

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 16th January 2008
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: W Gethin, M Hood

Present: J & R Ketley, S & D Crabtree, B Darrand, S Millward, N Marshall, I Thompson, M Woodland, E & D Hughes, J Hall, D Ward, N Gethin, M Smith, B Boughen, G Gillings, G Troy, C Speechley, I Parker

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

None not already covered on agenda.

3. Park Future

(a) Charitable Status

Nothing to report at this time.

(b) Crime in the Park

- (i) Due to our persistence in tracing offenders, crime has been reduced and there have been no more incidents.
- (ii) The Community First wardens have been visiting twice a week.
- (ii) Now that the SNT is up to strength, it is hoped to have regular weekly patrols in the park, and one officer will have overall responsibility for the park.

4 Events

(a) Health Walks

Geraldine proposed a charity walk for Breast Cancer charity – a Crocus Walk; a walk to be arranged near Mothers Day and a run a mile event on 16th March at the Keepmoat.

Sandra suggested a Barnado's Toddle walk around the park.

ACTION: Geraldine to arrange details for walks

(b) Proposed for 2008

i. Music in the Park

Neil Gethin said that he felt that this event should be repeated this year, we had money in the bank which could be used to finance it. Ron replied that finance wasn't the only problem. With only a small number of members of the group the responsibility of setting up and breaking down on the day was the stumbling block. Last year we had to rely on friends to assist until midnight on the day. We also had to rely on the welcome assistance of SNT. Sandra concurred and said that last year was a strain on both her and Ron but especially Ron, and it wasn't right that volunteers

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

should be expected to perform what is a professional and arduous task of erecting equipment. Not only that, but we could spend all our funds on what could turn out to be a wash-out, money which could be better spent on material things for the park, some ideas to be put forward later in the meeting.

After some discussion, Neil Marshall said he would look into the possibility of further assistance from SNT and Community First with regards to staging. Ron said he would investigate suppliers of sound and lighting.

ACTION: Neil Marshall to look into staging
Ron to explore sound and the band

ii. Quiz Night

All were now aware the quiz night was on 1st February and not 25th January as originally planned. Don reported that tickets were going well with over 60 sold so far.

4. Angling Club

The lease runs out in May and their programme - Coaching classes; Matches against other clubs; bailiffs; litter control all depended on the outcome of their application for a renewal from DMBC.

Neil said that the factors determining the lease were 40% community involvement; 30% ability to carry out the commitment and 30% ability to meet the cost of the lease to DMBC.

It was proposed that a letter of support be sent from FOSP.

ACTION: Ron to write a letter of Support to Angling Club

6. Funding

£26.27 received from Weather lottery

7. Projects

(a) Wildlife/Nature trail

The launch of the nature trail will take place on Monday 21st at 2pm. Authorisation requested for the provision of a buffet at the Wheatley Hotel for 15 including tea and coffee at a total of £114.25. Agreed. The funders Veolia were sending a representative; Eva would do the opening speech. The display board with our promotional literature would be erected in the hotel. Carly would photocopy some nature leaflets for the Kingfisher pupils who would be attending.

(b) Additional Funding

The new footpaths and 2 additional benches had been installed and this project was now concluded.

(c) Proposed for 2008

i. Don suggested updating our web site as we have some capital available, there are various options to look at. Carried. Gina suggested looking at the college as a source.

ACTION: Sandra to pursue updating the web site

ii. Don suggested some new signs at strategic points on entry to the park. They would contain such information as what facilities are

available and be a 'welcome' to visitors. A quote from the designer of our nature trail boards was £1597 for 3. Carried.

ACTION: Don to progress welcome boards.

- iii. Sandra gave out a proposed scheme for the building of a skate park and adventure playground, incorporating a multi use games area; fitness stations; youth shelter; picnic benches and a dog obstacle course. It would be a major project requiring major finance and would need a project board and project manager to carry out the proposal.

Sandra had read that £3.2 million had been made available to DMBC from Govt. for the provision of play facilities. Ian Parker said he would be pleased to be involved in the scheme and offered his advice. He said that Govt. had made available £225 million for such schemes but it was to be allocated to the top 32 deprived areas and we were number 45 on the list.

Gina said that she was aware of another source of funding amounting to £800,000, she would make further enquiries. She also said that her department (North Doncaster Development Trust) could help in finding a project manager and provide assistance with a business plan for the project. Sandra provided details of Planning Aid – an organisation that provides free planning assistance. NDDT also provide accounting expertise and account auditing free of charge.

ACTION: Gina to look at finance and project management
Sandra to explore the possibilities for the Adventure Park

8. Any Other Business

- (a) Eva said that she knew of someone with display boards they wish to dispose of – and proposed that FOSP take them. Agreed.
- (b) Eva again raised the issue of recycling bins in the park, especially now we have the picnic area. Neil Marshall said there would be a problem with contamination and emptying and sorting, but we would look into installing one as a trial.
- (c) Ian Thompson reported that he had applied for planning permission for a plant centre and wildlife pond in the nursery which he currently leases. Access would be through the park itself but would be situated on the land at the rear of the nursery.

9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20th February 2008