 46</i>
<i>Funds held as cash</i>	<i>£130 10</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3 079 56</b>
<i>Grant funds held (total)</i>	<i>£340 00 St. Nicholas Care Fund</i>
<i>General funds held</i>	<i>£2 739 56</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3 079 56</b>

## 5) Communications update

- FG and SW provided an update on recent communications and promotional activities:
  - 157 people have signed up to receive the newsletter (which includes a link for donations), the latest issue will be sent out in the near future
  - FG recently visited Merrylee Primary School to meet the outdoor learning committee
    - A group of school children from (from years P4-P7) led by Mrs Sluman
    - The group had lots of good ideas of how they might be able to get more involved with activities at the park
    - Further dialogue on how to progress this will take place in the new year
  - SW informed the group that she had recently met with Simon from Play Scotland, who is planning to cut up some wooden blocks and will put these in a box in the park for people to play with

## 6) Report on Friends Forum meeting

- FG and DG attended the Friends Forum meeting on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and gave a brief update on the key points:
  - FG was already on the committee for this group, and has now been appointed Vice Chair – this will be very valuable, and allow us to access information from this group at the earliest opportunity
  - As mentioned under agenda item 4 of these minutes, GCC have proposed a new fund which would be accessible to Friends groups
    - The proposed fund would be £50k in total per financial year, with registered groups able to apply for up to £2k per year
    - This was due to be discussed at the Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee meeting the Tuesday after the Friends Forum meeting (25<sup>th</sup> November 2025)
    - *Post meeting note: in her email on 5<sup>th</sup> December, Joyce MacDonald indicated that the proposal for the fund had been “encouraged and well received by the committee”, it is expected that the fund will be available for applications in the new financial year. More information will be available nearer the time*
  - FG advised that the survey activity that is being carried out for Friends Forum participant groups will be used to compile details of different funding sources that are available

## 7) Pétanque piste

- Please see section 3 of these minutes (Matters arising) for information on the tennis floodlights and pétanque piste applications
- SW advised the meeting that there was no further update on the pétanque piste application

## 8) Update on actions relating to people’s survey (park lighting, picnic benches etc)

- This discussion focused on the status of progress regarding the purchase and installation of park benches
- It was highlighted that appropriate permissions must be sought from GCC to ensure that these are covered under existing public liability arrangements
- GF informed the group that he had emailed Dave Halliday (at GCC) to enquire about the permissions and process for installing park benches, but has not yet received a response
  - **ACTION:** GF to follow up on this query
  - **Post meeting note:** GF has now received responses from GCC officers:
    - GCC have a specification that they use when purchasing benches (these are metal and cost ~£3,600), however, they have provided guidance regarding alternatives
    - Siting of the benches must be agreed with the Landscape Design team

- It has been advised that the supplier should also carry out installation. Further information will be sought regarding the requirements for the base needed to set benches into, to ensure that these are accessible
- **Post meeting note:** GF has visited Glasgow Wood, who would be able to supply wooden benches that are wheelchair accessible

## 9) FoNP interactions with Glasgow City Council: key issues, concerns, working relationship

- This agenda item has been covered in the discussion of agenda items 3, 6 and 8

## 10) AOCB

- Fireworks
  - The group discussed the issues that occurred in the park this year on Bonfire Night, with a large group lighting bonfires and setting off fireworks
  - SW advised that the police had been contacted (by residents neighbouring the park) and came out on the night. Unfortunately, the police had advised that were unable to move on the group letting off fireworks as it was before midnight
  - FG advised the group that it is not permitted for people to set off fireworks in public spaces, so the time at which this happened was not actually relevant
  - The committee had communicated via WhatsApp following on from the issues, however, this meeting was the first opportunity for the group to discuss this in person
  - Applying for an exclusion zone for the park had been suggested, however, the following points were raised:
    - As it is already illegal to set off fireworks in parks, it is not obvious that being an exclusion zone would have any advantage
    - We are aware that other park groups have had their exclusion zone applications refused, and that police resources are limited to enforce such matters
    - It has been suggested that any exclusion zone cover additional areas outside the park
    - FG highlighted that an exclusion zone application should be made via Newlands and Auldhouse Community Council (NACC) rather than by the FoNP
    - It was agreed that we need to clarify the most appropriate way to proceed
  - **ACTION:** The most relevant/appropriate to take this matter forward will be discussed with the Councillors/NACC
- Memorial items
  - Some of the committee members have raised concerns about the number of memorial benches in the park
  - The potential for memorial picnic benches and memorial trees has been discussed
    - Currently it is not clear that there is a defined process for either of these, in the same way that there is for memorial benches
    - It was highlighted that it may not be appropriate for us to suggest alternative memorial items, if we receive enquiries about memorial benches
    - It would be useful for us to follow up with GCC to find out more about the feasibility of having a wider range of memorial items (such as picnic benches and trees), and systems in place for people to follow up on these
- Trees
  - SW updated that she has spoken with Andy Murray regarding siting for the new trees, but there has been no further action to date
  - SW also advised that there has been no further action regarding tree stump carving

- FG informed the group that in her discussions with Merrylee school the children had indicated that they would like the stumps to be left as they are, for climbing on
- With this in mind, the group agreed that we would not pursue the carving option, and instead would arrange for the stumps to be back-filled to ensure these are secured and safe for people to climb on them
- It was highlighted that this would be a good opportunity to put a call out for volunteers, and may particularly engage parents of the children who like to climb on these
- **ACTION:** GF will assess what is required in order to secure the tree stumps in place, so that we can plan this activity for spring 2026 – it is anticipated that we will need to purchase some materials to complete this activity

**Date for next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 from 7:30-9:00pm (location shared in WhatsApp group)