

Friends of Rocheid Path, (FORP)

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Rocheid Path, held Monday 19th November 2012 at Stockbridge Library

Present: Pam Barnes(PB); Josie Inwood(JI); Ian Hooper(IH); Ian Cunningham(IC); (RP); Joan Beattie(JB); Gus Schwarz(GS); Pat Bryden(PBr); Rose Pipes(RP); Caro Tulloch(CT); Jane Wood(JW); Janet Nicolson(JN); SylviaMackay(SM);

1. Apologies Kath Davies; Cathy Bell; Ann Serjeantson;

2. Minutes of last meeting approved.

3. Matters arising

Jl said that she had received an email from a member of the public questioning the use of the publicly funded notice board to display advertisements for local events such as the Christmas Fair and Christmas concert at the Edinburgh Academy. The meeting agreed that the main purpose of the notice board should be to promote the path and what's going on around it but that there was no harm in publicising other things taking place locally. Anyone who wishes to display an item in the notice board should contact the Friends using the email address shown on the notice board therocheidpath@gmail.com

4. Report from the Chair & re-election of the committee

PB summarised the achievements of the last year, including the production of the Long Term Plan (LTP), removal of ivy, felling of trees and proposals for the re-instatement of the triangle at Arboretum Avenue. PB indicated her intention to stand down as chair. PB invited IH to become the new chair and he agreed. This was seconded by GS. There were no other volunteers. PBr thanked PB for her sterling work on behalf of FRP. PB will remain on the committee and JI will continue as secretary.

5. Triangle at Arboretum Avenue

CEC are aware that we regard Lagan's original plans for planting as unsuitable. We need to ensure that our plan is submitted for consideration in good time to enable CEC to instruct Lagan on the work to be done. It should also be possible as suggested by one local resident to provide a litter bin at either end of the Arboretum Bank beside the gates to encourage dog walkers to clear up. PB and IH had produced a document setting out proposals for restoration and replanting of the triangle area after the flood protection works are complete. Copies of this had been delivered to all the properties looking onto the river and Arboretum Avenue. A copy of that document is attached with these minutes. **Comments requested by 15th December** **Action IH**

6. Long Term Plan

For the benefit of any new members IH explained that the LTP sets out FORP's ambitions for the Rocheid Path with proposals for action on each section of the path. A copy of the LTP is attached with these minutes. CEC have commented favourably. They plan to produce a consultation document based on their view of our plan and to circulate this to local residents. We expect that FORP will have an opportunity to comment on a draft of the consultation document early in the New Year.

The new Bell's Bridge is now due to be opened April 2013. CEC are investigating the cost of removing the old railings near the river's edge. However, PB observed that CEC appear to have no money for anything other than emergencies and that other improvement work may require voluntary effort or funding from other sources.

Jl suggested making a start with a small volunteer project. Pulling up of the hundreds of poplar starts at the West Gate might be a suitable, straightforward first project. JI will seek agreement from CEC and plan for a burst of volunteer activity early in the New Year. **Action JI**

7. Any other business

RP asked about the history of the path. Andrew Hajduki (AH) was working on this and JI will ask about progress. RP suggested that old photographs and a summary of the history might make a suitable display on the notice board and on the orientation and information panels proposed for the ends of the path.

We must get a website. If anyone out there has expertise in this area and is willing to help create a website for the FRP, please do get in touch.

PB emailed John Wharrie after the last meeting expressing concerns about the retaining wall near the Falshaw Bridge. So far there has been no reply to this, nor to the concerns expressed about the constriction of the river flow where the temporary road has not been completely removed. We need to chase him about this. **Action JI/IH**

8. Date of next meeting Monday 21st January, 6:30 Stockbridge Library