

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 14th May 2008
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: M Woodland, B Boughen, J Ketley, D Hughes, C Speechley

Present: R Ketley, S & D Crabtree, B Darrand, E Hughes, W & N Gethin, M Hood, J Hall, M Smith, S Coddington, C & C Burton, N Marshall, D Ward

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed, with the exception that Lloyds had been missed from the title Lloyds TSB.

2. Matters arising

1. *Ron was to look into hiring out of our generator.*
WACUP had expressed an interest in using it for their gala. Agreed they could have it without charge.
2. *Angling club were to obtain paint from Ian Parker to repaint the notice posts but had been unable to make contact:*
Debbie would acquire the paint on their behalf.
3. *Picnic benches – it had been agreed to purchase 2:*
Due to rising costs and other FOSP expenses, it was decided to order only one, which has been done. (To be sited at the top of the dell).
4. *Carly was to follow up enquiries with regards to the flooded area near the old boat house:*
Neil M is dealing with this and an engineer is due to visit tomorrow to do an assessment.
5. *Moira was to make contact with Phil Hulbert regarding the trees on Thorne Road:*
No update, awaiting an email. (Covered under 'crime' heading).
6. *Correspondence:*
The issues outlined in Mr Coddington's Wheatley leaflet had been discussed at a meeting with him, and he is liaising with Carly regarding the information that had been passed to him which was incorrect. Additionally, there is now a gardener working in the park 4 days a week instead of 2.

3. Park Future

(a) Business Plan

- (i) Friends of Sandall Park (FOSP) have been working on their Business Plan since 2004. The plan based on a wide ranging community consultation was based on the integration of better visitor facilities within the park. One particular attraction stood out – the Small Animal Farm. A huge amount of effort behind the scenes over three years however failed to move the proposal from the planning stage to reality.

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

Funding of course was an issue but as time moved on FOSP learned that other key developments had to take place if any park development was to become a reality.

Based on the experiences of the last four years, the community consultation document has been re visited and an outline business plan re-developed for the group. The plan realistically looks at the contemporary park and seeks development within that environment but also examines the infrastructure of FOSP, its partner commitment and its ability to deliver.

- (ii) Don outlined the proposals of the new Business Plan and stressed that it was a partnership document which included the police and SNT. Members should read the document for discussion and hopefully agreement at the next meeting.

(b)

Crime in the Park

- (i) Sandra & Don have met with Phil Hulbert and Carly regarding the taking down of the conifers on Thorne Road as a crime prevention measure as well as for safety reasons, and also the hedging along Barnby Dun Road. Phil had said he would send a quote to Carly as to how much it would cost for low level fencing once the trees were taken down on Thorne Road; and a better option would be to reduce the height of the privet on Barnby Dun Road to its original height of 3'.
- (ii) Neil M suggested that there might not be a need for replacement fencing, lots of other play areas were open on all sides, and perhaps the H & S people could be consulted? That being the case, the conifers could be taken down at little cost (leaving the deciduous trees still up) and recycled at the depot. The privet hedge could be reduced in size after the nesting season had finished.
- (iii) It was suggested the 'bus shelter' brick shelter opposite the main lake was a cause of ASB in that all the alcoholic drinks cans and bottles were littered around there. The possibility of having it taken down was discussed and Neil M said it could be put on the list of winter jobs.

ACTION: Neil Marshall to follow up (ii) & (iii)

(c)

Toilets

Eva was still waiting for a decision on funding for the toilets, though they remain open at the moment. Half the amount has been found already – for the toilets to be opened during the week through the summer and weekends only in winter.

The main consideration is for the toilets to be funded annually and requires a decision by central council to provide this.

ACTION: Eva and Moira to pursue this in the council when setting the budgets for the forthcoming year in the autumn.

4 **Events**

(a) Charity Walks

- (i) The Aurora Centre event on 7th September is ongoing and arrangements are in hand. Ron will sort out the PA system and our generator. Volunteers will staff water stations, a FOSP stall will be set up as a PR point.

(b) Music in the Park

The funding application to CEN has been rejected, all plans for the concert should now been cancelled, but Debbie said she may have a sponsor. Agreed to allow one more week and if funding not confirmed, all plans should be cancelled.

ACTION: Ron & Debbie to liaise regarding concert.

(c) BBC Springwatch

We were accepted into a 'final' event where we would be interviewed for TV – but received a telephone call from Radio Sheffield the day prior to the interview to say that more entries had been received and we were no longer required. Very disappointing after the amount of effort that had been put into preparation for the interview.

(d) Litter pick

A very successful day and a good public relations exercise. Thanks to all who attended especially Debbie Ward who came on her day off, brought all the gear and took all the rubbish away in her own vehicle.

(d) Race Night

28th June, 7pm at Armthorpe Community Centre. Tickets £2 (150 available). Sponsors for races required – a donation of £25 per race is being sought.

5. **Angling Club**

No update, other than posts not yet painted.

6. **Funding**

- (a) £23.94 received from Weather lottery.
- (b) Neil presented an updated financial status, advised us of a minor adjustment to the accounts for last year, and asked if the financial year end could be changed to 31st December. All agreed.

7. **Projects**

(a) 1. Communications Strategy

The web site is running well with 468 unique (first time) visitors, a total of 1114 since the start of the new site.

(b) B & Q Funding

The application was sent in but no response yet as to whether we have been successful. Neil M requested an H & S Risk Assessment for installation of duck houses should we be successful. Sandra agreed to do one.

(c) Outdoor Fitness Suite

The application to Awards for All has been completed and will be submitted.

(d) ABC Awards

Don has submitted the application for a new notice board but a decision won't be known until May 28th at least.

8. Any Other Business

- (a) Suggestions made for restoring the ground around the picnic bench – Sandra said that the grounds team have already been requested to put some seed down, which they agreed to do.

ACTION: Sandra to confirm with Les that this has been done

- (b) Quiz night arranged for 24th October at Club 39 - £2 a ticket, no food provided but can be ordered on the night.

- (c) Eva congratulated Don on the quality of the web site and thanked him for his hard work.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 18th June 2008