

Fruit and Blossom Group Minutes

Time and Date: Wednesday 8th May 2019

Venue: Cupar Community Fire Station

Present: Sarah Davidson, Norma Alari, Pat Mitchell, Jim McLeish, Jill Dawson (Chair), Lindy MacLean (minutes), Gordon Pay, Bryan Rollo

Apologies: Joy Nicolson, Louise Harvie, Rob Brodie, Meg Sloan, Joan Brown

1)	<p><i>Welcome and Apologies</i></p> <p>Jill welcomed the group and announced the apologies. Gordon Pay, the new Chair of Sustainable Cupar was also welcomed.</p>	
2)	<p><i>Minutes of Previous Meeting</i></p> <p>Acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting was proposed by Sarah and seconded by Lindy.</p>	
3)	<p><i>Eden Arts Festival</i></p> <p>The proposal to make bats out of willow to tie onto the bridge is thought to be unfeasible, but still possible if Rob and Anna come up with a suitable prototype. An alternative proposal was to chain a bike to a suitable place in Haugh Park. The bike would be there to demonstrate what Sustainable Cupar is doing for Cupar. It would be painted and decorated and display facts about cycling.</p> <p>Jill is prepared to paint the bike and proposed a meeting at her house on 3rd June at 6.30 to finalise details before the event (15 – 22nd June).</p>	<p>Jill + other FAB members</p>
4)	<p><i>Cuparmuir Orchard</i></p> <p>An Open Weekend in October was suggested when the local community could come and pick apples for a donation. Pat to contact Phil Watkins about supplying a list of the apple trees.</p>	<p>Pat</p>

<p>5) Tree Preservation It was agreed that Jill would investigate whether tree preservation orders could be put on various groups of trees in the Cupar area in particular Cuparmuir Orchard, Westfield Nursery and Orchard Walk</p>	<p>Jill</p>
<p>6) Fruit Calendar Planner As result of brainstorming on content for May, the following were suggested: - feature fruit ready for harvest: mostly rhubarb, but could mention strawberries under glass - 2 recipes for rhubarb cake were mentioned by Gordon and Lindy; these to be shared with the group - Feature scything at Orchard Walk with photographs - Photographs especially of Apple Blossom and wild flowers in Orchard Walk; also of currant bushes in flower.</p>	<p>Gordon Lindy</p>
<p>7) Moor Road FAB members who had been up Moor Road recently reported that the fruit bushes were coming on well with little sign of damage by deer; new seats also looking good. Since Fife Council had not charged for installing the seats, £600 remains in the budget.</p>	
<p>8) Orchard Walk Sarah reported on the recent scything at Orchard Walk. This had been a generally successful operation, with care taken to avoid cutting wildflowers and daffodils as far as possible. Some hogweed was also dug out. It was noted that last year's removal of hogweed had made a significant difference allowing space for more varied wild flowers; also that the blossom was looking particularly good this year and the number of fritillaries had increased. Jim has donated a ph meter for the use of FAB in Orchard Walk. The possibility of a Jamboree in Orchard Walk was raised. Louise had offered her house in the event of rain. The first weekend in August was suggested; Sarah to check if this would suit Louise</p>	<p>Sarah Louise</p>
<p>9) Westfield Nursery Currently there are 6 volunteers and a few children working at Westfield Nursery. However, there are problems with continuing with the current arrangement. It has proved difficult to engage either staff or parents working with the children in the garden. FAB have agreed to continue for another year. Thereafter one option might be for someone to take it on as an allotment, making it available when the children are there.</p>	
<p>10) Elmwood Plot Elmwood Plot seems fine and should produce a good crop of fruit this year.</p>	

11) Any other Business

A tree at the entrance of Orchard Walk is due to be felled. Sarah has contacted council so that FAB can obtain some of the wood and chips to create log piles.

A Bell Baxter pupil has emailed a request to FAB for members to create short video clips of what you are doing for Climate Change. Sarah to circulate email.

There is £700 of non ring fenced money in the account. One suggestion is to use it to purchase a raised planter with herbs for community use on orchard walk.

Sarah

Date of Next Meeting:

Wed 12th June 2019, 7.30pm, Fire Station. Lindy to chair. Minutes - Sarah