

# **Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links**

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955, [www.fombl.org.uk](http://www.fombl.org.uk)



## **Annual General Meeting – 2024 Minutes (draft)**

Venue: The Meadows Croquet Club,

Date: Friday 28 June 2024. Time: 6.00-8.30pm.

Chair: Jim Orr. Minutes: Neill Walker.

Trustees attending: Iain Black, Joan Carter, Jim Orr, Maureen Parnell, Alison Service, Bridget Stevens, Neill Walker.

Non-Trustee Members attending: Margot Alexander, Benedict Bate, Graeme Cruickshank, Katherine Dickie, Robert Gates, Heather Goodare, Elizabeth Jogee, Gordon & June Macleod, Alastair Philp, David Purdie.

Total Member attendance: 18.

Trustee apologies: Neil Roger.

Non-Trustee apologies: Clive Kempe, Tom and Alison Ross, Graham Russell.

1. Welcome and introduction from the Convener.

The Chair gave a welcome and an overview of the meeting.

The meeting was confirmed as quorate by the Membership Secretary (18 Members attended and 15 Members were needed to be quorate).

Those in attendance were consulted to check that they were agreeable to having their attendance recorded in the minutes.

2. Review and approval of minutes of 2023 FoMBL AGM.

David Kyles did not know about the dog burrowing issues that were raised at last year's AGM.

Benedict Bate proposed and Margot Alexander seconded the minutes which were approved following clarification that the 2023 AGM was quorate.

3. Presentation of 2024 Annual Report and Financial Accounts for questions and noting.

Thanks were given to Martin Howarth for his important Tree Group contribution to FoMBL. Martin has recently resigned as a FoMBL Trustee but he will continue to be active with the Tree Group.

Tree Group: Jim Orr gave an overview of the work of the Tree Group with thanks to the volunteers and the schools who have helped out.

James Gillespie's School was particularly thanked.

The issue of Hawthorn bushes was mentioned as having been raised by a member of the public.

On balance, most people seem to have been happy with the new trees introduced onto the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.

Wildflower Meadow: Appreciation was offered for this work, especially Dr Tim Duffy.

Projects: Jim Orr gave a summary of the projects in the absence of Neil Roger. The aspiration of a new table tennis table on South Links was mentioned.

Volunteer Group: Thanks were offered to Alison Carr for coordinating the FoMBL volunteers.

Tree Time: It was acknowledged that FoMBL does not support the Tree Time plaques on trees on the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.

Jawbones: Jim Orr gave a brief summary of the present situation with the Jawbones. FoMBL is open to CEC coming forward with suggestions. It is not anticipated that there will be any new development with the Jawbones.

There has been no CEC consultation on the issue, and it is not in the gift of FoMBL to do so.

New Toilets on the Meadows: Plans are still being finalised in terms of the location of the new toilets.

Newsletter: Thanks to Maureen Parnell for the FoMBL Newsletter.

Thanks to the FoMBL Trustees: Jim Orr thanked all of the FoMBL Trustees for their contributions throughout the year.

Thanks, Comments, and Questions:

Bridget Stevens offered thanks for the recent talk by Eric Melvin titled Tales of The Southside – Four Cameos.

Time scale for the new toilets? It remains uncertain in terms of the time scale.

Mature trees at the end of South Meadow Walk - it was raised whether some trees needed trimmed.

Graeme Cruickshank gave a brief update on his engagement with CEC on the issue of the Jawbones.

Accounts: Jim Orr went over the highlights in the accounts.

Bridget Stevens proposed and Benedict Bate seconded the accounts and the report.

4. Election of trustees followed by elections for committee positions. Alister Philip chaired this part of the AGM.

All Trustees were appointed again, less Martin Howarth who has recently resigned. Agreed by consensus.

Action: At the next FoMBL Trustee meeting office bearers will be appointed.

5. Illustrated talk.

We were very pleased to introduce Professor David Purdie who talked to us about "The Burns, father & son and the Meadows" (the son being our national poet Robert Burns).

This was an impressive, informative, and entertaining illustrated talk and thanks to Professor David Purdie for generously agreeing to speak to FoMBL.

6. AOB.

Heather Goodare raised the issues of the Barclay corner. The issue of a possible FoMBL application to CEC to improve this corner was mentioned.

Heather Goodare has given FoMBL £1,000 towards this potential project.

Action: Neil Roger will talk to David Kyles about this corner.