

Friends of Sandall Park

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 15th November 2006

Present: R and J Ketley, Siggy, Neil Gethin, Moira Hood, Mick Muddiman

Apologies: Sandra & Don Crabtree, Bell Darrand, Eva Hughes, Angling Club

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of previous meeting read and accepted as a true record

2. **Matters arising**

Christmas 'Do' – Sandra, Don & Bell to be put on list please.

3. **Events**

Nothing to report.

4. **Angling Club**

We would like to record thanks to Angling Club for their sterling work in volunteer week in cleaning out the dipping pond and helping with the bog garden.

5. **Funding**

(a) Sandra has applied for a grant of £4,500 from 'Park It' for our music in the park next year. The application has been based on celebrating Doncaster's heritage in the form of a traditional old fashioned fair/agricultural type show in the afternoon, with a Proms concert in the evening. Results will become known in December. Many thanks to Siggy for all the background information she provided for the application – it made it so much easier.

(b) Lottery profit this month is £20.16. (*no new participants*)

(c) Sandra suggests purchasing some picnic benches to erect in the park in front of the large car park, which is currently rubble type surface and an eyesore. An application has been submitted for a further £1000 from Community Chest, which will be topped up from FOSP funds (around £340) to buy 2 'virtually indestructable' benches, 1 of which will have disabled access at one end. Decision on funding will be known late November.

(d) Siggy & Sandra have met with Landscaping managers from DMBC with regards to putting in an application from the 'millionaires giveaway'. Auditions for this are to be held on 18th November. Siggy is finalising our bid and either she or Debbie will represent the group if we are awarded the opportunity to put

our case forward. We have submitted an application for an adventure park/skate board park and dog obstacle course to go in the corner near to McDonalds. There will be a heritage theme with International Harvesters; our steam trains; racing and other such things incorporated into the area. The bid will be in the region of £650,000.00. *Should* we get the grant, we'll have to submit planning application, liaise with DMBC etc as to a solid plan.

- (e) Mick Muddiman suggested that funding may be available from New Deal (small grants)

6. **Wardens**

No further progress made re wardens.

7. **Park Future**

Nothing to report.

8. **Projects**

Fitness Trail

Now marked out (during volunteer week), funding to be applied for to create signs, to be launched hopefully in spring. Thanks again to Siggy for providing all the background info necessary to send this in.

£75 from FOSP funds has been used for the discs to put on the posts as part of the trail indicators.

Volunteer Week

We received a lot of media coverage for this, Sandra was interviewed on Trax FM (and again later) which was played numerous times, and we had articles in the Free Press.

This is what we achieved in volunteer week: (with the help of £5000 from Yorkshire Forward/European Regeneration Fund via Janet Gillot):

dipping pond cleared of rubbish
bog garden dammed off, pumped out, filled and planted (latter to be redone due to vandalism – police are currently dealing with the culprits, and SYP underwater search team recovered some plants for us – whether they will survive is another matter.) this took a full two days
snowdrops and English bluebells planted under the trees to the left of the bog garden
chamomile and thyme planted along two walls to the left of the bog garden to create sensory seating
a complete new flower bed planted to right of bog garden, with

buddleia, lavender hebes and others
large number of water lillies and other pond plants 'planted' in dipping pond (sticklebacks to be introduced later by Harry)
two new seats installed in bog garden, one bearing the funders plaque (*the red one should actually have gone next to the children's play area but plans are in mind to rectify this*)
turnstile and barriers removed from 'fish' garden (there is a concrete fish/whale on the old train site)
garden surrounding 'fish' dug out and planted with lavenders, and its moat unearthed.
area under firs in 'fish' garden weeded and snowdrops and English bluebells planted, + some cyclamen
two new seats installed in 'fish' garden
hedge cleared of overgrowth and rubbish on approach to where turnstiles were
privet hedge planted along the whole length of the fence next to the park houses to increase their privacy from the 'fish' garden
privet planted to fill the gaps in hedge between compound and dipping pond
logs sawn to make benches (some were too rotten)
buddleia planted in overgrown area where large logs are to form a wildlife garden which can be left to its own devices (more meadow plants can be planted here when I can acquire some)
fallen conifer chopped up and removed to nearby copse to form a wildlife retreat for bugs and other wildlife
gap widened near to the gate on Thorne Road and hedges removed to allow access for fitness trail
marker posts and slabs set in concrete around the fitness trail
warm up bar removed from turnstile area and set in concrete at start of fitness trail
300 yard stretch of spiked fencing removed from area between football pitches and nursery property, opening up hitherto unused area (nice size for another football pitch actually, or basketball/tennis court?)
snowdrops and English bluebells planted under large copse of trees on Thorne Road side of park
snowdrops and English bluebells planted under trees in the dell near to bog garden
28 bird boxes and 1 owl box erected in trees around the park
two new benches installed next to children's play area
remainder of plants planted in beds, filling in gaps in existing beds and under fences near to toilets and cafe
numerous frogs and toads rehomed (after we dug them out of hibernation)
several sacks of litter collected.

A big thank you to all who helped. Letters of thanks and certificates have gone out to SkyBlue; BTCV; Adwick Comm Enterprise; Corner Pin Angling Club and FOSP volunteers.

Any Other Business

- (a) Ziggy confirmed arrangements for dinner night out.
- (b) Neil Gethin presented an up to date state of funds.

Date of next meeting.

There would be no meeting for December, (except members would meet for a social night, arrangements in hand by Ziggy).

Next meeting after that will be January 17th.