



AGM

Monday 19^h March 2018

Millennium Room, Cramond Kirk Halls

Trustees present: Richard Adlington (Chairman), Isla Browning, John Crutchfield, Euan Drysdale, Robin White, John Kerr

Attendees: Peter Scott, Marian Allan, Jack McLeish, Heather McLeish, Connie White, Margaret Morrison, Maureen Watson, Allan Watson, Frances Kerr, George Bee, Stuart Sinclair, Margaret Lawson, Adam Cumming, Lesley Cumming, Tyrie Sheils, Zohra Jibb, Louise Paton, Dan Needham, Bert Scott, Alec Dunn, Ann Douglas, Finlay Doctor, Barbara Doctor, Helen Forrest, Alan Larman, Angus Bruce, John Bean, David Wright, Margaret Armstrong, Helen Berry, Iain Berry, Jean Morley, Huw Pennell, Sandra Pennell, Carol Anderson, A Mackie + several others not signed in.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at the end of what had been a very busy sixth year in existence and while there are always frustrations about the slow pace of some projects, the last 12 months were generally felt to have been successful. Most of FRAW's activities during the year will be covered in the various reports by Committee Members and Richard thanked them for their support and hard work during the year.

2. Apologies:

Christine Peacock, Barry Smith, Julia Hume, Diana Hart, Eppie McClelland and Ulla Lorriman.

3. Reports

a) **Chairman – Richard Adlington**

The Chairman noted that a newsletter had been prepared and would be issued highlighting the current position of each of the projects.

Our objectives were set out last year in our Management Plan and Richard showed a slide summarising these.

FRAW's Finances continue to be in good shape with much appreciated income from our members and, when required, some grant funding.

Richard also thanked City of Edinburgh Council for their support, in particular our Natural Heritage Officer, David Kyles.

The good collaboration with the Community Council, Cramond Association, Cramond Heritage Trust and Friends of Cammo continues with regular meetings to share experiences and discuss common issues and we continued to be involved with city-wide initiatives through the Edinburgh Friends of Parks Forum.

b) Work Parties - John Crutchfield

John thanked everyone for their support, noting that, since FRAW started, over 1300 hours of voluntary work had been carried out. In the last year, there had been 8 formal work parties, with other pieces of ad-hoc work taking place. As ever, this is a learning experience, as you can't please all of the people all of the time!

The next work party will take place on Tuesday 10th April and will aim to install drainage pipes, which have been supplied by CEC, for the section of path between Fair-a-Far and the Salvesen Steps.

Later this year there will be more work to clear views of the river. One of our members, Barry Smith, has been approved by CEC Forestry to use a chainsaw at the river and damaged and diseased trees and saplings have been marked for removal.

Where we can, we'll work to improve the condition of the surface of the path, scraping away mud and putting down more aggregate, although the work at Fair-a-Far caused considerable damage and future work on the Salvesen Steps will also have an impact. The RiverLife project team will be reinstating the path between School Brae and Fair-a-Far and also the area around the car park at School Brae and we will monitor the progress of this to ensure it's done properly.

Going forward will be more of the same, including the removal of invasive species.

c) Membership – Euan Drysdale

At the end of our membership year we had 312 members representing 194 households.

Euan thanked all of those who had renewed already – more than half our members with several new members joining.

Euan also thanked everyone who added Gift Aid to their subscription and donation as this had resulted in a boost of £343.70 for 2016-17, with a similar amount expected in 2017-18.

4. Finance – Euan Drysdale

Euan (Treasurer) presented the financial report (below). For 2017-18, income, in overall terms, was similar to the previous year with very generous donations from our members, much of which benefitted from Gift Aid.

Our member's subscriptions and donations cover our ongoing operational costs and we aim to apply for grant funding for any major projects. Successful applications for grant funding were made to the Neighbourhood Partnership, who provided £630 towards the Cramond Primary P7 Project and Historic Environment Scotland, who provided £2500 towards the Interpretation Project signs at Fair-a-Far and the Harbour. We are very grateful to both these organisations for their support of our work.

An application has also been submitted to the Edinburgh Airport Community Board for funding for the botanical interpretation sign and the proposed sign at Cramond Brig.

Financial Report 2017-18

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations					
Membership Fees		378	-	378	400
Other Donations		1,411	-	1,411	1,721
Grants		-	3,130	3,130	-
		1,789	3,130	4,919	2,121
Payments					
Charitable Activities	5	1,809	5,410	7,219	685
Governance Costs					
AGM & Members Meetings		105	-	105	116
		1,914	5,410	7,324	801
Net movement in funds					
		(125)	(2,280)	(2,405)	1,320
Transfers between funds		(403)	403	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		(528)	(1,877)	(2,405)	1,320

Statement of Balances

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation				
Balance as at 01 March 2017	4,631	1,877	6,508	5,188
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(528)	(1,877)	(2,405)	1,320
Balance as at 28 February 2018	4,103	-	4,103	6,508
Bank & Cash Balances				
Cash at Bank	4,103	-	4,103	6,508
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-
	4,103	-	4,103	6,508
Gift Aid due	695	-	695	342
Tools and Equipment	500	-	500	500
	1,195	-	1,195	842
Liabilities	-	-	-	-

5. Election of Committee

The following nominations had been received for the committee -

Richard Adlington (Chairman)
John Kerr (Secretary)
Euan Drysdale (Treasurer and Membership)
George Bee
Isla Browning
John Crutchfield
Robin White

The appointment of the committee was approved by all the members present.

6. Community Woodland - Robin White

Robin was pleased to report that the trees continued to thrive with only a few lost initially. During the year, a woodchip path had been laid out with wood chippings being provided by City of Edinburgh Council. Our thanks to the groups of volunteers, and to Cramond Scouts, all of whom worked hard to get this work done.

There are still a lot of weeds, nettles and invasive species and we will continue to tackle them in future. The hedge is also thriving, and we will soon have to decide whether to leave it to grow or 'top it'.

We are also considering a plan to install another set of steps at the other of the woodland which would allow walkers to enter at one end and leave further along the river.

7. Peggy's Mill – Robin White

The walkway at Peggy's Mill is very muddy and some plans have been drawn up to improve the drainage. We are investigating this and, if materials can be provided by CEC, we may consider progressing this, though any work on the Salvesen Steps could undo any good work done.

8. Cramond P7's – Isla Browning

Following a meeting with one of the senior staff at Cramond Primary, a project was started with around 50 children from the two P7 classes, supporting their work on 'Community and Environment' as part of the JASS initiative. A grant was obtained from the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership and the ground was rotavated and temporarily fenced off to protect it from dogs and people. Plants and seeds, selected to attract insects and pollinators. It is also hoped to get the P7 children to prepare new notices explaining what is being done.

This project is a great opportunity for FRAW to work with the local primary school.

9. Salvesen Steps – Richard Adlington

The Salvesen Steps had been closed during for around five months when the wooden steps were declared unsafe. Eventually a temporary scaffolding solution was installed, and this is being monitored by the company that installed them. While the Walkway is once again open, these are not ideal, especially for dogs.

We are continuing to press for the replacement scheme to be progressed and SWECO have now been appointed to produce the detailed design report. The funding for this has been provided by Sustrans and this has been accrued into the next financial year. This report is due in June 2018. Once agreed, the work could go out to tender and work could start in 2019. George Bee explained the technical and procedural process that will take place as the project proceeds.

10. Weirs – Richard Adlington

After many delays, the work to install a new weir at Fair-a-Far has finally been completed and the contractors are removing the temporary causeway, their works compound and reinstating the path and the surrounding area. Given the amount of mud they have created, this will be a major task and we will closely monitor their work.

The RiverLife team are still recommending the removal of the weir at Dowie's Mill, but there are many issues to be considered – the stability of the structure of the weir, the impact its removal could have on Cramond Brig, the impact on the sewer pipe and gas main at that part of the river, the impact to the 'mill pond' and the wildlife it supports at Cramond Brig and the impact on the soon to be improved burial site (Ghanga Ghat). Although no work is planned until 2019, the RiverLife team have committed to consult with the local community on their plans and we look forward to this happening in the near future.

11. Interpretation Strategy – John Kerr and Isla Browning

FRAW has been working closely with the Cramond Association, the Cramond and Barnton Community Council, the Cramond Heritage Trust, and with the help of the Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries staff of City of Edinburgh Council, to develop the Cramond Heritage Trail and a series of interpretation and orientation boards in the village and along the Walkway. Once the landscaping has been completed at Fair-a-Far, a board will be installed covering the history of the Mills and a botanical board has been designed displaying some of the plant life along the Walkway.

Funding has been provided by Historic Environment Scotland and an application has also been submitted to the Edinburgh Airport Community Board.

12. Presentation by David Kyles

Natural Heritage Officer, City of Edinburgh Council Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries

David provided a very interesting presentation which included an overview of the structure of Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries within CEC following the Transformation Project in 2017, and the role of the Forestry and Natural Heritage Service within that. He outlined some of the main projects currently being worked on, both on the Walkway and across other Natural Heritage sites. He also told us about some of the other, more unusual projects the team are drawn in to.

13. Open Forum

There were several questions asked in the open forum. These covered the following topics –

- a) Do we expect more fly-tipping when the proposed 'brown bin tax' is imposed? DK suggested that there could be a temporary increase though this should reduce once things settle down and people get used to using the bins.
- b) Has the decision to reduce the use of weed killers been successful? Yes, though this is an ongoing project. In particular CE are aiming to reduce the use of Glyphosate.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.

Richard Adlington
Chair

John Kerr
Secretary