

Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden

2nd Annual General Meeting 2017.

Held at North Edinburgh Arts on Saturday, 11th March 2017.

Present:

Kirsty Sutherland (Chair), Sue Allan (Vice Chair), Isla Browning (Treasurer), Mariana Forsyth (Secretary), Alison Cleland, Gillean Paterson, Jonathan Paterson, Graeme Purves, Russell Harkess, Rahel McKay, David Graham, Deanne Bower, Cornelia Altgard, Antonia Dickson, Donald McDonald & Linda Garcia

Apologies: Ellie C and Ally B.

1 Treasurer's Report – Isla Browning

Last year at the time of the AGM we had about £240 in the bank accounts. Since then we have received 2 grants from the Mushroom Trust and the Seedbank Fund as well as some donations from members which totals £7,861.16.

Outgoings (or committed expenditure) on garden maintenance and administration, on a licence for use of photos (HES), on posters banners and fliers, on a training day (on governance) and on refreshments for the AGM totalled £2,185.66 leaving a balance of £5,705.04.

There was some discussion about the current fundraising effort using the Greenspace My Park Scotland 'crowd funding' platform to raise monies for a poly tunnel to replace the old glasshouses and a marquee for community events. To date about £222 has been raised with a further 140 days to go, so it was agreed that publicity once we get access to the garden will be required.

2 Chair's Report – Kirsty Sutherland

In January 2016 we found out that the site had at one time been a Class A Scheduled Monument, so EDI subsequently withdrew their planning application for housing.

Summer 2016 saw a petition to the Council signed by over 700 people asking them to protect the site from any future possible housing development.

In November 2016, EDI announced that the garden would be developed as a market garden and that the Friends were the preferred partner for this.

Now – the Friends are more of a working group, planning what needs to be done once access agreed.

3 Election of office Bearers and Committee Members

N.B. None of the positions for office bearers were contested.

Chair – Kirsty Sutherland proposed by Mariana Forsyth and seconded by Graeme Purves – agreed by those present.

Vice-Chair – Sue Allan proposed by Kirsty Sutherland and seconded by Russell Harkess – agreed by those present.

Treasurer – Isla Browning proposed by Gillean Paterson and seconded by Jonathan Paterson – agreed by those present.

Secretary – Mariana Forsyth proposed by Kirsty Sutherland and seconded by Graeme Purves – agreed by those present.

Other members of the group who had put themselves forward for the Friends Committee were:

Linda Garcia;

Graeme Purves;

Gillean Paterson;

Jonathan Paterson;

Ellie Clarke;

Russell Harkness

The election of these committee members were agreed by those present.

N.B. It should be noted that the general committee meetings are open to any Friend.

4 Future Events and Campaigning

- End March/beginning of April – limited, safe access via a new doorway is promised by EDI.
- At same time a licence for access should be agreed with EDI – work has been on-going for quite some time on this.
- A board or sign with a brief history of the castle and garden to be designed and erected just outside the walls ASAP.
- May 2017 – an event commemorating the history of the garden, the castle and environs is planned. (N.B. Initially due to insurance and safety considerations, any access will be only for guided groups of no more than 16 at a time)
- Also in May 2017 the elections will take place and it is felt necessary to raise the question of how essential open green spaces are in the city with all those standing locally to keep support for the project going.
- September 2017 – Cockburn Association Doors Open events (N.B. talks from 18th September and openings the weekend of 23 & 24th September 2017.) Discussions are on-going and

once access gained, the Assoc. will visit to assess suitability for this inclusion in the programme this year.

- Discussion about issues with close neighbours and the need to ensure clear signage and communications so to avoid disruption of their privacy and the enjoyment of their homes.
- Social Bite Village – two meetings so far with Josh Littlejohn – more contact and information about the temporary social housing on the adjacent site awaited.

5 Vote of Thanks

Russell Harkness thanked the committee members and Friends for what had been achieved so far in saving Granton Castle Walled Garden from being developed for housing.

6 Close of AGM

There being no further business raised, the AGM was closed and all present shared a buffet lunch.