

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 13th August 2008
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: C Speechley, D Hughes

Present: R & J Ketley, S & D Crabtree, B Darrand, W & N Gethin, M Hood, C & C Burton, D Ward, Sgt. J Hunter, S Coddington, E Hughes, N Marshall, B Boughen, R Dove, L Nokes

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

1. Sandra has circulated all the courses available through CVS via email.
2. The Indian Runner Ducks had been introduced into the lake 3 weeks ago and were flourishing. The nursery who had asked us to take them had sent a donation of £300 to FOSP. A letter of thanks has been sent, and a letter sent to the children of the nursery giving an update on the ducks – written by the ducks themselves of course. Full details on the web site.
3. Neil M gave an update on the drain in the park. Earth Tech Morrison who is doing all the work for Yorkshire Water in the Wheatley area will conduct drain clearance and repairs to the natural spring and surrounding drains free of charge as their contribution to the community in which they are working. Neil was thanked for his efforts in negotiating this arrangement.
4. Eva had been making enquiries about the trolley money accrued as a result of the Wheatley NH Team collecting abandoned shopping trolleys. This has already been spent and can't be allocated to Wheatley.
5. The £25 promised from Friends of Grove Gardens has been received.

3. Business Plan

1. Crime Reduction Plan

- a. Sandra asked PS Hunter if contact could be made with the Crime Prevention Officer, we were still waiting for a call from him after several weeks.

ACTION: PS Hunter to arrange CPO to contact Don

b. Authorative Presence

Neil M said that his team and the police officers (SYP) had been working weekends and had paid as much attention as possible. Ps

¹ In accordance with the new Charity Commission Constitution, all general meetings shall be called Special General Meetings.

Hunter said the park was now on their 'Blue Route' and would be patrolled more often.

c. Enforcement

2 illegal motorcyclists had been stopped and motor cycles seized. Approaches had been made to people dropping litter and allowing dog fouling. No fixed penalty tickets (FTP) had been issued but their presence had been made known.

d. Designing Out Crime: Golf Course

- (i) The Civic Trust that Mairaid had mentioned didn't appear to provide funding, only awards, Sandra had discovered. The DMBC web site didn't provide sufficient details for the Doncaster Civic Trust. Various suggestions for contacts put forward.
- (ii) As the whole project depended on the provision of fencing to replace the fencing that will come down with the trees, Sandra put it to the group that FOSP put the whole £2030 into the project. Neil M said that £900 would be provided by DMBC via Dave Ridge, who had allocated this amount for the drains to be sorted but which was now being done for free by ETM.
- (iii) Sandra said she'd looked at the Structural Crime Reduction Fund and it didn't fit our circumstances, the minimum amount being £50,000. Neil M said he probably didn't explain it properly, it was for SNT to apply for funding from the £50,000 pot, for crime reduction initiatives as they saw fit. Not appropriate at this time.
- (iv) Lisa said that the fence might cost slightly more as the quote was based on 18" high fencing and 3' fencing would be required
- (v) Neil G said that with the forthcoming fundraising events, and what we have in the bank now, we could fund the fencing, as long as the new price wasn't excessive.
- (vi) Neil asked Debbie W to clarify with the legalities with regards to the fence and the type required.
- (vii) Neil M said he'd conducted a survey along the houses on Thorne Road and so far had received no objections.
- (viii) Negotiations have been taking place this last month between the relevant departments and it is hoped work will start on 6th October 2008, with stump clearance to follow. Neil M suggested the reduction in height of the Barnby Dun Road hedge should be left until next year.

ACTIONS: Debbie to check on legalities
Lisa to provide a definitive cost for the fence

2. Park Development

a. Toilets

Eva said that the ward councillors had agreed to fund the toilets with their flexible money until April 2009: daily until 1st September and then weekends thereafter until April.

The councillors would pursue the matter within council for the toilets to be budgeted for centrally.

Don asked what the current position is with the funding for the toilets – is it a central issue or a NH Managers responsibility? Sandra outlined correspondence from council which suggested it was a NH responsibility. Stephen said that conversations he had

had recently within council suggested the policy was to be amended.

b. Outdoor Fitness Suite

The funding application for this has been rejected – too many applicants for the funds available. However, the project is only delayed, to be pursued at a later time.

3. Angling Club

a. Fountains

Barrie was aware that the cost of electricity supply was too excessive and the project could not go ahead in its present form. Sandra said she had written to YEDL asking if there were any possibility of a charitable arm of the company providing a supply, but to date no reply has been received.

b. Events

The club had run some competitions in association with Families First and which had been very successful. An activity day was held on 22nd July and a Families First event is to be run on 19th August.

Debbie W asked if they could run competitions for local kids, Barrie said that is was a problem of getting volunteers, and with the FF programmes, they had trained CRB registered volunteers to oversee them. They would need CRB trained people to be present and they are not readily available.

c. Maintenance

(i) It was noted that the club had been effective in clearing rubbish from the lake, but it was pointed out that 4 instances of ducks being caught up in fishing wire had occurred in the last two weeks. RSPCA had been out on two occasions. One young angler had actually swum across the lake – very commendable but not to be recommended – to free a duck tethered to a tree due to being entangled in fishing wire.

(ii) Mention was made that late night illegal fishing was being carried out on a large scale with large hooks and thick wire. Both these points were known to the angling club, but other than regular clearing of abandoned line, they could do little about enforcement.

ACTION: SNT (SYP & NH Team) to pay attention to night fishing/offences where possible.

4. Bog Pond

Volunteer week/Make a Difference Day was scheduled to start week commencing 20th October.

An application for funding for £798 of plants had been submitted to SYCF but to date no reply received.

5. Communications

a. Web Site

Don said the web site was still going strong with regular visits daily and 400 new visitors to the site per month. Photos of the park are now on Google Earth.

b. Notice Boards

(i) A new board has been erected on the side of the toilet block. Thanks to Mick Ward for all the hard work he has put into getting

- the recycled frames into a perfect condition, the boards have cost around £15 each to renovate.
- (ii) Backing material is required for the other boards when they have been installed, Neil M and L Nokes said they may be able to provide some.

ACTION: Neil Marshall & Lisa Nokes to look at notice board backing material

c. Newsletters/promotional Material

- (i) Newsletters have been replicated from the web site and copies put in the café and distributed to visitors in the park.
- (ii) Sandra said correspondence had been received from NVCO enquiring as to whether we wanted to join. As it cost £42 annually, it was agreed that we should decline.
- (iii) A survey has been received from Active Doncaster about health initiatives in the park – this has been completed and returned by Don.
- (iv) Sandra has sent various articles about the group and events to village magazines; CVS Newsletter; Doncaster News.

6. Funding/Events

a. Aurora Event

Arrangements are in hand. A list of marshalling points and volunteers was circulated. Sandra & Don are liaising on a regular basis with the Aurora organisers and Debbie W.

b. Music in the Park 2009

Sandra said she, Don & Ron had met with Stephen 12th August to discuss how to progress the concert for next year.

Stephen said that since the meeting yesterday he had made progress through discussions and things were looking favourable for the concert to be staged next year. He would continue with those discussions with Janet Sissons.

c. FOSP Social Event

The 2nd rounders event went ahead as planned and was a success, despite the bad weather forecasts.

A full set of rounders kit was purchased for £95 and is now available for any group to borrow, free of charge.

d. Quiz Night

Totally sold out, and in fact oversubscribed. As a result it was proposed to hold a second quiz night on Friday 13th February 2009. All agreed.

e. August Fun Fair

Eva has been approached by Roger Tuby who is holding his fair in the park on the Bank Holiday weekend, enquiring as to whether we want to put a stand on. It was felt that the stall was such a huge success last year that we should repeat it.

Members were asked to attend on the Sunday if possible, and acquire tombola prizes if they could. To be confirmed by Eva.

f. Funding/Treasurers Report

- (i) Neil G gave an update on the financial state.
- (ii) The insurance policy renewal was discussed in conjunction with the newly developed FOSP inventory. It was agreed after

discussion, that the items retained at Clay Lane – and not insured when away from those premises – did not justify the extra we are paying for fire and theft.

ACTION: Neil G to acquire the best insurance deal.

4. Any Other Business

- a. An email has been received from Gordon Sharpe of DRI radio station wishing to liaise and exchange ideas. Arrangements in hand for Don & Sandra to meet with Gordon.
- b. The park and group has been entered for Doncaster in Bloom. Don, Ron and Sandra met with the judges Anita Johnson and Peter Lambert on Monday and gave them a tour of the park outlining the achievements that have been made. A presentation evening is planned for 22nd October and there are 6 tickets available for members to attend.
- c. Sandra said she had been trawling the internet for funders and was making enquiries with another Lottery Fund provider, more details to follow.
- d. We now have a set of staging, courtesy of Intake Community Enterprise.
- e. Lisa acknowledged the positive comments that were being sent to her department for the work carried out, they were appreciated. She hoped to work more closely with the group having only been recently appointed.
Lisa had personally visited the park and noted improvements that could be made, such as the straightening of the bent tree and a small shrub garden to cover a patch of mud the ducks had excavated, which were all carried out and noted by FOSP.
Lisa also said that she was open to suggestions as to how her department could help.
- f. In that case – Carolyn said could there be attention paid to the corner of the lake where all the rubbish gathers, it is an eyesore and smells horribly. There are even dead ducks in the water. Lisa said it would be looked at and dealt with on a regular basis.
- g. Moira said that the problem of litter was ongoing – particularly with regards to the ‘bus shelter’ where youngsters seem to hold drinks parties and then discard their litter in the lake or nearby.
- h. Jean re-iterated the litter problem but with regards to teams using the football pitches – Wednesday last the whole area was awash with water and pop bottles. It was acknowledged that the teams hadn’t booked the pitches and the only way to deal with it was ad-hoc visits as they couldn’t be traced through bookings.
- i. Neil G is compiling the annual report for the Charity Commission.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 17th September 2008